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# School board seeks input on budget cuts

Superintendent: All areas of budget are fair discussion topics

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

Faced with a projected fund balance of just \$378,556 for the end of this school year, the Livonia school board is asking for the public's input on what to cut out of its general fund budget for next school year.

The district's general fund budget this year is \$146.5 million in expenditures and \$143.1 million in revenues. A fund balance of 5 percent to 10 percent is typically recommended, which would be \$7.3 million to \$14.6 million for Livonia Public Schools.

The board will hold community forums at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the LPS Administration building at 15125 Far-

mington Road.

"All areas of the budget are fair discussion topics in the forums," Superintendent Randy Liepa said in an email to the *Observer*.

Liepa will provide a budget overview, including what cuts have already been made, and then attendees will break into small groups headed by a board member to discuss a list of items.

Trustee Randy Roulter, at Monday's school board meeting, encouraged residents to try to attend. "Let your feelings be heard about what's important to you within our school district because some tough decisions are going to have to be made," he said. "Your input is really welcomed at those forums."

According to Liepa's article in the January edition of *Dialog*, the district's newsletter that will go to all residents and businesses, LPS continues to follow the state trend of declining enrollment. "Simply put, fewer live births in our

community, coupled with limited real estate growth in the housing market, equals enrollment decline," he writes. "Enrollment decline means less revenue based on the way school districts are funded in our state."

"While fewer students also means less costs, the cost reduction is not equivalent to lost revenue. As an example, if we have 300 fewer students, spread out over 800 classrooms, that leaves us little room to reduce expenses, while revenues go down by \$2.4 million from that 300-student enrollment decline."

That trend has led to approximately \$18 million less in funding over the past five years, he said. "Thus, we must prioritize the programs and services we offer."

For the second semester of this school year, the district is making about a \$70,000 reduction in contracted security at the high schools, along with

freezing any open positions or expenditures, none of which will impact the classroom for the remainder of the year, where possible, he said.

The district has been using its fund balance to preserve programs and services, keeping cuts out of the classroom as much as possible. Liepa said he isn't sure when the district last had a fund equity of 5-10 percent, but it was "probably sometime within the last five years."

In the past, the district held community forums to help it prioritize. The community has always stepped up and provided helpful feedback in the district's planning process, Liepa said.

Those who would like to participate need to register by emailing jwozniak@livoniapublicschools.org or calling 734-744-2510.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | 248-309-7524 |  
Twitter: @Karens87

# Outgoing county exec recalls points of pride

Ficano's legacy includes economic development and over-budget jail project

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

If you ask outgoing Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano about his time in office, the first thing he'll discuss is the economic development growth the county has seen in recent years.

"If you look at it, in the past five years, 40 percent of all the new investment in the state of Michigan happened in Wayne County," he said.

He'll champion work with the Aerotropolis development, the Cobo Center authority as well as attracting businesses such as Blue Cross Blue Shield to downtown Detroit.

It's those economic development projects Ficano hopes become his legacy, though the debate will likely continue for years.

Ficano, a Livonia resident, is ending his time as county executive, a run that lasted 12 years before he was defeated in the Democratic primary in August. He, along with several other candidates, was defeated by Warren Evans, who will take the reins later this week as Wayne County executive.

Previous to his election in 2002 to the county's top spot, Ficano served as county sheriff. He was appointed sheriff in 1983 and re-elected five times.

He leaves office with several accomplishments under his belt, especially in economic development, but several problems loomed during his tenure in recent years. One of the most notable was the unfinished county jail project that sits across the street from the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, as well as waves of scandal surrounding his



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See **FICANO**, Page A2 Robert Ficano has served as county executive for 12 years.

# Moviegoers line up to see 'Interview' at State Wayne

By Zlati Meyer  
michigan.com

The line that stretched past the concession stand to the front door of the State-Wayne movie theater in Wayne was orderly.

No protestors picketed beneath the old-fashioned marquee. The specially hired security guards strolled around. One movie-goer thanked them on her way out. Two uniformed policemen, who came inside briefly, saw no crime other than a gaudy snow hat.

The *Interview* screened at the Michigan Avenue theater seven times — one of hundreds of cinemas across the U.S. showing the controversial Seth Rogen-James Franco comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. Sony Pictures had initially canceled its Christmas Day release of the film after hackers threatened to attack theaters showing it. Earlier this week, Sony decided on a limited release.

Among the other Michigan venues are the State Theatre

See **MOVIE**, Page A2

## WILL OBAMA WATCH 'THE INTERVIEW'?

President Barack Obama cheered Sony's decision to make "The Interview" widely available on digital platforms, but declined to say whether he would be streaming the spoof of North Korea while on vacation in Hawaii. "I'm glad it's being released," he said Wednesday.

It was just last week that Obama called it a mistake for Sony to scuttle plans for releasing the film, which is about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, amid threatened retaliatory attacks. The entertainment industry should not engage in self-censorship for fear of offending foreign dictators, Obama said.

By Monday, Sony announced it would go ahead with a limited release in theaters starting Christmas Day. And on Wednesday, the studio made the film available to rent on platforms such as YouTube, Google Play and Microsoft's Xbox Video. One of the first showings in Los Angeles drew carolers, fans dressed as Uncle Sam and — in a surprise appearance — codirectors Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg.

Tribune News Service

# W-W board to elect new set of officers

The Wayne-Westland school board will have new leadership in 2015.

The board will elect new officers during its organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, in the district's administrative offices on Marquette in Westland.

Under the board's policies and procedures, members are polled prior to the organiza-

tional meeting to hear their preferences in serving as officers in the coming year. Board officers serve one-year terms.

Shawna Walker has indicated an interest in serving in any of the four leadership positions: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The Westland resident is completing her first term as board president.

Thomas Buckalew, the current vice president, and Trustee Sally Madison also expressed an interest in any one of the positions.

Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin, who was elected to serve a partial two-year term in November, indicated his interest in serving as board vice president.

Board Treasurer Frederick

Weaver also was specific, expressing an interest in being the vice president or secretary, while board Secretary Carol Middel said she was open to any position but president.

Melandie Hines, who was elected to the school board in November, will not seek an office.

—By Sue Mason



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# New movie releases based on books, book series

Over the holidays, many folks will head to the movies for entertainment. Quite a few of the new releases are based on books or book series. Make sure to visit the library for the real story!

**Mockingjay** was released in November and was based on the third installment of the *Hunger Games* series. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins is a dystopian young adult series based in the fictional Panem. While these novels may be in the young adult section, they are excellent reads for teens and adults alike.

The final *Hobbit* film, *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies* was released Dec. 17. *The Hobbit* is the prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* series by JRR Tolkien. This is another

young adult series with universal appeal. The series is based in Middle-earth. Read about the spectacular adventures of Bilbo Baggins during the upcoming winter break. In addition to the books, the library also has copies of the previously released movies on DVD.

*Into the Woods* is based on the Grimm fairy tales *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Rapunzel*. The Grimm fairy tales are available at the library; additionally you can find the Stephen Sondheim adaptation of the Broadway musical *Into the Woods*.

The latest incarnation of the musical *Annie* is being released in December as well. The library has CDs and the DVD of the 1981 theatrical release. *Annie* books can be easily reserved through the The Library Network. Ask any of the

librarians at either the youth or adult reference desks for assistance.

The New Year will see the release of several book-based movies as well.

From the deepest, darkest Peru arrives the duffel coat-clad, marmalade-eating, lovable bear, Paddington! The library is full of stories by Michael Bond about *Paddington Bear*. See the live-action movie about Paddington and his adventures in London with the Brown family beginning Jan. 16. Share these adorable stories with your children prior to the movie release.

To check out copies of these books, the previous films, or for other literary-based movie adaptations, visit the youth or adult reference desks at the library. The librarians will be happy to assist you. Happy Holidays!

On a personal note, I

will be leaving the Wayne Public Library as of Jan. 9 to pursue a new adventure. I have very much enjoyed my time here. The staff and patrons of the library have been very welcoming and it was a very hard decision to leave.

I want to thank the Wayne community for making my time at the library very worthwhile. Storytime and other programs will continue as planned. I hope that folks will have the opportunity to stop by the youth reference desk before Jan. 9 so I can say (to quote Tigger) "ta-ta for now."

### Upcoming Events

**Leader dogs for the Blind**, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 — Join Jan Crawford as she shares her experiences as a puppy raiser for this organization, which is dedicated to the empowerment and independence of blind, visually-

impaired and deaf-blind people. Learn about the rigorous training required for puppies to become qualified service dogs and meet a canine candidate aspiring to be someone's dedicated helper. Sign up at the adult reference desk.

**Family Fun Storytime**, 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 20 and 27 and Feb. 3, 10 — Multi-age story time for the whole family. Join us for stories, rhymes, movement and crafts intended to engage children and caregivers of all ages. An adult caregiver must remain with the child during the entire program. Approximately 30 minutes long. Sign up begins two weeks prior to event at the youth reference desk.

**Tips to Avoid Being Scammed**, 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 — Please join Walgreens at the Wayne Public Library for an engaging one-hour presentation entitled "Tips To

Avoid Getting Scammed." This is a free service. For any questions, contact Jon Stevens at 734-595-9956 (do not contact the library).

**Parents-in-Action**, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 — Parent and child workshops presented by Starfish Family Services. January's topic is "Active Learning." To register, contact Starfish at 313-937-2458 or starfish-elc@sfish.org

**Valentine Making Craft**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Visit the youth department to make those last-minute valentines for your friends and loved ones. This is an all ages, drop-in craft.

Information Central was compiled by Kelly Soerens, Children's Librarian. The Wayne Public Library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7832 or go online to [www.wayne.lib.mi.us](http://www.wayne.lib.mi.us).

## FICANO

Continued from Page A1

political appointees.

Cementing a legacy, Ficano said, comes with more than one or two problems that arise during a public servant's tenure.

"When we had some of those complications, the easiest thing to do would have been to give up and to move on. Instead, I said 'no,'" he said. "I think, when you look at it, economic development is going to be a big part of the legacy."

Looking back at his career, Ficano said he learned a lot on the job, including working with people he trusted perhaps a little too much to handle operations at the county.

"In this case, was I too trusting of some people? Yes, probably I was," he said. "The fiscal thing was not easy and those decisions, nobody liked cutting pay 10 percent."

Diane Webb, a county

commissioner who represents Redford, part of Livonia and Dearborn Heights, said the work of the people Ficano appointed could be a big part of how people remember him.

"He just trusted people too much and didn't do his own homework on the decisions that were being made," she said. "The biggest problem is that he did not stay in control."

### The jail project

Ficano said halting work on the jail project when it was projected to go about \$90 million over budget became the difficult thing to do, leaving the project half-completed.

"It took a lot of political capital, but we said, 'No, we're suing you,'" he said.

Three individuals who worked or did work for the county were indicted earlier this year on several charges related to the over-budget project. Their cases are still work-

ing through the legal process.

Ficano anticipates the jail project will move forward during Evans' tenure and he said he believes it will be continued at its site across from the courthouse after all the lawsuits pan out.

"The path is there," he said. "Part of that path is there because we stopped it and sued."

Webb said while Ficano's legacy with the jail will be remembered, there are many other issues that come to mind when thinking of his tenure, including his work on economic development that has been beneficial across the county.

She cited several examples, including work to keep the Ford assembly plant in Wayne running and not moving out of the county.

"In doing that, the county helped keep Ford in Michigan and Wayne County," she said. "It would be unfair to say he didn't accomplish anything. He did get some

things done."

### Water authority and local issues

Ficano praised the work to create a new water authority as a result of the Detroit bankruptcy hearings, the Great Lakes Water Authority, which will have representation from all three metro Detroit counties, as well as the city of Detroit and the state.

Working to achieve some suburban representation over the water supply from Detroit was a "critically important" step to secure more say for other municipalities in how water rates are determined.

"The suburbs will have a lot more authority than they've had in the past," he said. "We filed the mediation motion in the federal court, in the bankruptcy court, which spurred all this."

The creation of that authority, Ficano said, will help save water users from potential major spikes in water rates if a

private company were to come in and run the county's water.

"No matter who you said should be making repairs and all that stuff, repairs have to be done," he said. "A private company would have condensed it into a couple years in which they would have done it and the water rates would have just been sky high in all of the suburban areas."

He said he helped champion work done with help from the county on several projects, including the pothole blitz earlier this year that saw an increase of county workers filling potholes on major roads in Redford and Livonia as I-96 was being reconstructed, the splash park in Canton and helping restore Central City Park in Westland.

The park, Westland's largest, was closed due to lead and other contamination in 2006. The land was owned by Wayne County, which facilitated and largely funded the reme-

diation project, which allowed the park to reopen in 2012.

"As mayor, I will always be thankful for Bob Ficano and his team working with the city to remediate and reopen Central City Park," said Westland Mayor William Wild, who ran against Ficano in the August primary. "For without his help, the park would have continued to be a black eye for the community."

### Looking forward

As Evans moves into the Guardian Building next month, Ficano says he believes the county's finances are on the right track.

"(Evans) has until at least 2016 to make sure what permanent path he wants to go with the finances," Ficano said. "It's pretty well stabilized itself. We've gotten surpluses, dramatically cut the accumulated deficit."

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
734-678-6728/Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

## WESTLAND OBSERVER

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**Editor: Sue Mason**  
734-674-2332  
Email: [smmason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smmason@hometownlife.com)

**Sports: Ed Wright**  
Email: [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com)

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## MOVIE

Continued from Page A1

and Quality 16 Goodrich in Ann Arbor and Michael Moore's *Bijou* by the Bay in Traverse City. *The Interview* starts playing at Emagine Canton for free on Wednesday.

"I'm personally offended by the fact that someone said we shouldn't show this film," said Cory Jacobson, owner of Phoenix Theatres, which includes the State-Wayne. Jacobson shifted *Interstellar* to the Laurel Park cinema to show *The Interview*. "People are thanking a ruthless dictator for helping them discover our theater. ... The crowds are laughing at it. It seems highly offensive. If I were the dictator of North Korea, I'd be highly offended."

Jacobson, who's been in the movie business since 1978, likened the



Cory Jacobson, owner of the historic State-Wayne theater in Wayne, takes a ticket from Pete Castro of Baltimore, Md., for a showing of the film "The Interview" on Thursday.

conviviality of the moviegoers to film festival attendees. He said moviegoers chatted with one another, analyzing the movie.

Jacobson announced to the approximately 100 people at the sold-out screening at the State-Wayne before the movie: "Enjoy the First Amendment."

Michelle Borg, 48, of Wayne was first in line

for the 2:40 p.m. showing, with her husband and two adult children in tow. For the medical biller's family, going to the movies is a Christmas Day tradition, not a political statement.

"We're a movie buff family," she said. "It's a movie, entertainment."

Derrick Jones was more philosophical about all the drama surrounding the comedy.

"If someone did a movie where they killed our president, we'd be up in arms," the 49-year-old engineer from Westland said. "I understand why North Korea is upset."

His son Justice Watts, 19, said simply, "It looked like a good movie."

Mick Caudell, who'd driven an hour from Toledo with his father, Mark, to see the film, called it "average." The elder Caudell deemed it "junior high school humor."

"It's not exactly award-winning," said the 21-year-old college senior. "It fits its purpose."

But Christine Murphy gave it two thumbs up.

"It was very original. It was entertaining," the 44-year-old property manager from Westland explained. "If people could see (Kim Jung Un) in a different light, it would not take violence" to overthrow him.

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# LIVONIA CHAMBER OFFERS NEW POSTCARDS DEDICATED TO NEHASIL PARK, WILSON BARN

Livonia postcards featuring Larry Nehasil Park and Wilson Barn are now available at the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

It is the first time in recent history the chamber offered postcards, but the new mementos

were inspired by requests by visitors to the chamber office.

"There are a number of people who frequently ask if we have Livonia postcards," Chamber President Dan West said. "You usually think about postcards sold at tourist-

type places. We may not be a tourist destination, but there are quite a few Livonia residents who want them. I think that really speaks to how much Livonians appreciate their community."

The new postcards will sell for 25 cents each.

One postcard features one of Livonia's newest landmarks, Larry Nehasil Park, which was dedicated in October. The other postcard features one of Livonia's most historic sites, Wilson Barn, which dates back to the 1830s.

The postcards, West said, will give residents and business owners a chance to promote Livonia.

"This should give those people a new way to express their Livonia pride," he added.

The postcards will be sold in the lobby of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, located on Five Mile just east of Farmington Road. After the holiday break, office hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



This postcard features one of Livonia's newest landmarks, Larry Nehasil Park, which was dedicated in October.



This postcard features one of Livonia's most historic sites, Wilson Barn, which dates back to the 1830s.

## Alumni sought for Stevenson High School anniversary

Plans are well underway for the 50th anniversary of Stevenson High School and all alumni are invited to share in a special three-day celebration.

Alumni are expected from near and far to take part in the commemorative events next October. The SHS Alumni Association has been busy gathering members in order to keep everyone in

the loop prior to the anniversary. To sign up for this free association, go to <http://goo.gl/cePOGx> and complete the contact information form.

A Facebook page has also been set up under <http://www.facebook.com/LivoniaStevensonAlumni> and a Twitter account can be found at @SHS\_Alumni.

All Stevenson alumni are encour-

aged to "like" the Facebook page and sign up with the Alumni Association in order to stay informed about the events and also find out about opportunities to help plan the festivities.

A re-dedication of the building's namesake facilities is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the SHS gymnasium.

The homecoming football game

against Churchill High School will be held Friday, Oct. 23.

An alumni tent will be set up on game night.

An all-class reunion open house will take place at Stevenson High School from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24.

For more information about the anniversary events, email [Stevenson-alumni@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:Stevenson-alumni@livoniapublicschools.org).



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**Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson**

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to Nijuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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## Storyteller spins tales of trolls, magic

By Sue Mason  
 Staff Writer

There wasn't any snow on the floor of gym at St. Damian School, but that didn't stop students from lying down and making imaginary snow angels.

It was the idea of storyteller Yvonne Healy who regaled the youngsters with a Norwegian tale about a white bear and trolls and a Native American story of a greedy old woman and a magic man. Her visit just prior to the school's Christmas break is one of four enrichment programs that touch on different aspects of the academic program.

"We always try to mix it up," Principal Jacqueline Mojeske said. "This one touches on English language arts and history."

Award-winning performer, author and artist-educator Healy was born in Ireland and studied the art of storytelling there. And while her stories at St. Damian weren't Irish, she opened and closed her presentation by allowing students to try their hand at playing the bodhran, an Irish frame drum.

"Kids love it," she said. "They don't get to touch the instruments of people who are on stage."

Healy introduced herself to the students, telling them that when she reads books they become images and memories in her head.

"I see them as graphic comic books in my head," she said. "I can make up stories or remember ones I've read."

### 'The White Cat'

Healy chose *The White Cat of Norway* and a tale she called the *Odawa Woodpecker*, a tale from



Irish storyteller Yvonne Healy tells a story about a bear to students at St. Damian School.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the Ottawa tribe in Michigan.

In *The Cat*, a man dressed in red and riding a white bear visits a family on Christmas Eve. The family is busy making food and packing a wagon to go to town. When he asks if he can stay, he is told he can but that the family is leaving to go to the neighbors for Christmas.

There reason for leaving was trolls.

"They show up every Christmas and are the ruddiest people," Healy said. "They eat all the food, throw it around, chase the animals. The family takes their stuff with them and leaves the rest to the trolls."

The man asks if his bear can stay in the house — "He's very well-trained" — and the man

says yes.

"The bells in town rang and there was a loud howling; the door burst open and in come the trolls," Healy said. "They ate everything and made the worst possible noise when they eat. Then they began throwing food."

The trolls started teasing each other and looked for the animals and only found the bear. They put a sausage on a stick and started poking him and calling him kitty. The bear got up and scared the trolls, who ran away.

"After the church, the family came home and expected a mess, but there wasn't one," Healy said. "They asked the man what had happened and he told them, 'they didn't like my bear; they thought it was a cat.'"

According to the tale,

the trolls returned the next year and asked the man if he still had the cat. He told them, yes and that she had had seven kittens. The trolls never came back.

"I guess if you have a cat, you won't have trouble with trolls," she said.

### Magical man

The second tale was about an Ottawa man who could do magic. Tall and good looking, he transformed himself into a creaky old man when he encountered an old woman in the forest who was cooking bread over a fire. He asked for some and she made one for him. He used a bit of magic and the bread turned out perfect and golden brown. It looked so good that the woman kept it for herself, Healy said.

He continued to ask for a piece and each time used magic, turning the dough into larger and larger pieces of bread. Each time she decided to keep the bread.

"Old woman, old woman, you are selfish," Healy intoned. "You are going to have to hunt for your food the rest of your life. He used magic and her red scarf turned into red feathers. He turned her into a woodpecker."

The two stories had a similar message for students: be kind and take care of your guests.

"Storytelling gives more meaning behind the different words," Healy said. "For students, it's fun and enriching."

smason@hometownlife.com  
 734-674-2332  
 Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

## STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Three western Wayne County students have been nominated for placement at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Col., and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Andrew Lang of Livonia has been nominated to the Merchant Marine Academy, while **Conor Ryan** of Redford has been nominated to the Naval Academy and **John Solimanto** of Redford to the Air Force Academy.

"I'm proud to see so many exceptional students from Michigan want to serve our country through military service," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich. "Having demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom, I know that they will represent Michigan and our country well."

Students seeking appointment to a service academy must first obtain the nomination of their U.S. senator, representative, or the vice-president.

Students nominated by Stabenow's office went through a competitive application process that included interviews by community leaders.

Now that the students have been nominated, they must await acceptance for admission by the academy to which they have applied.

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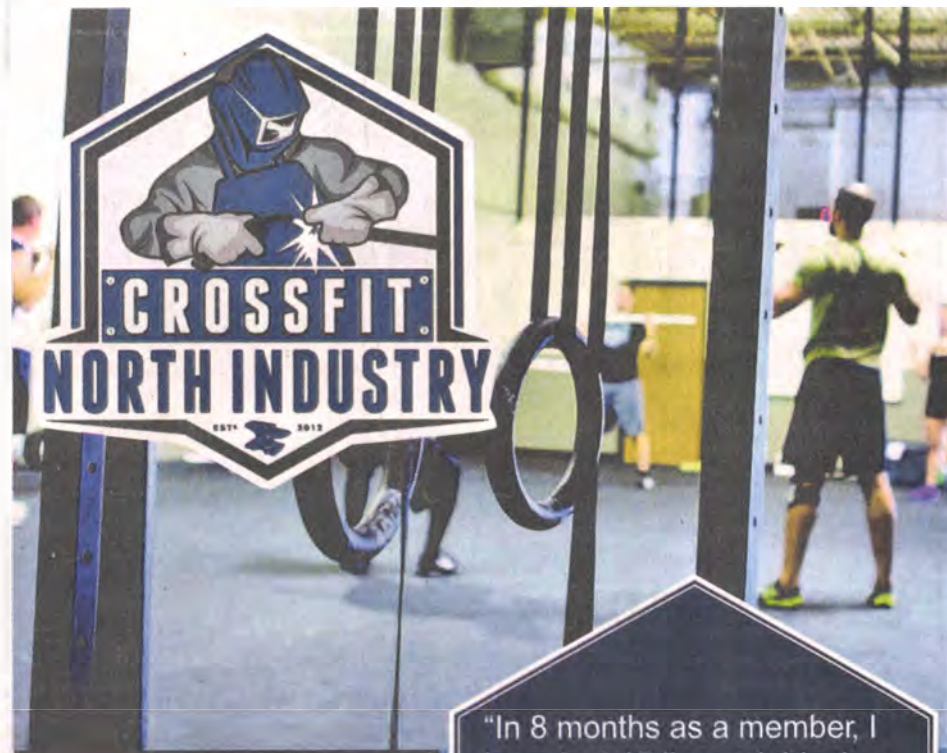


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# Stevenson students hold benefit dodge ball tourney

Students and staff members from Livonia Stevenson High School held a dodge ball tournament to raise money for a local charity.

Each team paid a tournament entry fee and the total was donated to the winning team's favorite local charity. Ten co-ed teams of eight students or staff members competed against one another for the top prize.

The winning team went undefeated in six games and chose to donate the funds raised, totaling \$400, to St. Mary Mercy Livonia Cancer Services. The donation will be used for cancer patients in need of help getting to and from cancer treatments.

"The cancer services team at St. Mary Mercy Livonia is extremely grateful to the eight high school students for selecting our patients as recipients of this donation," said Samir Narayan, MD, chair, cancer committee, St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "Cancer is a life-altering disease and affects patients and families in so many ways. This donation will ensure our patients have reliable transportation to their cancer treatments. On behalf of our patients and families, we are extremely grateful."

Members of the winning team, made up of 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds, have family or friends affected by cancer in some way and chose St. Mary Mercy Livonia so the money would stay in their community.

"Our team wanted to give this money directly to individuals in our community who need help," said CJ Weiss, a Livonia Stevenson High School student and member of the winning dodge ball team.

"This was a good way to keep the money in our community and show St. Mary Mercy cancer patients that the students of Livonia Stevenson High School are thinking of them."

This is the first year Livonia Stevenson has held the dodge ball tournament. The tournament is organized and run by Livonia Stevenson students.



Players from the winning Livonia Stevenson High School dodge ball tournament line up on the court. The winning team chose St. Mary Mercy Livonia's Cancer Services as the local charity to receive funds raised during the tournament. The money will be used to help transport patients to treatment.



The Livonia Stevenson High School winning dodge ball team included Alyssa Zahra, Cori Wilson, Lexi VanHorn, Nick Ross, Jack Ferguson, Austin Petrie, CJ Weiss and Dom Rea.

# Legislature passes Knezek's veterans preference bill

Michigan veterans scored a major win during a marathon lame duck session of the Michigan Legislature.

Just after 12:30 a.m., the Michigan Senate voted unanimously in support of House Bill 5418, legislation introduced by State Rep. David Knezek, D-DeARBorn Heights, which grants private employers the ability to adopt a veterans' preference employment policy when hiring new employees.

The bill is now headed to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature.



Knezek

"With little time to spare, we were able to gain the support of Republican leadership in the Senate to bring this critical bill up for a vote," Knezek said. "There are many people to thank who helped me push this legislation across the finish line, including Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Director Jason Allen, Rep. Jase Bolger, Rep. Jim Stamas, Sen. Randy Richardville, Sen. Arlan Meekhof and Sen. John Moolenaar. Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc even stepped in just before midnight to lend his voice to the chorus of those asking for this bill to be passed."

"By putting party politics aside and working together, we were able to take a monumental step forward in addressing the issue of veteran unemployment in Michigan," he added.

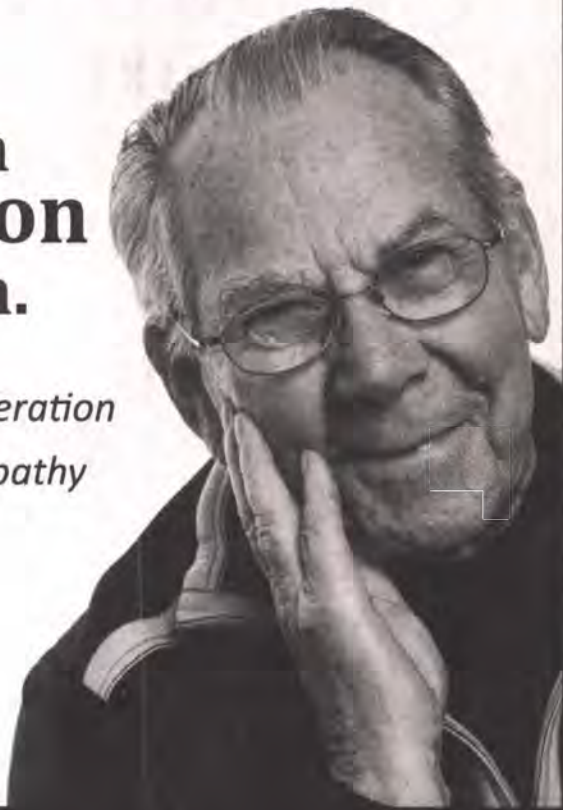
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not preempt formal state action allowing for the creation of such preference policies for veterans. However, Michigan currently has no such law on the books authorizing a practice for private employers. While public employers have been able to authorize such a preference since the Civil War, 2015 will mark the first time private employers can do the same.

"Serving as a voice for Michigan veterans has been, and will continue to be, one of my top priorities," Knezek said. "I believe we can do better here in our state, and I'm happy to work with anyone and everyone to make sure our veterans are protected."

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Stephanie Thompson finds a coat she likes at Macy's.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Shopper beats the clock during mall spree

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Stephanie Thompson was not only up to the challenge of spending \$1,000 in 1,000 seconds — she exceeded that amount with time to spare.

A Detroit resident, Thompson won the shopping spree at Westland Shopping Center after being selected as one of three finalists through a drawing. Thompson unwrapped a box that contained the shopping spree gift certificate.

The contest allowed the winner to shop at the store of their choice. On the third floor of Macy's, a large-screen television had a clock counting down the seconds as Thompson raced through the store, up and down the escalators.

Followed by helpers, Thompson selected items she wanted with a sticker and they were collected as she hurried on to the next department. Thompson had a shopping cam strapped to her chest to record the shopping spree.

"I didn't expect such a workout. I'm tired and sweating," Thompson said, sitting on a bench in the main court after her shopping spree. "I think I did well. I'm pleased."

The items Thompson picked were added up in the order selected and some didn't make the cut after the total hit \$1,000. In the end, Thompson had clothes for her family, books and a wallet and for herself, a new coat and a watch.

Describing herself as a good shopper, Thompson said she hadn't expected to win the shop-

ping spree. "I honestly forgot I entered the contest until they called me," said Thompson, a single mom with six children. "I'm going straight for clothes for myself and my family. I picked Macy's."

There were nine wrapped gift boxes for the finalist to open in rounds until the certificate was found, but Thompson found it in the first package she opened.

The other two finalists, Jenny Ellick of Garden City and Inkster resident Randall Dietz, each received a \$100 mall gift certificate.

Ellick had selected Macy's as her store, while Dietz had planned on shopping at Sears, if he won the shopping spree.

Emcee Ralph Cabildo also awarded some \$25 gift cards through a raffle, although one went to someone from Alabama — the person who had come the furthest distance to be at the mall.

Speaking to the crowd in the court, Westland Mayor William Wild noted it had been five years since the city started its Shop and Dine District campaign. Kicking off the day after Thanksgiving, the campaign promotes local business, including Westland Shopping Center.

"In 1966, the city was named after the Westland Shopping Center, so we have a very close relationship," Wild said. "Happy shopping. Happy holidays."

rogers@hometownlife.com  
734-883-9039  
Twitter: @LRogersObserver



Stephanie Thompson reacts to finding the \$1,000 shopping spree certificate. Emcee Ralph Cabildo is as excited as Thompson.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
WLND's video crew, including Craig Herbert, followed shopping spree winner Stephanie Thompson through Macy's.

## INVITATION TO BID BID NO. T2 - Teacher and Lab Computers FOR LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education ("Owner") will receive firm, sealed Bid Proposals for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the Teacher and Lab Computer bid package.

Bid Documents can be obtained on or after December 22, 2014 from ARC (1009 W. Maple Road Clawson, Michigan 48017, phone: 248.288.5600), and will only be available through electronic downloads. If hard copies of documents are needed, they will be printed at the bidder's expense.

Bid documents will be available to view only free of charge from the PlanWell Enterprise System on-line by accessing the website at: [https://order.e-arc.com/arcEOC/x\\_project.asp?de=B73CF51C-0CDE-4139-8A41-2657941400D0](https://order.e-arc.com/arcEOC/x_project.asp?de=B73CF51C-0CDE-4139-8A41-2657941400D0)

Sealed bids labeled, "BID NO. T2 - Teacher and Lab Computers" are due by 11:00 a.m. on the 15th day of January, 2015, at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified. Oral, telephone, fax, or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. All vendors are invited to attend opening. *Bid Proposals received after the due date will not be considered or accepted.*

A pre-bid walk through has been scheduled for January 6, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the Administration Building Conference Room A, located at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. This pre-bid meeting is not mandatory, but is highly recommended.

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.

All bidders must complete the following disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Public Schools Board, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or the Livonia Public Schools Director of Business Services, Wayne RESA Board or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized affidavit of compliance- Iran Economics Sanctions act of 2012. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

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

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part; to award the Contract 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 Owner.

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 bid form and signed by the bidder. Three (3) signed copies of the bid form are to be addressed to the attention of:

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

"BID NO. T2 - Teacher and Lab Computers"

Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to the Livonia Public Schools: Rob Greager, Project Manager, Barton Malow Company: [rob.greager@bartonmalow.com](mailto:rob.greager@bartonmalow.com)

Publish: December 28, 2014

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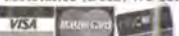
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# Plans scrapped for Canton outlet mall

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Paragon Outlet Partners LLC has scrapped plans to build a sprawling outlet mall in Canton, scuttling hopes for hundreds of jobs and scores of upscale stores, but easing fears of worsening traffic congestion along the Ford Road corridor.

Baltimore-based Paragon has indicated the costs of buying land, improving traffic flow and addressing potential wetlands issues doomed the outlet mall, once proposed southwest of Ford and Lotz roads, local officials said.

"It's a big disappointment," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "I thought it was a



Plans have been abandoned for this outlet mall in Canton.

good project for the area. It would have been a quality project. I felt we could work through the traffic concerns."

Company officials had indicated the 375,000-square-foot outlet mall could house as many as 100 stores, making Canton an even stronger shopping destination alongside IKEA and other shops along the Ford

Road corridor.

Paragon Outlet Partners LLC may, instead, work with New England Development of Newton, Mass., on another outlet mall planned in Romulus, near Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The decision dealt a crushing blow to hopes of local officials who believed the outlet mall would be a good fit for

the community. Canton Economic Development Manager Kristen Thomas described herself as "very disappointed" by Paragon's decision to abandon the local mall, though she said she is confident the Ford-Lotz site will remain desirable.

Paragon officials couldn't be immediately reached for comment. However, they have indicated in correspondence to Canton officials they were impressed with the willingness of local leaders to help move the now-abandoned project forward.

Supporters had said the new outlet mall would create hundreds of jobs and pump money into the area economy, though critics have said Canton's

development appeared destined to spiral out of control, threaten locally owned businesses and cause worsening bottlenecks.

After the outlet mall had been publicly touted earlier this year, Canton resident Bill Tufts told the *Observer* he welcomed the idea because he already visits similar retail centers in Howell and Birch Run. He supported the idea of an outlet mall closer to home.

However, residents such as Pam Cortese said the outlet mall would be intrusive in a community they fear is already becoming overdeveloped.

"It's not a good idea," Cortese has said. "We need to have our small businesses in Canton. I

want to put the money back into Canton."

Some residents in Canton and elsewhere have said they already try to avoid Ford Road because of traffic bottlenecks. They feared the situation would only worsen with an outlet mall, even with plans still on track next year to pave Lotz between Ford and Cherry Hill and improve that north-south corridor.

In the end, the debate has been silenced by Paragon's plans to abandon the Canton outlet mall.

"We worked so hard on this," LaJoy said, "but that's it."

dclcm@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

## Should you pre-plan and prepay for a funeral?

**Q: Dear Rick: I'm a widow in my early 80s. My husband passed away about 10 years ago. Over the last few years, I have lost a number of friends and I've been thinking about when my time comes. I belong to a book club and one of the topics of conversation is whether it makes sense to pre-plan and prepay for a funeral. What are your thoughts?**

**A:** There are two separate issues. The first is whether you pre-plan your funeral and the second is whether you prepay.

When it comes to pre-planning a funeral, I believe it makes sense. After all, death always



By Rick Bloom  
GUEST COLUMNIST

occurs at the wrong time and it is always emotional for our loved ones. I am not sure that the best time to plan a funeral is in the midst of grieving for a loved one.

Pre-planning a funeral makes sense because it will save your loved ones a substantial amount of aggravation. In addition, it could also save quite a bit of money. If you pre-plan your funeral, you can decide what you want, from the type of casket you use to the type of service. Anyone who has had

to arrange a funeral will tell you that caskets can be very expensive. In fact, when you read studies, you will find that it is not unusual for funeral homes to mark up caskets by 300, 400 and even 500 percent. To funeral directors, funerals are a business and, of course, in many situations they will try to sell you the most expensive casket and accessories. In the midst of grieving and not wanting to look cheap when it comes to a loved one, many people will overpay for a funeral.

If you pre-plan a funeral, it is possible that you can purchase the casket elsewhere. Many people are under the mistaken belief that you

must purchase a casket through the funeral home. This is not the case. In fact, the law provides that funeral homes must accept caskets from other places.

In today's world, you can buy caskets from a number of different places, including Costco and many others online. By pre-planning, you'll have the time to look for alternatives for such things as your casket.

If you are pre-planning a funeral, other issues to consider are whether you will be buried or cremated. If you are buried, where you want to be buried? If you're cremated, what do you want to happen to your ashes? What service you want - chapel,

church or synagogue?

If you do pre-plan your funeral, it is important to put your wishes in writing and give them to a loved one. Generally, your wishes with regard to your funeral don't get put in your will or trust.

When it comes to prepaying a funeral, I'm not as big a fan. What happens if the funeral home goes out of business? What if you change your mind with regard to the details regarding the funeral? What if you no longer reside in this area?

If you know what funeral home you want to deal with and there is a provision stating that if you change your mind, you can get a 100-percent refund, then pre-

paying could be an option that you consider. On the other hand, if there is no provision for a refund, then I would lean toward pre-planning, not prepayment.

The reality of life is all of our days are numbered. There is nothing that we can do to prevent that. Therefore, pre-planning a funeral and making things as easy as we can for our loved ones is truly an act of love.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

### CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

**Petition 2014-11-01-07 submitted by NPM Acquisitions L.L.C.** pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the properties at 27403 and 27451 Schoolcraft Road, located on the southwest corner of Schoolcraft and Inkster Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 25, from OS (Office Services) and M-1 (Light Manufacturing) to C-4 (High Rise Commercial 4 Stories).

The above-mentioned petition will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman  
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: December 28, 2014

LO-00022568 3x3.3

### CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

**Petition 2014-12-02-15 submitted by Matthew Adamcheck** requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(f) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate an indoor training facility (4 Star Strength & Conditioning) at 30958 Industrial Road, located on the west side of Industrial Road between the CSX railroad right-of-way and Schoolcraft Road in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 26.

The above-mentioned petition will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman  
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: December 28, 2014

LO-00022568 3x3.3

### LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734) 744-2511

#### Carol M White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant Services Request for Proposal

Livonia Public Schools has been awarded the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant from the US Department of Education. Funding is currently approved through September 30, 2015 with anticipated additional funding through September 30, 2016.

Livonia Public Schools is seeking proposals from qualified applicants with federal grant experience to assist the district in three main areas: coordination of physical education professional development opportunities for staff, evaluation services of the already existing programs put in place, and expertise in compiling the annual and final grant performance reports for Washington. All qualified applicants will review the attached Grant Requirements and complete the attached Bid Proposal forms.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, [www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org) under the section titled *District, Purchasing Bids* OR Buy4Michigan Website, [www.buy4michigan.com](http://www.buy4michigan.com).

**Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015, at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, at which time, all bids, will be publicly opened and read. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified. Oral, telephone, fax, or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. All vendors are invited to attend opening.**

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.

All bidders must complete the following disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Public Schools Board, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or the Livonia Public Schools Director of Business Services, Wayne RESA Board or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. **The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized affidavit of compliance- Iran Economics Sanctions act of 2012. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.**

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

**Any bid submitted will be binding for sixty (60) 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 form are to be addressed to the attention of:

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

"Carol M White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant Services"

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

Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to the Livonia Public Schools: Alison Smith, Grant Supervisor, [asmith34@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:asmith34@livoniapublicschools.org)

**LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

Publish: December 25 & 28, 2014

LO-00022578 3x4.5

### LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734) 744-2500

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

#### Heart Rate Monitor Bid for the 2014-2015 School Year (See Attached Specifications)

**Sealed bids will be received until 10:30 a.m. on the 21st day of January, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, at which time, all bids will be publicly opened and read. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified. Oral, telephone, fax, or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. All vendors are invited to attend opening.**

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.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, [www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org) under the section titled *DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, 2014-2015 school year, open bids* OR Buy4Michigan Website, [www.buy4michigan.com](http://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.

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 Public School Board of Education, Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or the Director of Business Services, Wayne RESA Board 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 Economics Sanctions act of 2012. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.**

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

A bid bond executed by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the owner, or a cashier's check in the amount of 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Livonia Public Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of \$23,100.00.

Prices bid are to be **F.O.B. Livonia, Michigan**. 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 sixty (60) 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 form are to be addressed to the attention of:

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

"Heart Rate Monitor Bid"

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

Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to the Livonia Public Schools, Sheryl Archibald, Elementary Programs, [sarchiba2@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:sarchiba2@livoniapublicschools.org), 734.744.2500, X42435, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

**LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

Publish: December 25, 2014, December 28, 2014

LO-00022572 3x6





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Santa, assisted by Lauren Bockstanz, Kim Arbour and Kellee Cochran, poses for a photo with Razz.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Breann Kasputis brought her dog Bentley to see Santa, better known as veterinarian Dr. Brad Davis.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Santa holds Nikita, a hairless cat that goes by the name of The Naked at the Garden City clinic.

# Pets' visit with Santa help clinic's emergency fund

By Sue Mason  
Staff writer

Santa Claus made a special stop Monday at VCA Garden City to say hello to family pets and help raise money for the Betty McClain Fund. It was the first time Dr. Brad Davis put on the red suit and beard to pose for photos with pets that came dressed in their Christmas finery. Pet owners received a photograph and, in lieu of a fee, were asked to make a donation to the fund.

"My staff suggested that now that I'm fat enough and gray enough, I could be Santa," Davis said. "We've probably had 20-25 people come through. It's been busier

than I thought." Betty McClain was a client at VCA. When she died several years ago, her daughter made a donation to the clinic. The money is used to help families when they have an incident and don't have the money to pay for it. "If that happens, we would use money from the fund, but there's usually nothing in it," Davis said.

Pet owners gladly made donations to get the Christmas snapshot, making sure their animals came properly dressed.

"I found the outfit at Walmart and I wanted it," said Breann Kasputis of Westland, who brought in 14-week-old

Bentley wearing a plaid outfit, complete with a knit scarf. "I decided it would be super-cute for him for his photo." "This is my baby," said Lenora Jackson of Redford, whose 9-year-old shih tzu Razz was wearing a polo sweater. "My sister comes here with her two pets and told me about it."

Davis hammed it up with the animals, flanked by several elves and a toy soldier, played by staffers Kim Arbour, Kellee Cochran and Lauren Bockstanz, whose mother Sarah was the official photographer.

Arbour even dressed up her hairless kitten Nikita, known as The Naked around the clinic, for the occasion.

The success of the event had Davis saying that it would probably be something the clinic will do once year. The staff



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Santa meets Razz, held by owner Lenora Jackson of Redford.

liked it and liked dressing up.

"But my gut feeling is that they'll get a rabbit costume in the spring," he said.

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**NEW CONDITIONS IN OLD PATIENTS**  
Physicians are seeing what appears to be a new condition in old patients. What I am talking about is the appearance of intense pain in the hands involving the digits and the palm, and at times, the back of the hand.  
To physicians the hand looks like the result of a bad injury or an untreated infection. The doctor braces the patient's hand places the person on intravenous antibiotics to be given daily for six weeks. Eventually, the doctor realizes that such treatment may not be in order because x-rays and special imaging such as CT scan reveal no fracture; furthermore if the person is receiving intravenous antibiotics, even after days of this therapy the patient's pain has not diminished and redness and swelling are unchanged.  
Re-assessment of the patient usually leads to the correct diagnosis: the patient has gout. IV's are discontinued and the hand splint removed; the patient receives a course of cortisone with resolution of the pain and return of the hand to its usual function. It means the patient can return to living independently.  
What caused the missteps was the way the patient's hand pain presented. Gout is supposed to present is with a sudden and intense pain in a single joint like the great toe, wrist or 3rd knuckle. When gout comes in a different guise, such as swelling of the whole hand, physicians feel they are facing another or new condition.  
Aging is not simply a breakdown of the body, but a reorganization of resources that remain. The elderly body changes its approach to inflammation with physicians still in the learning stage of what those changes are and how they show themselves

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# SETTING THE STAGE

Atmosphere contributes to Village Theater's success

By Robin D'Angelo  
Correspondent

Spotlight Players president Lia De Biasi describes the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton with one word — family.

"I don't really remember life before the Village Theater," she said. "We're so close-knit that we could put on a show without even communicating with each other, which is odd, but very comforting. I live in Plymouth and I work for Plymouth Township, and I'm always telling my boss that I wish I lived in Canton, just to get him going."

"The venue is just gorgeous," she added. "That adds a whole other element of quality and professionalism to what we do."

De Biasi and others in the arts community wouldn't have a local home if it weren't for a dedicated group that posed the all-important question of whether the area could support a local theater back in 1996.

And that initial inquiry in 1996 has become a jewel in the crown of Canton's Cherry Hill Village. Ten years after opening, the 400-seat Village Theater is still going strong as a hub for entertainment, education and appreciation of the fine arts.

Canton Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin said Canton Township has always promoted the arts well, beginning with the Canton Project ARTS program. That group of volunteers started the Annual Juried Fine Art Exposition in 1993, and held concerts and programs at The Summit and the Canton Public Library.

"Arts and cultural activities serve as an economic engine wherever they exist," Tobin said.

#### Community support

Canton Township began researching the need for a

performing arts center in April 1996, which involved establishing numerous committees to study the feasibility, level of interest and gauge community support. The Cherry Hill Village location was chosen based on its prime combination of residences, small businesses and restaurants.

The Partnership for Arts and Humanities was able to raise more than \$5 million toward the construction and operation of the theater. Several donors committed over \$250,000 for the project. After four years of discussion and analysis, construction began in spring 2003, and the Village Theater held its grand opening in the fall of 2004.

A number of local arts organizations, such as Ever After Productions, Spotlight Players, the Canton Community Band and the Canton Community Chorus now call the Village Theater home.

The theater, which is owned and operated by the township, receives contributions from the township's general fund, as well as grant support from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"Once the theater was built, the arts, culture and history have attracted over 50,000 patrons and participants annually, and businesses have moved into Cherry Hill Village," Tobin said. "The total budget for 2014 was under \$700,000, of which Canton subsidizes about half, while the other half is generated by rental and program fees."

In 2013 alone, 37,542 patrons attended 181 performances featuring 8,636 performers. The 665 events, rehearsals and classes had 55,056 participants and 4,300 volunteers assisted with marketing and usher duties.

Tobin added that the Village Theater is so popular for rentals that all weekends are booked solid for 2015.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is often a destination for school field trips, as it was for Wayne-Westland students for this production of "Tarzan, the Stage Musical."

"It is one of the most sought-after venues in the region because of the price and because the staff is amazing," she said.

"Rentals are all-inclusive and come fully staffed with technicians to run sound and lights, front of house, concessions with wine and beer available, and a wide range of amenities from dance floor to fog machine."

#### Popular shows

The Spotlight Players are now in the early stages of rehearsal for the play *Get Smart*, which is set to open March 1, 2015, and will soon hold auditions for *Young Frankenstein*, which will open in mid-April. Auditions for the Spotlight Players are open to all ages.

"(Senior group) The Still Got It Players are auditioning in January, but we haven't voted on a play yet," she said. Auditions for the Still Got It Players are open to ages 50 and up.

Auditions at the Village Theater typically draw larger numbers for musicals, De Biasi said, but it also depends on the popularity of the show.

"When I directed *The Music Man* we had over 70, and with *The King and I*, we had about 45," she said. "I would highly encourage everyone to come out and see one of our shows, or just go look at the gorgeous art exhibits, or consider being a volunteer. It's really a wonderful facility, and everything is of

great quality and very enjoyable."

The Village Theater gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday from 7-9 p.m., Sunday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., during public performances and by appointment.

In November, the gallery displayed the works of the legendary *Detroit Free Press* chief photographer Tony Spina with the exhibit, *He Was The President*, showing photographs of John F. Kennedy during his visits to Detroit and on the national circuit. The theater has hosted a wide variety of artists, from Michiganders Kyle Culps, Scot Ferguson, Tophir Crowder and Xia Gao to the internationally acclaimed.

"Exhibitions by Armenian artist Yuroz and extraordinary glass artist Paul Stankard have been a couple of my favorites over the years," Tobin said.

The lineup of performing artists have included humorist and author David Sedaris, musicians John Corbett and Darius Rucker, comedian Tom Papa and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Local groups such as the Spotlight Players and Spotlight Youth call the theater home, as well as Central City Dance, the Michigan Philharmonic and the Canton Concert Band.

"We also partner with the school district to present some

of their great performing arts groups," Tobin said.

#### Theater tours

For those interested in learning more about the workings of the theater and what is involved in putting on performances, the Village Theater offers two-hour theater tours for up to 200 students. Tours include a technical theater session with a tour of the scene shop, wardrobe, green room and dressing rooms, demonstration of the counterweight fly system, trapdoors and orchestra pit; a Fine Arts appreciation with an exhibit gallery walk and talk, a Performing Arts sampler on choreography and a chance to create and perform their own play.

"Students love all aspects of the tour, and since they experience art, music, dance, drama and technical theater like lighting and sound, different aspects appeal to each student," Tobin said.

"By the end of the tour, all the students (and a few brave teachers or parent chaperones) get on stage and do a performance of what they have learned, which is priceless."

The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For a full schedule of performances, more information on the Village Theater or to purchase tickets, visit [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) or call 734-394-5300.

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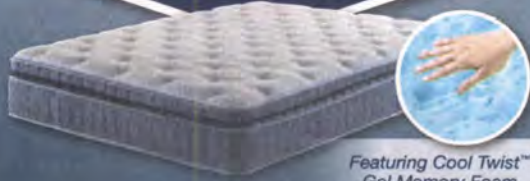
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eclair is a friendly Jack Russell terrier.

# Great time to adopt a pet from Humane Society

**By Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

Brian Prebus and girlfriend Carolyn George of Dearborn were eager to welcome home a new dog. "We named her Bonnie," Prebus said, in the hallway of the Michigan Humane Society Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. George added, "I'm

very excited. I love animals." She's at home and can care for a pet and noted Bonnie is a great yule gift. "We're very excited," George said. "This one just tops it," she added of her gift list. "We've been wanting to find the right time to adopt," Prebus said. "We really want to get to know what the families are looking for,"

said Ryan McTigue, public relations coordinator for the MHS. "We're always trying to make that perfect match. Some animals can be a little more of a challenge." The folks at the Michigan Humane Society generally don't encourage pet adoptions right before Christmas. Dec. 25 yule celebrations have plenty of hubbub

and pets new to a home can get stressed out. "Each person, like each animal, is a little bit different," McTigue said, noting some pre-holiday adoptions do work out. Humane Society officials and volunteers are eager to showcase pets up for adoption. The MHS Berman Center for Animal Care is at 900 N. Newburgh, just south of Marquette (south of Ford Road), in Westland. Its Adoption Center hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday. The phone is 734-721-7300, the website michiganhumane.org.

green, a male, and female feline Dee, who peered out from her cardboard box inside her cage. The MHS in Westland has "get acquainted" rooms for those mulling adoptions and has one room with more unusual pets like rabbits. Susan Scheffer of Belleville said Dec. 23, "I come here all the time just looking. I like to see what they've got." She has one cat at home and another died last winter. Scheffer brings her granddaughter from Westland to the Berman Center. Scheffer was looking at cats recently at a facility in Romulus and there weren't many. "I'm glad. That means somebody took them home," she said.

each year in southeast Michigan, with a focus on finding homes for thousands of pets. Education of children, a cruelty hotline, emergency rescue, low-cost spaying/neutering and legislative advocacy are on the MHS agenda. "It's definitely extremely important," McTigue said of the Westland facility. "It's important to be able to serve as many people as possible." The MHS operates centers for animal care in Detroit and Rochester Hills as well as Westland. You can get information by calling 866-MHUMANE or the general administrative number at 248-283-1000. McTigue said the MHS also welcomes help with volunteering, fostering or financial donations, noting no government money is received. "We're just thankful for the wonderful support of our community," he said. He and colleagues love to match visitors to MHS centers with pets who'll love them back for years to come. "It's the reason for everyone doing what we do," he said. "It makes it all worthwhile." Some animals come back to the MHS for financial reasons or for difficulty in getting along with other pets in a home, he said. Some animals stay with the MHS a number of months.



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She's more of a cat person. "Cats take care of themselves a little bit more," Scheffer said. The Humane Society's McTigue explained those adopting a pet must have the interest and the financial means to care for the pet throughout life. Some parents pick a pet with children who later leave for college. "You're ultimately going to be the one providing that care," said McTigue, a Royal Oak resident. The MHS is the state's oldest and largest animal welfare organization. It's a private, nonprofit organization serving the animals and people of metro Detroit and beyond since 1877. It provides care for tens of thousands of animals

and there weren't many. "I'm glad. That means somebody took them home," she said. Scheffer brings her granddaughter from Westland to the Berman Center. Scheffer was looking at cats recently at a facility in Romulus and there weren't many. "I'm glad. That means somebody took them home," she said. Scheffer brings her granddaughter from Westland to the Berman Center. Scheffer was looking at cats recently at a facility in Romulus and there weren't many. "I'm glad. That means somebody took them home," she said.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

**MARIO KART TOURNAMENT**

**Time/date:** 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29.  
**Location:** Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Who's the baddest driver out there? Find out at the 8th Annual Teen Wii Mario Kart Tournament for students in grades 7-12. This will be a single-elimination bracket tournament. If you wish to participate, you must be present and signed up no later than 5:30 p.m. First-round opponents will be drawn randomly. Game settings and other rules will be announced just prior to the start of competition. Prizes for place winners.

**Contact:** Ken Bignotti, 734-421-4235.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

**Time/date:** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; game starts at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31.

**Location:** VFW Hall, 31611 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Michigan Classic Cards will hold a euchre party/progressive tournament (10 rounds) paying out more than \$700 in prizes. Includes dinner, party favors, pizza and champagne toast. Cost is \$40. Money from 50-50 tickets goes to the group's charity, Help's on the Way (<http://helpsontheway.org>).  
**Contact:** 734-673-2225.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

**Time/date:** 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31.

**Location:** AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland.

**Details:** The post is holding a New Year's Eve Party. The cost is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple and includes dinner, dancing, champagne and pizza at midnight.

**Contact:** For tickets or more information, call 734-721-2990.

**AEROBICS CLASSES**

**Time/date:** 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7.  
**Location:** Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Body and Spirit aerobics class for all fitness levels. All proceeds help Angel House take a stand against all domestic violence. Cost is \$20 a month or \$6 a session for walk-ins. Bring floor/yoga mat and hand weights (optional).  
**Contact:** 313-443-7256.

**DEMOLAY MEETING**

**Time/date:** 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.  
**Location:** Wayne Masonic Lodge, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

**Details:** The lodge is holding an informational day for Michigan DeMolay, a youth movement for men ages 12-21. The day will be a meet-and-greet with video games and board games.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Ray Lemons at 734-552-3125 or by email at Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com.

**ONGOING**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP**

**Time/date:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

**Location:** The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

**Contact:** 734-524-0720.

**SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD GAMES**

**Time/date:** 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Location:** The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

**Details:** Cost is \$5 per person. Angel House uses the money to give \$50 gift cards to a family in need weekly. Donations are also accepted via the website, [www.theangelhouse.org](http://www.theangelhouse.org).  
**Contact:** 734-524-0380.

**FRIENDS OF ELOISE**

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November.

**Location:** Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

**Contact:** Pat Ibbotson at 734-331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com.

**LIVING ON GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**Time/date:** 2-3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month.

**Location:** Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne.

**Details:** Hospice of Michigan grief groups provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to express their feelings and better understand the grief process. These services are offered at no charge to any member of the community mourning the loss of a loved one. The group meets in Conference Room 2 on second level. Park at west entrance.  
**Contact:** To register, call Margie Martin, Grief Support Services manager, at 734-769-5821.

**LIVONIA CAMERA CLUB**

**Time/date:** 8-9:30 p.m. the first two Thursdays September through May.

**Location:** McKinley School, 9100 Hillcrest, Livonia.

**Details:** A group of photographic enthusiasts dedicated to promotion of photography through displays, competitions, critiques and education.  
**Contact:** Dennis Gelarden, president, 734-591-2589; [livoniacameradub.com](mailto:livoniacameradub.com).

**LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH**

**Time/date:** First Wednesday of every month; time rotates monthly between

morning (9-11 a.m.) and evening (6-8 p.m.).

**Location:** Livonia City Hall Annex Conference Room, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia.

**Details:** The Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition (LSOY) exists to educate and empower the community regarding the health and safety of our young people, with a focus on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. The public is welcome to attend monthly meetings — a light meal is served.  
**Contact:** [kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org](mailto:kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org); 734-338-9580.

**WIDOWED MEN**

**Time/date:** 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of the month.

**Location:** Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia.

**Details:** Widowed men are invited to attend men's breakfast and learn about other co-ed activities.  
**Contact:** Call Dick at 313-534-0399.

**CO-ED WIDOWED BREAKFAST**

**Time/date:** 9 a.m. first Thursday of the month.

**Location:** Richard's Restaurant, Plymouth Road at Eckles Road, Plymouth.

**Details:** All widowed welcome. Come and meet new friends.  
**Contact:** To reserve a seat, call Carol at 734-464-2833.

**Time/date:** 9 a.m. third Thursday of the month.

**Location:** Annie's, at 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

**Details:** All widowed welcome for great, reasonably priced food, good conversation and laughs.  
**Contact:** Call Tom at 734-927-0610.

**LIVONIA ROTARY CLUB**

**Time/Date:** noon to 1:30 p.m. Mondays.

**Location:** Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia (Use the northwest entrance).

**Details:** Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" — service in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service and encourages high ethical standards in all vocations. The Livonia Rotary Club built Rotary Park on Six Mile and does various community service projects throughout the year. Be a guest at a meeting.  
**Contact:** [www.livoniarotary.org](http://www.livoniarotary.org); [jre2716@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jre2716@sbcglobal.net).

**WESTLAND ROTARY**

**Time/Date:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays.

**Location:** Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

**Details:** Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Visit [westlandrotary.com](http://westlandrotary.com) for more information.  
**Contact:** Jeff at 734-261-5010.

Wish you were here



Judy and Frank Zbikowski of Livonia vacation with the *Observer* at their timeshare in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, the second week of December.

**WAYNE ROTARY**

**Time/Date:** noon every Tuesday.

**Location:** Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne, except the last Tuesday of the month when the meeting is at 6 p.m. At the US12 Bar and Grill on Michigan Avenue.

**Details:** Be a guest and see what Wayne Rotary is all about.  
**Contact:** Call Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

**GARDEN CITY ROTARY**

**Time/date:** noon Thursdays.

**Location:** Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.

**Details:** Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed.  
**Contact:** Call Steve Kelly at 734-748-1345.

**LIVONIA KIWANIS CLUB**

**Time/Date:** 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

**Location:** Livonia Chamber of Commerce, 33233 Five Mile, Livonia.

**Details:** Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers, dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. It has been serving the Livonia community since 1982. The Livonia Kiwanis works throughout the year to assist children in Livonia and the surrounding communities. New members are always welcome. If you would enjoy serving the community and making a real difference in the lives of children and their families, call or attend a meeting.  
**Contact:** Ken Wagner, 734-464-3315; [www.LivoniaKiwanis.org](http://www.LivoniaKiwanis.org).

**GARDEN CITY KIWANIS**  
**Time/date:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays.  
**Location:** Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.  
**Details:** Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.  
**Contact:** Julie Slabaugh at [jslaba3925@aol.com](mailto:jslaba3925@aol.com) or 734-716-8833.



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PREP VOLLEYBALL

## Park volleyball coaches resign

Coaches for Canton, Plymouth and Salem cite personal reasons

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

There has been plenty of successful seasons turned in recently by the Canton, Plymouth and Salem varsity volleyball teams.

But all three teams will have new coaches at the helm when the 2015 season convenes next fall. The timing

might be coincidental.

Canton coach Steve Johnson is soon to marry Plymouth coach Sarah Marody; both have announced they are resigning due to personal reasons. So is veteran Salem coach Amanda Nies — just weeks away from having a baby.

Athletic directors for all three high schools have not

yet responded to the *Observer* about the resignations.

"After 10 seasons (as a high school coach) it wasn't an easy decision but I'm ready to move on with the next phase of my life," Marody said. "Steve and I are getting married in June and I'm in a position to take on leadership roles at my school (she teaches at Christ the King Lutheran in Southgate). My family and career come first. It's just time."

Nies, meanwhile, said "family" is the one and only reason

she is leaving after spending the past 10 years at the Salem varsity helm. Including four years as a player and another four either coaching freshman or JV teams, Nies has 18 years invested in the Rocks' volleyball program.

"In three weeks I'm due with my second child," Nies said. "I can always go back to coaching, but watching my children grow up goes by all too fast. I'm very sad to leave and I have left behind an

See COACHES, Page B4

## Livonia 'Y' leagues and classes

The Livonia Family YMCA, located at 14255 Stark Rd., is accepting registrations for both winter sports leagues and classes.

Ten-game youth basketball (ages 6-14) and volleyball leagues (ages 8-14) begin Jan. 12, while eight-game adult basketball and volleyball leagues begin Jan. 4-5. Winter classes for toddlers through adults — including gymnastics, karate, aikido and preschool sports — begin the week of Jan. 4.

Contact the YMCA at 734-261-2161 or email Chris Jackett at cjackett@ymcadetroit.org for more information.

## Spalding update

Westland John Glenn graduate Devon Spalding capped a stellar true-freshman football season at Central Michigan University in Wednesday's inaugural Bahamas Bowl.

Spalding rushed for 371 yards on 73 carries (5.1 average) and four touchdowns. Spalding also

caught three passes for 23 yards. He played in 11 games for the Chippewas, who finished the season 7-6.

Spalding rushed eight times for 12 yards and caught two passes for 17 yards in the Chippewas dramatic 49-48 loss to Western Kentucky. CMU rallied from a 49-14 second-half deficit.

As a senior at John Glenn in 2013, Spalding rushed for 1,761 yards on 190 carries and a school-record 27 touchdowns.

He also broke the school record for rushing in a single game with 491 yards.

## Franklin baseball camp

Livonia Franklin's 9th Annual Future Stars Baseball Camp will be held Saturday, Feb. 21. The first session — which will focus on hitting, base-running and infield work, will run from 9-11:30 a.m.

Following a half-hour lunch, the afternoon session — which will focus on defensive work, pitchers' fielding practice, catching drills and outfield approach — will run from noon to 2:15 p.m.

The camp will be held in the Franklin High School fieldhouse, which is located at 31000 Joy Rd. in Livonia.

Each camper will be assigned to groups based on age and ability. The camp is open to boys and girls in grades two through sixth. Each camper should bring his or her own sack lunch, which should not have to be refrigerated.

For more information, contact Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

HOLIDAY HOOPS

## Warriors topple Thurston, 66-60

Bailey's double-double lifts W.L. Western to tourney title

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

"Twas two nights before Christmas, and all through the gym, the Warriors were leaping, hands high above the rim.

Fueled by a tenacious display of offensive rebounding, Walled Lake Western skywalked to a 66-60 victory over Redford Thurston in Tuesday night's Livonia Franklin Holiday Basketball Tournament championship game.

The Warriors improved to 5-0 while Thurston slipped to 5-1.

Leading the spring-loaded winners was senior 6-foot-4 forward Marcus Bailey, who recorded 20 points and 17 rebounds. Senior 6-2 guard Jerald Booker also scored 20 points for Western, which was making its debut appearance in the annual tournament.

Thurston's balanced attack was spearheaded by senior guard Rickey Hudgens, who scored 18 points. Senior forward Isiah Crofford netted 14 for the Eagles while Deaunte Jackson, Marquie'l Thomas and Brandon Marshall all contributed nine points.

See HOLIDAY, Page B2



Redford Thurston junior guard Treven Gary forces a jump ball with Walled Lake Western's Daryl Porter during the final minute of Tuesday night's game.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Aaron Burbridge looks for room to run against Jacksonville State.

MICHIGAN STATE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

## Burbridge does his part to help Spartans

Former Harrison all-state player is three-year contributor at wide receiver for Michigan State

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

Michigan State University's football team is working on a nice winning streak in post-season play, having ended the last three seasons with bowl victories.

The No. 8-ranked Spartans hope to make it four in a row on New Year's Day when they battle No. 5 Baylor in the Cotton Bowl at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

That record of success parallels MSU's rise to national prominence, and it's players like wide receiver Aaron Burbridge of Farming-



Burbridge

ton Hills who have helped to make it happen.

"That's the reason all of us come to Michigan State," Burbridge said. "We expect to win here; we expect to go to big bowl games. It's just an honor to be a part of this and what's going on."

Though he might be considered a role player, Burbridge, a former all-stater at Harrison High School, has made a solid contribution to the MSU program.

He played as a true freshman in 2012, has appeared in 35 games and made 10 starts. Burbridge has 76 career receptions for 859 yards and three touchdowns.

The 6-foot-1, 201-pound junior is third on the team this year with 25 catches for 301 yards and one score. He caught a season-high five passes for 48 yards against Indiana.

"I'm very happy with my production," Burbridge said. "I feel like I developed a lot this year. I learned more about the game, and it has

See BURBRIDGE, Page B4

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Bailey.



## HOLIDAY

Continued from Page B1

Early on, the Eagles appeared headed to their sixth consecutive victory when they raced to a 20-11 lead after one quarter. The Warriors sliced their deficit to 35-31 at the half before outscoring Thurston 23-12 during the third stanza to seize a 54-47 advantage.

Deaunte Jackson's basket on the opening possession of the fourth quarter closed Thurston's deficit to 54-49, but Western answered immediately at the other end on a put-back by 6-2 senior guard John Flowers to make it 56-49. Thomas closed Thurston's gap to 56-52 moments later with a clutch top-of-the-key three, but the Warriors retaliated with back-to-back buckets by Porter and Flowers to pad their lead to 60-52.

Trailing by eight with 60 seconds to play, Crofford scored on a put-back, which was set up by a hustling play

by Teven Gary, who forced a jump ball near mid-court.

The Eagles then forced another Western turnover before giving the ball back seconds later.

Thurston made 7 of 10 free throws. The Warriors were 7 of 9 from the stripe.

The bulk of the Warriors' second-half points were the product of their relentless pounding of the offensive glass.

In Tuesday night's consolation game, Salem (3-2) rode Jakob Lenders' team-high 13 points to a 62-36 victory over the host Patriots. Sophomore guard Johnny Cantrell led Franklin (0-6) with 12 points.

Voted to the all-tournament team were Bailey and Booker of Western; Hudgens and Crofford of Thurston; Salem's Allante Wheeler and Lenders; and Cantrell and Charles Keith of Franklin.

ewright@hometownlife.com

## PREP WRESTLING

# PUSHING FORWARD

Garden City stays resilient in wake of head coach's sudden death

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Confronted by a wall of daunting adversity, members of Garden City's wrestling team have forged together like a high-powered battering ram.

Just a few days after attending funeral services for their 47-year-old coach and mentor Mike Howell, who died suddenly Dec. 10 from a massive heart attack, the Cougars returned to the mats Dec. 20 at the Panther Invitational hosted by Redford Union.

With their hearts heavy with sorrow and their young minds still clouded by shock, the Cougars' nine-man squad performed like warriors, according to interim co-coach Don Giese, whose return to the program was compelling in its own way.

"Considering they were at their coach's funeral less than a week earlier, the way these guys performed was remarkable," Giese said. "They've really committed themselves to dedicating the rest of the season to Mike. Although it's going to be hard to win any dual matches with the low numbers we have, they're working hard and pushing forward."

The Cougars' trio of senior captains — Brendon Bergstresser, Cody Kirkpatrick and Ali Arab — each went 4-1 at RU.

The captains are the lone holdovers from Giese's tenure at Garden City. He stepped down at the Cougars' head wrestling coach following the 2012-13 season due to health issues of his own.

"It turns out I had suffered a heart attack during the (2012-13 wrestling) season, but I wasn't aware of it," Giese said. "My doctor dis-



TOM BEAUDOIN  
Interim co-coach Don Giese rallies his Garden City wrestlers during last week's Panther Invitational at Redford Union High School. It was the Cougars' first action since the death earlier this month of Mike Howell.



Shirts were printed for members of the Garden City wrestling team in memory of coach Mike Howell, who died two weeks ago.



TOM BEAUDOIN  
Garden City senior captains Brendon Bergstresser, Cody Kirkpatrick and Ali Arab meet before the Cougars return to the mat following the death earlier this month of head coach Mike Howell.

covered it after doing a battery of tests on me.

"Mike and I went to school together (at Garden City) and wrestled together. When he heard about my health issues, he asked if I wanted him to step in and take over the program and I told him I thought he'd be perfect for it."

Giese was stunned to learn of Howell's death via social media during the early morning hours of Dec. 11.

"As soon as I heard about the tragedy, I wanted to do whatever I could to help the program continue to run," Giese said. "I offered to help out (assistant coach) Joe Hay. My health is much improved now, so that wasn't an issue."

The Cougars' first practice following Howell's death was somber and surreal, but then team members were energized by the desire to keep plugging for their late coach.

Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips ordered each of the wrestlers T-shirts that have the saying "Whatever journey you take, I'll walk beside you" and Giese said there are plans to have a memorial patch placed on each of the Cougars' singlets.

"Other than the three seniors, we're pretty young; we have mostly freshmen and kids who have never wrestled," Giese said. "But it's a strong group and they're working hard to get through this."

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**Matt Skibinski, OL, Churchill:** A dominating 6-5, 275-pound tackle who has committed to play for Miami of Ohio, Skibinski was one of the catalysts of a Churchill offense that averaged over 40 points, 250 yard rushing and 200 yards passing per game.



Skibinski

A two-year captain and three-year starter, Skibinski did not yield a sack this season in 250 pass attempts.

He is a standout in the classroom as well, sporting a 3.44 grade-point average.

"Matt is a gym rat, a hard worker and he cared about all the little details to become better," said Churchill coach Bill DeFillippo.

**Michael Jordan, OL, Plymouth:** An imposing physical specimen at 6-6, 285 who is being eyed by recruiters for Division I football programs, Jordan was a force for the Wildcats both on the offensive and defensive lines.



Jordan

On the O-line, Jordan registered 27 pancakes and did not allow a quarterback sack. Defensively, he tallied 42 tackles including 25 solos.

He was named to the all-conference team for his excellent season and he still has one more year to go, certainly bad news for other KLAA teams.

"Michael is a flat-out beast and a great character kid," coach Mike Sawchuk said. "Obviously, with his size and strength he is able to dominate the line of scrimmage."

"He is only a junior so he still has some room for improvement. We are excited to see how he plays his senior year."

**DeShawn Baker-Williams, OL, Glenn:** A two-way starter at offensive and defensive tackle, the 6-4, 310-pound Central Michigan University commit was a key reason why the Rockets were able to rush for 3,015 yards this past season.

Defensively, he recorded 16 solo tackles and 19 assists.

**Darin Tuttle, OL, Canton:** The 5-10, 220-pound senior offensive guard was Canton's most durable and consistent lineman, standing tall against enemy defenses.



Tuttle

The second-year starter also excelled with physical play and as a pulling blocker, important factors for the major success of Canton's multi-pronged running attack.

Tuttle, an all-KLAA selection, started every game and also took over as the team's long snapper midway through the year.

"He also played on the defensive line and played excellent there when he did," coach Tim Baechler said. "Darin was our most valuable linemen this year and an excellent leader."

**Nolan Gilo, TE, Canton:** One of many offensive weapons for the Chiefs, the senior tight end led the team with 18 catches for 500 yards (a school record for yards receiving in a season) and scored two touchdowns.



Gilo

A big target at 6-1, the second-year starter averaged 27.8 yards per catch and helped Canton's cause by adding two crucial 2-point conversion catches.

"Nolan made the big catch all year long to keep drives alive or to give us a big play," Baechler said. "Nolan was also an exceptional blocker."

For his efforts, Gilo was named to the all-KLAA squad.

**CJ Weiss, WR, Stevenson:** Weiss capped his career in spectacular fashion, hauling in 59 passes for 725 yards and six touchdowns.



Weiss

He will graduate as Stevenson's all-time leading receiver with 87 receptions for 1,148 yards. A multi-purpose threat, Weiss also added

39 carries for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and six punt returns for 79 yards and a TD.

Defensively, he racked up 24 tackles and blocked three kicks.

"CJ is one of the smartest football players and toughest competitors that I have had the opportunity to coach," said Stevenson coach Randy Micallef. "He pushed all of us to get better each day."

**Tim Dulin, WR, Churchill:** The primary receiving threat on a team that threw for over 2,000 yards, the 6-4, 180-pound Dulin registered 51 receptions for over 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns, including a last-minute 50-yard score on fourth down that sent the Chargers' early-season game against



Dulin

Brighton to overtime (they eventually won).

With 4.5 speed in the 40-yard-dash and soft hands, the rangy Dulin is drawing interest from MAC and FCS college programs.

"Tim made some great catches, including some at very key moments this year," said DeFillippo. "His height and speed made him a dangerous player on offense."

**Dez Fitzpatrick, WR, Farmington:** The junior wide receiver (6-2, 192) spurned multiple Big Ten offers and committed to Louisville late in the 2014 season. He caught 32 passes for 511 yards, and he scored a total of 11 touchdowns.



Fitzpatrick

His stats could have been greater, but he didn't play a lot in the second half as the Falcons, who averaged more than 40 points per game in winning the OAA Blue Division, were often well ahead by that time.

Fitzpatrick is a cover corner on defense. He had three interceptions and 25 tackles, and he also returned punts and kicks.

"Dez is an incredibly gifted athlete," coach John Bechtel said. "He has great size and spectacular hands, and he's a fantastic route runner. He's one of the best players around."

"He's a major match-up problem for people. He's a big, strong receiver; he can play a physical game, or he can run away from you. It's a tough match-up for teams on defense, too, because of his size."

**Jevon Shaw, QB, Harrison:** A three-year starter and repeat member of the all-area team, Shaw led the Hawks to a share of the OAA White Division crown, a state semifinal appearance and a 10-3 record.



Shaw

He was the leading rusher and passer with 987 and 1,024 yards, respectively. Most of his 16 rushing touchdowns were runs of 40 yards or more. Shaw averaged 10 yards per carry. He was 63-of-129 passing with 10 touchdowns.

Shaw (5-9, 180) is seventh on the all-time passing list with 2,338 yards and 14th in rushing with 1,663. He is an outstanding punt and kick returner, and he will play at Ferris State next year.

"Jevon was the heart and soul of our offense," coach John Herrington said. "He could improvise on runs. If pass protection broke down, he could make big runs. On the run plays designed for him, he could run around people or through them; he's very strong."

"It was a huge loss when he was injured (in the first play-off game). He stayed with the team and had the courage to come back and try to play in the semifinal game."

**Brian Alsobrooks, QB, Churchill:** The 6-2, 215-pound field general, who has committed to play at Eastern Michigan University, completed 151 of 248 passes for 2,258 yards.



Alsobrooks

He threw for 23 touchdowns and just six interceptions while rushing for over 500 yards. One of the state's best kickers as well, Alsobrooks finished with 142 career extra-

**ALL-AREA FOOTBALL FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE**

Sr. Matt Skibinski, OL, Churchill  
 Jr. Michael Jordan, OL, Plymouth  
 Sr. DeShawn Baker-Williams, OL, Glenn  
 Sr. Darin Tuttle, OL, Canton  
 Sr. Nolan Gilo, TE, Canton  
 Sr. CJ Weiss, WR, Stevenson  
 Sr. Tim Dulin, WR, Churchill  
 Jr. Dez Fitzpatrick, WR, Farmington  
 Sr. Jevon Shaw, QB, Harrison  
 Sr. Brian Alsobrooks, QB, Churchill  
 Sr. Greg Williams, QB, Canton  
 Sr. Kyle Penny, QB, N. Farmington  
 Jr. Cameron Stella, RB, Plymouth  
 Sr. Paul Romain, RB, Churchill  
 Jr. Austin Petrie, RB, Stevenson

**FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE**

Jr. Khalid Kareem, DL, Harrison  
 Sr. Laymon Gidding-Whately, DL, Thurston  
 Sr. Renardo Brown, DL, John Glenn  
 Sr. Justin Banks, DL, Farmington  
 Sr. Michael Ojemudia, LB, Harrison  
 Sr. Jake Pagel, LB, Canton  
 Sr. Shane Raymond, LB, Plymouth  
 Jr. David Reese, LB, Farmington  
 Sr. Devin Cameron, LB, Salem  
 Sr. Hussein Youssef, LB, Plymouth  
 Sr. James Hill, LB, Clarencville  
 Jr. Alonzo McCoy, DB, Thurston  
 Sr. Devon Cook, DB, Harrison

**SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE**

Sr. Nick Davis, OL, Churchill  
 Sr. Dorian Williams, OL, Harrison  
 Sr. Luke Callahan, OL, Salem  
 Sr. Brad Scott, OL, Stevenson  
 Sr. Elijah Bean, WR, Clarencville  
 Sr. Angelo Wiggins, Wayne Mem. Jr. Christian Walls, WR, Plymouth  
 Sr. Billy Morgan, WR, N. Farmington  
 Soph. Chris Tandens, QB, Stevenson  
 Sr. Tyler Hubbs, QB, Garden City  
 Sr. Kyle Collins, QB, Farmington  
 Sr. Deji Adebisi, QB, Plymouth  
 Jr. Joe Bob Walker, QB, Wayne Mem. Soph. Marcus Sanders, RB, Canton  
 Sr. Brian Newton, RB, Canton

**SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE**

Sr. Justin Whitted, DE, Harrison  
 Sr. Courteous Preston, DL, Farmington  
 Sr. Iwarri Smith, DE, Harrison  
 Jr. Jaen Cochran, LB, Canton  
 Sr. Kevin Justice, LB, Plymouth  
 Sr. Marvin Yaldo, LB, N. Farmington  
 Sr. Nick DeHette, LB, Garden City  
 Sr. Austin Olson, LB, Luzerne Westland  
 Sr. Donnie Eubanks, DB, Harrison  
 Sr. Justin Gasaway, DB, Franklin  
 Jr. Jared Stephens, DB, Canton  
 Sr. Tyrrik Hunter, DB, John Glenn  
 Sr. Kalen Dunham, DB, Plymouth  
 Sr. Steve Szymanski, DB, Stevenson  
 Jr. Alex Bolstrum, SP, Harrison

**CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR**

John Herrington, Farmington  
 Harrison  
 Tim Baechler, Canton

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

**Farmington:** Kyle Brunson, Mark Thomas, Omari Mitchell, Michael Raad, Jakkar Jackson; **Harrison:** Derrick Parker, Jared Char, Brendann Brown, Tyrone Lyte, Omaury Rodgers, Mark Keith Hunt; **N. Farmington:** Mason Cornell, Noah Holston, Clayton Gaines, De'ron Jenkins, Nathan Perry, Mher Tcholakian, Sason Tcholakian; **Clarencville:** Jake Kubiak, Jonathan Hogan, Jermell Johnson, Santoy Reese; **Stevenson:** Hyder Mansour, Connor Vaughan, Robert Schneider; **Churchill:** Shakur Lockett, Armon Perham, Anthony Kenney, Nick Hajarian, Jake Weiss; **Franklin:** Nathan Rodgers; **John Glenn:** Javawn Burns, Leon Crawford; **Wayne:** Julian Jones, Jarvis Martin, Malik Bryant; **Luzerne Westland:** Jacob Davenport, Cleveland Tarp; **Canton:** Robert Guajardo, Chuck Turte, Jake Stephan, Brett Lee; **Plymouth:** Victor Abraham, Anthony Kenney, Logan Luttrell; **Salem:** Jason Arnold, Calvin Crawford, Trevor Nowacki; **Garden City:** Cody Johnson, Jay Engler, Easton Hayter, Stephen Fox, Nick Clark, Tommy Segars; **Redford Union:** Tyrone Robinson, Aerhmoni Harrison; **Thurston:** Damarian Booker, Isalah Crofford, Aaron Griffin.

also set a single-game standard with 356 yards.

Penny completed 100 of his 172 pass attempts in the past season and threw 12 touchdown passes. He had 17 career TD tosses.

Penny also started on defense, made 41 tackles and picked two passes. He punted 37 times for a 34.1 average and put the ball inside the 20-yard line a dozen times.

"Kyle is the ultimate competitor," coach Todd Schultz said. "He loves the game and plays with such passion. And it showed every time he was on the field. Every game, every snap, he truly enjoyed playing the game at a high level."

Because of his experience and grasp of the playbook, Schultz gave Penny a lot of latitude in calling plays.

"I would send in three or four plays and allow Kyle to choose the correct play based on the defensive formation," Schultz said. "Ninety percent of the time, he chose a play I would have called if I was on the field, too."

**Cameron Stella, RB, Plymouth:** One of the key contributors to another strong season for the Wildcats, the 6-0, 180-pound Stella made opponents pay with power running and a knack for coming up big in clutch situations.



Stella

The junior rushed 113 times for 973 yards (8.6 average) and scored six rushing touchdowns. He also chipped in on returns and as a receiver, with 1,228 total yards and one receiving TD.

He was named to the all-KLAA team for his excellent all-around season.

"Cam is an unbelievable athlete," Sawchuk said. "He has the speed and agility to make defenders miss and not get a good shot on him."

"I can't wait to see how he looks as a senior after getting one more year in the weight room."

**Paul Romain, RB, Churchill:** The senior was a ball-carrying beast for the Chargers, piling up 1,771 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns. He also tacked on 19 receptions for 304 yards and three six-pointers. A threat as a kick returner as well, Romain exceeded 2,200 all-purpose yards during his highly-productive senior season.

"Paul is a dynamic player with tremendous speed and the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield," said DeFillippo.

**Austin Petrie, RB, Stevenson:** The junior combined speed and power running skills to register 1,134 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns. He also caught 15 passes for 165 yards and two scores, and had 20 tackles, three pass break-ups and two blocked kicks on defense.

"Austin is a talented young man who is just beginning to understand the impact he can have on both sides of the ball," said Micallef. "We look forward to his senior season."



Petrie

the third-leading tackler with 69. He had two sacks and three quarterback hurries. He has offers from Northwestern, Minnesota, Iowa, Wake Forest and Miami, Fla.

"He's the No. 1 up-and-coming player in the state," Herrington said. "He has all sorts of offers. He's definitely one of the top players in the state."

"He was a real force on defense as a pass rusher and played the run very well. He'll be the leader of the defense next year and, hopefully, we'll be able to play him on offense."

**Laymon Gidding-Whately, DL, Thurston:** The three-year starter was a stud on both sides of the ball for the Eagles, notching 60 tackles (including



Kareem

15 for loss), seven sacks and one fumble recovery on defense, while churning out 762 yards on 119 carries and 15 touchdowns on offense.

"Laymon was a three-year varsity starter whose speed and size made him a dangerous pass rusher off the edge," said Thurston coach Bob Snell. "In addition to his outstanding defensive play, he was a tough runner who racked up yards by pounding the ball and used breakaway speed for big plays when he got into the secondary."

**Renardo Brown, DL, John Glenn:** The 6-3, 318-pound two-way starter registered 23 solo tackles and 16 assists on defense.

**Justin Banks, DL, Farmington:** The 6-foot-5, 265-pound senior was a three-year starter at offensive tackle and a regular on defense for two seasons.

Banks was a strong pass rusher and was superb against the run, according to Bechtel. He had 49 total tackles, including 20 solos.

Banks is a three-year starter at center on the basketball team, too.

"Justin has great feet and quickness for his size," Bechtel said. "One of his greatest assets is his length. He's tall and has long arms."

"With his quickness, that reach came in handy, moving up and down the defensive line. He's very, very mobile for a down defensive tackle."

Banks will be a great player at the next level, he added. Banks planned to visit Grand Valley and will likely play somewhere in the GLIAC.

**Michael Ojemudia, LB, Harrison:** While not big for a linebacker, Ojemudia (6-2, 190) is a tremendous football player, according to Herrington.

His closing speed to the ball is outstanding. He demonstrated his athletic ability by playing wide receiver and tight end on offense.

Ojemudia was the leading tackler with 105. He also had four sacks, three interceptions, one pass block, three breakups and two fumble recoveries.

"I think he's one of the top linebackers we've ever had at Harrison," Herrington said, adding Big Ten and MAC schools are interested in him.

"He's a sideline-to-sideline player. He was really effective. And don't overlook the fact he played tight end and was one of our best blockers. He led by example."

**Jake Pagel, LB, Canton:** Tough as nails at linebacker, the 5-10, 180-pound senior registered 73 tackles along with 1.5 sacks and a fumble recovery. Pagel led the Chiefs in tackles and was instrumental in the defense meshing all season.

The second-year starter and co-captain was honored for his exceptional performance by being named to the all-conference team.

"Jake was our quarterback on defense," Baechler said. "He made all of our line and check calls for us. Jake was extremely fast with a 4.5 40-yard dash and was a very smart football player."

**Shane Raymond, LB, Plymouth:** The senior and third-year starter at middle linebacker might have been Plymouth's most valuable player, going down with a knee injury for two games during the regular season. The Wildcats struggled to stop teams without Raymond quarterbacking the defense.

The all-KLAA selection still led Plymouth with 53 total tackles, including 23 of the solo variety. He chalked up 8.5



Gidding-Whately

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See ALL-AREA, Page B4



## ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B3

tackles for loss.

And for good measure, the 5-10, 205-pounder excelled on the offensive line.

"Shane was one of our best offensive linemen as well," Sawchuk said. "Just one of the smartest football players I have ever coached."

**David Reese, LB, Farmington:** The junior middle linebacker is a three-year, two-way starter, and he is a repeat member of the all-area first team.



Reese

Reese (6-2, 231) led the team with 107 tackles, which included 56 solos, and is Farmington's all-time leading tackler with 288. He was primarily a blocking fullback on offense, but he rushed for nearly 300 yards (7.1 average) and seven touchdowns. Many of the MAC schools want Reese, and Big Ten offers could follow in the near future.

"David is an incredible downhill player," Bechtel said. "He has great speed, great size and quickness and a great nose for the football."

"He does a great job of reading his keys. When he gets to the ball carrier, he's punishing. He's certainly one of the best players in the state."

**Devin Cameron, LB, Salem:** Some Michigan colleges are looking to recruit the 6-2, 225-pound Cameron, and for good reason.



Cameron

The senior was a defensive force at linebacker for the Rocks, with 77 tackles (seven for a loss), four sacks and a fumble recovery.

Cameron was named to the all-conference team to recognize his stellar season.

"Devin is a great teammate, hard worker on and off the field, high energy player, he never left the field for us," coach Kurt Britnell said. "He's a very high-character individual that definitely will be missed as both student (3.2 GPA) and athlete. He would do anything if it helped his team."

Britnell said Cameron is catching the eye of recruiters from Mid-American Conference and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schools.

**Hussein Youssef, LB, Plymouth:** The senior played bigger and tougher than his 5-11, 195-pound frame might suggest, once again sparking Plymouth's linebacking corps.

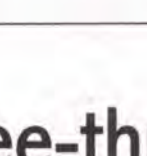
Youssef, also a standout varsity wrestler, tallied 51 total tackles — 32 of them solo take-downs. When needed, he helped out on offense, too, and caught three passes for 59 yards.

He was named to the all-conference team for his superb performance for the Wildcats.

"Hussein is one of the toughest football players I have ever coached," Sawchuk said. "He played through some painful injuries this year. He has an unbelievable motor and hates to lose at anything."

"I really had a fun time coaching my linebackers this year."

**James Hill, LB, Clarenceville:** The 6-2, 195-pound senior excelled at running back and outside linebacker. Hill was a three-year varsity player and two-year



Hill

starter for the Trojans.

He rushed for 1,100 yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging 6.7 yards per carry. He also caught 12 passes for 166 yards and two scores.

Hill had 30 solos among his 58 tackles, and he recovered a fumble for a touchdown. He's being recruited by a number of Division II schools.

"He's really good out of the backfield, not only running the ball but catching the ball," coach Ken Fry said. "Some schools saw he could do both and really liked that. He can do some things after he gets the ball."

"The only rest he got was on special teams. We had to have him on the field. He could make a mistake, but his stride and ability to recover quickly made it really nice. With his size, it was hard to throw over him. I can't say enough about him."

**Alonzo McCoy, DB, Thurston:** A junior two-year starter, McCoy did it all for the Eagles, compiling 68 tackles (four for loss) from his



McCoy

cornerback position, with one fumble recovery and six interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Offensively, he caught 26 aeriels for 403 yards (15.5 average) and two touchdowns.

As the Eagles' holder for extra points and fields goals, he was 5-for-5 on two-point runs on fakes.

"Alonzo is a unique combination of speed, skill and toughness, which allows him to be not only an excellent cover corner but also a physical force against the run," said Snell.

**Devon Cook, DB, Harrison:** Cook was a three-year starter at strong safety and a solid, reliable tackler. He was sixth on the team with 46 tackles,



Cook

and he helped to make the Hawks a solid defensive team. Cook (6-0, 180) also had four interceptions and four pass breakups.

He blocked an extra point in overtime that enabled Harrison to beat Walled Lake Western in the district final, 10-9. Cook played tight end and split end on offense, too.

"He was a very good tackler and could force the run very well," Herrington said. "His ability to get to the football and tackle (was outstanding). He's a very aggressive player. He was around the football a lot."

### CO-COACHES OF YEAR

**John Herrington, Harrison:** The Hawks narrowly missed getting to the championship



Herrington

round of the state tournament for the 18th time in their storied football history.

Legendary coach John Herrington, the only head coach since the school opened in 1970, led his team to another outstanding season (10-3).

Harrison shared the OAA White Division crown with Southfield and Oak Park and followed that with Division 2 district and regional championships.

The Hawks came up a point shy of high-scoring Muskegon Mona Shores in a state semi-final game, 25-24.

Herrington has 413 career victories in 45 seasons at Harrison and has led the Hawks to a record 13 state titles.

In the last regular-season game, Harrison gave top-ranked and two-time defending D1 state champion Clarkston a good battle before conceding a 31-24 defeat.

"If you play a big school

that's No. 1 in the state and you hang with them, I feel good about it," Herrington said.

"I never feel good about losing, but we went out to play the game hard and our kids played hard. I thought they played with a lot of character."

**Tim Baechler, Canton:** It was a special season for the Chiefs and veteran coach Baechler, as Canton overcame



Baechler

injuries to win the KLA South Division and come within an eyelash of defeating Saline in the Division 1 regional final. The Chiefs finished 9-3 to

pad Baechler's 17-year Canton career record to 145-44. During that span, Baechler's teams have reached the postseason 14 times.

"I have an excellent staff of assistant coaches here," Baechler noted. "Guys that believe in our offense and defense, and in how we practice. It starts with their belief and their loyalty to our program."

Moments after the heartbreaking 42-35 loss to the Hornets, Baechler talked about how the 2014 season was the most gratifying for him on a personal level. In his comments to the *Observer* about being co-coach of the year, he didn't back away from that sentiment.

"This was a very rewarding year," Baechler said. "We dealt with a lot of adversity as far as health issues and a couple of suspensions of key starters at various times. Our guys just kept improving and trusting us and each other."

"Besides making a deep run this year, which made the season even more fun, we had a true team. We did not have any stars, just a group of guys that played for Canton and for each other."

## GIRLS PREP HOOPS

# Faulty free-throw shooting dooms Pats

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

A career game by three-year varsity player Erin McNally couldn't compensate for a miserable night at the free-throw line for the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team Monday night against host Novi Franklin Road Christian.

McNally, a senior forward, chalked up 10 points, 11 rebounds, five blocked shots and two steals, but the Patriots canned just 6 of 22 freebies during a 56-46 setback.

The Patriots slipped to 0-5 with the loss while Lady Warriors improved to 3-2.

Eighth-grader Alexis Johnson paced the winners' attack with 19 points and 23 rebounds.

"We were trailing 36-35 at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but we missed four straight free throws and then they pulled away a little bit," said Franklin head coach Jim Milican. "We've struggled at the free-throw line all season."

Milican heaped high praise on McNally.

"It was good to see all the hard work she's put in pay off,"

said Milican. "That was her best game ever."

Senior Sarah Cramton also played well for the Patriots, netting a team-high 15 points. Cramton drained one three-point shot.

Senior Tyonna Tate also played well for Franklin, scoring eight points to accompany 15 boards.

Franklin Road struggled at the line as well, making just 11 of 34 attempts.

The Patriots led 10-9 after one quarter before the Lady Warriors stormed back to seize a 28-23 halftime lead. The Patriots made it a game in the third quarter when they outscored Franklin Road 12-8.

The Patriots launched an astounding 85 shots, but converted on just 17.

"We were getting pretty good looks; the ball just wasn't dropping for us," said Milican. "The break comes at a good time for us; we need a breather."

Franklin returns to action Jan. 6 when it hosts Garden City.

ewright@hometownlife.com



ED WRIGHT  
Livonia Franklin senior forward Tyonna Tate, pictured during a game earlier this season, netted eight points and 15 rebounds in Monday's loss to Franklin Road Christian.

## COACHES

Continued from Page B1

amazing group of girls and program."

Despite strong showings in the KLA South Division and a number of impressive players earning college scholarships, Canton's Johnson decided to resign after three seasons as varsity coach.

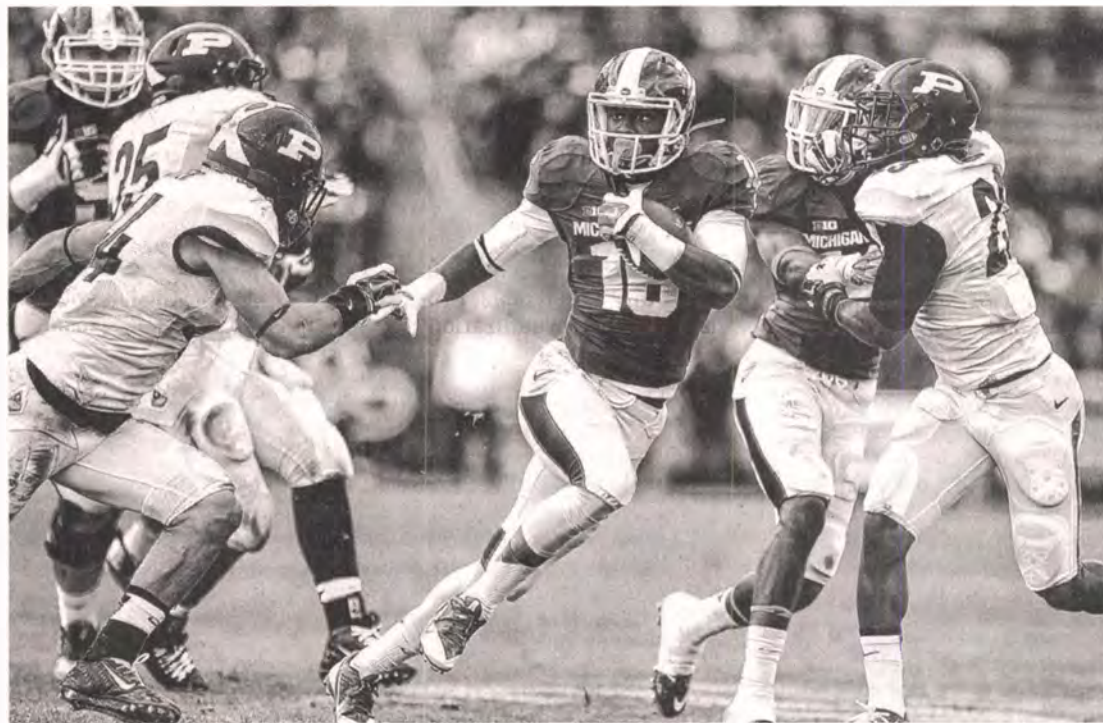
Although his upcoming marriage to Marody is a factor, Johnson said his decision to leave now was much more complicated. He emphasized there was the perception of unhappiness from parents which had a bearing on his

decision.

Johnson noted that "people not being happy (with decisions) seemed to be my biggest fault as a coach and has led me to my decision. Truth be told, I always thought me making the tough decisions and coaching my team without flirting with the notion of trying to make people happy was my strongest trait as a coach."

"I am confident that I leave the program better than I found it and know that it is set up for whoever is hired to replace me, to have the continued success that these special athletes deserve."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



Aaron Burbridge cuts through the Purdue defense after making a catch in October.

## BURBRIDGE

Continued from Page B1

helped me to become the receiver I am today."

Senior Tony Lippett is the leading receiver with 60 receptions for 1,124 yards and 11 touchdowns. Burbridge is one of four others who follow Lippett with 22 to 26 catches.

"We do have a lot of weapons on offense," Burbridge said. "(Quarterback) Connor (Cook) does a great job of getting all of us the ball every game."

"We just try to do what we can to help him out and keep the offense moving and progressing every week."

Burbridge also had his career-best game against Indiana in 2012, making eight catches for 134 yards. He hauled in 29 passes for 364 and two scores in his rookie season.

One of Burbridge's buddies on the team is running back Jeremy Langford of Wayne and Westland John Glenn High School.

### Other area stars

Langford is MSU's leading rusher for the second straight season with 1,360 yards and 19 touchdowns on 249 attempts (5.5 average). He averages more than 113 yards per game.

"We're cool; we hang out," Burbridge said. "We like to play video games (when they do). We do the stuff friends do."

Every now and then, Burbridge, who occasionally lined up at tailback in high school, gets to run the ball, too, mostly on end-around plays.

*"I'm just excited to go down there; I know it's going to be tough. It ought to be a good experience."*

AARON BURBRIDGE  
Michigan State receiver

"I love doing that," he said. "I get to show off my versatility. I used to be a running back when I started playing football. It brings me back to my glory days."

Burbridge, who was the No. 1-rated prep player in the state in 2011, has remained close with former Harrison teammate and Michigan wide receiver Devin Funchess.

Funchess recently announced his intention to forgo his last year of college ball and enter the NFL draft next year.

"I talk to him almost every day," Burbridge said. "I support him all the way and I'm proud of him. Hopefully, he can make a name for himself in the NFL."

"I'm not really surprised (Funchess is leaving early) with everything going on over there. I support his decision 100 percent."

### Eyes NFL, also

Burbridge hopes to be drafted in 2016 and have a chance to play professional ball, too.

"Of course," he said. "I'm just working toward bettering myself as a person and player to get myself ready for the next level."

Burbridge also was an excellent punt and kick returner for the Hawks and

would like to do more of that for the Spartans.

"I do play on most special teams; I'm just not returning right now," he said. "Hopefully, I can return a couple kicks. That's what I've been asking. It would be nice to get back there one time."

Burbridge plans to work hard in the off season and do his part to keep the Spartans on a winning track next fall.

He doesn't expect to be the go-to guy necessarily because of all the other talented receivers on the team, but he wants to play a key role again.

"We just have to finish this year strong and come back next year and have the best year," he said. "We'll get together with Connor in the off season, get the chemistry and timing down and come into camp ready to roll."

"My goal was to become a complete receiver this year, and I think I've done that. I know the offense like the back of my hand. I'm doing pretty well going into my senior season."

### Bowl business

In the meantime, he and the Spartans, who left Dec. 26 for Texas, want to keep their bowl winning streak intact.

"Going against an elite team like Baylor, just like ourselves, will be exciting," Burbridge said. "I'm just excited to go down there; I know it's going to be tough. It ought to be a good experience."

"We've got a good game plan. If we execute, we should be just fine. (The Bears) do have an explosive offense but so do we. Hopefully, our defense can hold them down, and we can come away with a win."



# Keep track of 2015 with animal rescue calendars

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Strong men love dogs — even fluffy little pups with pretty faces. And they're not afraid to throw their arms around big mutts who love to cuddle.

The concept is captured in photos and stories, month by month, in the 2015 Last Day Dog Rescue calendar. It's the fifth year the Livonia-based animal rescue has created and sold a wall calendar as a fundraiser that also raises awareness of its work.

"We wanted to show that all these dogs are cute as can be and they all deserve a good home and that even strong men love these dogs. They are their best friends," said Aileen Klebba, a volunteer who designed the calendar. Dee Maggio photographed the adopters and fosters with their dogs in various locations.

Last Day Dog Rescue mostly saves dogs from high-kill shelters, but has some cats for adoption as well. Klebba said that the nonprofit rescue saved approximately 900 animals last year and has approximately 200 dogs in foster homes.

"The name last day is we literally take dogs on their last day before they are put down," she said. "It doesn't matter what breed, what color."

The organization is based in Livonia, but runs adoption events throughout southeastern Michigan and has volunteers as far away as Michigan's Thumb area and northern Ohio.

All work on the calendar, including printing and photography, was donated, meaning that all proceeds are used for rescuing animals. Cost for the calendar is \$12 although customers who buy five get a sixth for free. For more information, email to [lddr.calendar@gmail.com](mailto:lddr.calendar@gmail.com).

Klebba's favorite dog, Penelope, graces the cover of the calendar. She was in a kennel for two years before Last Day Dog Rescue found her a home.

"She came from an abusive home, but she is the sweetest dog you'd ever meet. We were all so happy when she was adopted."

Shelly Houchins at Waggin' Tails, a Northville-based animal rescue, got a chance to meet all 12 of the dogs featured in the organization's 2015 calendar.

The Plymouth woman photographed the canine models that had been fostered at Waggin' Tails before they were placed in permanent homes.

"The attention span is short with dogs. Sessions aren't more than a half hour or so. I did five a day. My own foster was the worst to photograph because she was afraid of the light. She is Miss July.

"But the fun part for us is getting to see the dogs. Foster parents come to the shoots to see their (adopted) dogs. Dog rescue is not easy and can be frustrating, but to have a full day to get to see the fruits of your labor ... we get excited."

The Waggin' Tail calendar costs \$20 and all proceeds enable the foster-based, all-breed dog rescue to buy food, supplies and veterinary care for foster dogs until they find their permanent homes. Buy the calendar at [waggingtails-dogrescue.org/special-events.html](http://waggingtails-dogrescue.org/special-events.html) or at any Waggin' Tails event.

Here's a sampling of other 2015 animal rescue calendars:

#### Michigan Humane Society:

You might just spot a friend or family's pet in this 13-month calendar that features more than 300 pets of Michigan Humane Society supporters. The calendars cost \$15, plus tax, and include references to holidays, Michigan Humane Society events and pet health and safety tips. Vader, a horse in the Detroit Police Mounted Division, graces the calendar cover. Buy calendars at [shop-michiganhumane.org](http://shop-michiganhumane.org) or by calling 800-866-9189 weekdays. Or visit a Michigan Humane Society adoption center at 900 N. Newburgh, Westland; 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit; or 3600 W. Auburn, Rochester Hills.

#### Detroit Bully Corps:

The "Pretties for Pitties" calendar costs \$15.60 and features models with bully breed dogs. Proceeds enable the organization to re-home and rehabilitate dogs, as well as educate the public about bully breeds. Visit [dbcdogs.org](http://dbcdogs.org).

#### Humane Society of Huron Valley:

"Friends Forever," a 12-month wall calendar, showing animals adopted through the year, also includes animal holiday reminders — such as Hug Your Cat Day — and information about the shelter's programs and services. The calendar costs \$20.95 and is available online at [shop.hshv.org/](http://shop.hshv.org/). Or visit the shelter gift shop, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor; 734-662-5585.

#### Buster Foundation:

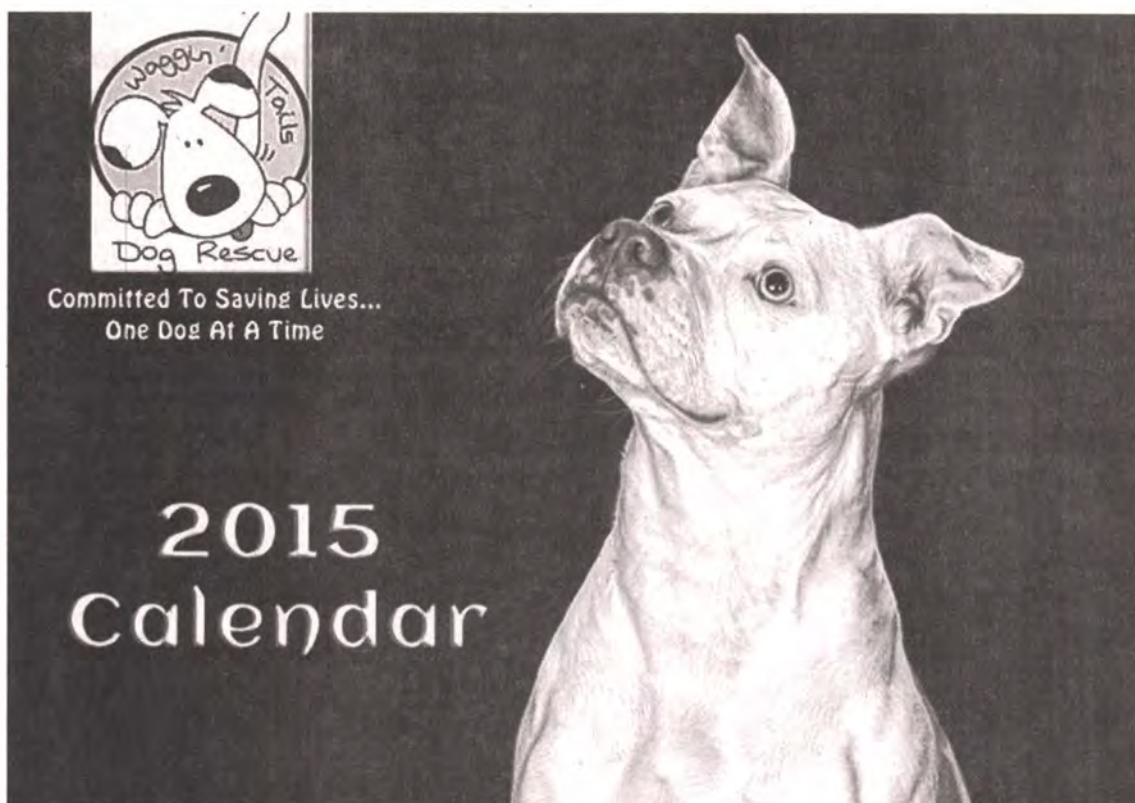
The Belleville-based organization rescues and re-homes pit bulls and bully breed mixes. Its 2015 calendar is \$18 and features pit bulls from the foundation. Visit [busterdogsstore.com](http://busterdogsstore.com).

#### Leader Dogs for the Blind:

The 2015 wall calendar includes photos submitted by puppy raisers, clients, employees and more. Cost is \$18, including shipping and handling. Visit [leaderdog.org/calendars](http://leaderdog.org/calendars).

#### Detroit Dog Rescue:

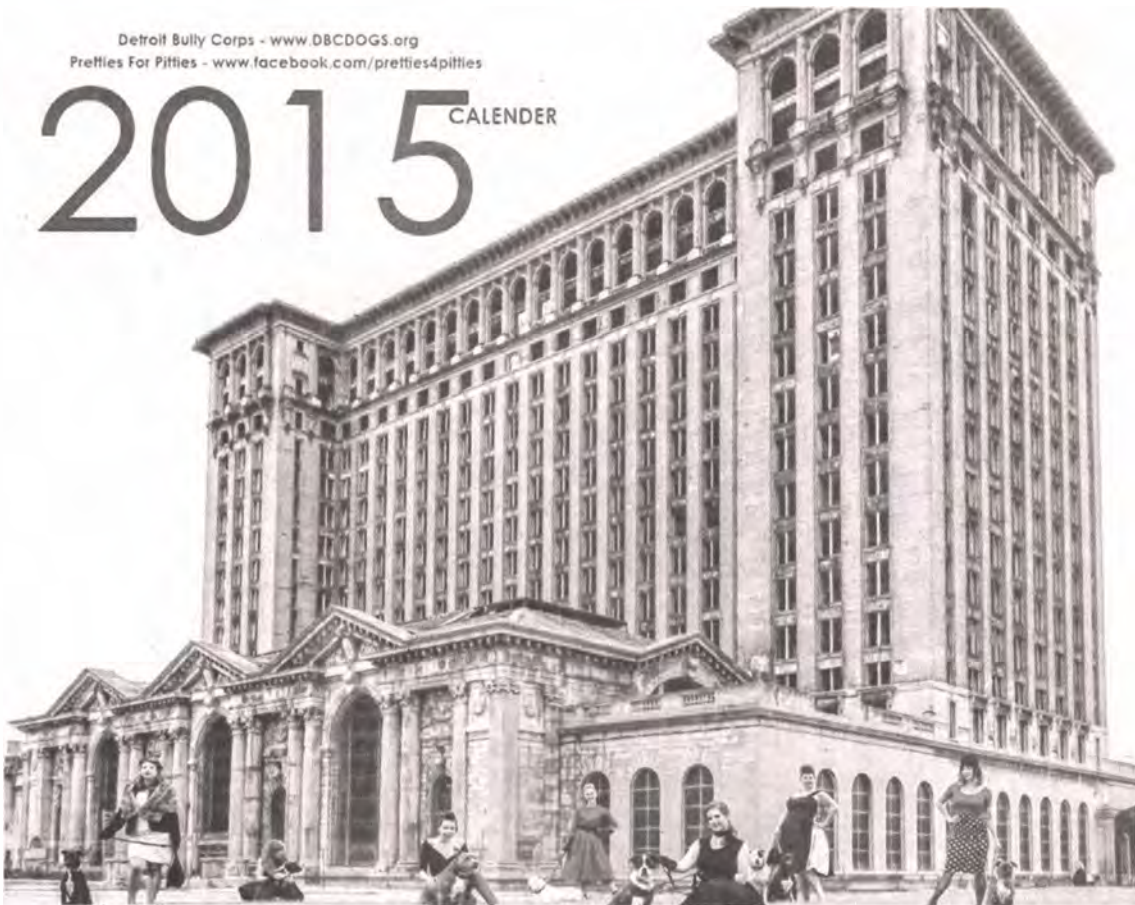
The 2015 wall calendar shows Detroit Dog Rescue volunteers and dogs in action. Cost is \$18. Visit [detroitdogrescue.com](http://detroitdogrescue.com).



Shelly Houchins of Plymouth is a Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue member. She photographed dogs adopted through the organization for its 2015 calendar.



Keep track of your schedule with Livonia-based Last Day Dog Rescue's wall calendar. Each month shows a different man with his four-legged best friend.



Detroit Bully Corps features models and pit bulls inside its 2015 calendar.

## Grandparents make babies laugh, smile, burp, with ease

Being a mom is one of the most rewarding, if not the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced before. I am so much in love, more so than I ever imagined I could be. It's amazing how quickly your life can change when your newborn is welcomed into the world. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is me reaching out to my own parents for much-needed advice.

I talk to my parents often. Some might say I talk to them too often. But I don't feel it is too much at all. Any time I have a question about life, about raising my daughter, about household repairs or proper etiquette, I ask my parents. They always have the answers I am looking for, and the majority of the time I like the advice they give me. But now that I am a parent myself,



Sarah Davies  
THEN THERE WERE TWO

I wonder if my daughter will take after me, and want to call her mother for all the answers. How in the world will I ever be prepared enough to have all of the world's answers like my parents do for me?

I hope that the answers come naturally, and that I have all the right ones before my daughter starts asking the tough questions. I also pray that I will become as much of an educator and positive role model that my folks have been to me. Parenting is not easy, and there is no manual that lays out all the rules. And nobody has all the answers. Yet somehow, my parents know the

answers I need to hear, sometimes even before I know the question I am asking.

#### Baby whisperers

It would be great if my parents could write down every parenting question they think I might ask them at some point; put it all into a reference book for easy access for the days when they are on vacation or working or just taking a nap. I want to have all of their advice at the tip of my fingers at any given moment. Somehow, they raised three daughters themselves without any prior education on the subject, and we all turned out pretty decent.

My folks have become the "baby whispering grandparents." They can pick up any crying baby, and immediately soothe them. They know how to get the babies to laugh, to smile, and to burp. Not every

parent has these talents like my folks do, and I hope that when my daughter has children she will think that I have good advice, too.

#### Incredible parents

I am sure that over time the answers will come and that I will become a better mother and have the ability to easily calm down any baby. But I don't know if this trait will come gradually over time or if I will wake up one day and be full of knowledge. Maybe it's not something you learn until you become a grandparent, and if that is the case then I have many years ahead of me before I will have all the answers. For now, though, I feel so blessed to have such incredible parents available to me whenever I need them. My folks are there to help teach me the ropes of parenthood

and to baby sit and shower my little girl with love. They have been teaching me for over three decades about love, and now as grandparents they are teaching my daughter the same lessons they had instilled in me.

I may make mistakes during this road of motherhood, and certainly I will not be perfect. But I will love my daughter like my parents have loved me, and hopefully that will be enough. One day I hope to have the answers for my daughter like my parents always have for me. And maybe, just maybe, I too can be called a baby whisperer.

Sarah Davies lives in Livonia and writes about the ups and downs of being a new, single mom. Contact her at [sarahmarriedavies@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmarriedavies@gmail.com).



# Glass half full: Optimistic outlook can help others to overcome distress

This December 2014 holiday installment of my *Our Mental Health* column is sent to all of our *Observer & Eccentric* family and to like-minded readers to whom you choose to share it with. My wish, to us all, during this special season is the gift of hope. "Hope springs eternal," said one philosopher. Another said, "The greatest virtues are faith, hope and love." Yet another said, "Hope depends on faith and the outcome of both is love." While hope is a small word, it is a big antidote for despair. The importance of hope in recovery from despair is no more or no less important, regardless of the source



Len McCulloch

of the suffering. It is essential to recovery. Despair is the submission to loss. It is giving up. It is concluding there is no way out. It is dependency and accomplishes nothing. It is suicide of the soul.

### Offering hope

Hope, on the other hand, requires faith in optimism and in one's self. Hope usually requires interaction with another person. Despairing people cannot usually discover hope on their

own. They need another person, able to enter their world of despair, and offer them a deal. The deal, psychologically, is a "working alliance." This is a technical term usually reserved for the positive relationship developed between a psychotherapist and a patient. But it can occur between any two people wherein one has hope to offer to the other in a realistic manner. This "working alliance" amounts to two or more people agreeing to be optimistic in their combined efforts to deal with, overcome or tolerate major personal distress.

Some people are trained, professional

"therapists" who can offer hope. Some are ordinary people with an extraordinary life experience or natural endowment of resilience, so as to be able to offer hope to others. Hope motivates one to act with the belief there will be a positive outcome from the ingredients of optimism, hard work, and perseverance.

### Hope requires action

Hope differs from a wish. Wishing is an attempt at a solution to a life problem in a passive manner. It can be done in solitude and the wish does not always come true. Hope, on the other hand, is an active event and implies a willingness to work toward a solution or an ability to tolerate seemingly insurmountable problems, also known as suffering.

So, I encourage hope. If you are struggling with trauma or despair, try to find another person, group, cause, or organization with which to establish an empathetic relationship. Hope is contagious and we can give it and get it to and from others.

**Len McCulloch** is a Diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in trauma, mental health, brain injury, addictions, and social work. He is a psychotherapist of 30 years, and has more than 200 publications archived at [www.familib.org](http://www.familib.org) Visit his website at [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org) to learn more about *The Therapy Choirs of Michigan: A Tour of Hope* created by McCulloch and Sherry Cantrell, vice president of operations. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

## Cope with holiday blues by spending time with others

The holiday season is a festive time to celebrate, enjoy family and be thankful. But some individuals feel depressed, lonely and stressed during the season.

The Detroit/Wayne County Mental Health Authority offers a 24-hour crisis and referral line at 800-241-4949. Wayne County residents can speak with someone to help them cope now and throughout the year.

The authority also offers these tips to help banish the holiday blues:

- » Don't isolate yourself - attend a party
- » Call a friend
- » Go to a movie
- » Go to a church, synagogue or mosque
- » Volunteer your time, serve in a soup kitchen

Individuals may find this time of year particularly difficult because holidays generally are associated with a time to share with families. Feelings of loneliness and depression are common.

Family and friends should be aware of loved ones who have a history of depression and other mental illnesses over the holidays. Don't allow them to isolate themselves. Reach out to help as needed or call a professional to intervene.

If you're feeling stressed during the holidays, take time to exercise, read a book or do something that relaxes you. The key during the holidays is to remind yourself that pleasing everyone is unrealistic.

Make time now, more than ever, to do something for yourself.

For more about the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, visit [www.dwmha.com](http://www.dwmha.com).

## BIRTH



Nash Nixon Hewlett

SUBMITTED

### NASH NIXON HEWLETT

Nash Nixon Hewlett was born Nov. 10, 2014, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Nash joins his parents, Brooke and Bobby Hewlett, and big brothers, Cruz, 4 1/2, and Easton, 2 1/2, in South Lyon.

Great-great-grandmother is Deana Abe of Livonia. Great-grand-

parents are Patricia Krutz of South Lyon, Bob and Lin Krutz of Leesburg, Fla., Barbara and John Kapnas of Lake Station, Ind., and Kathy and Robert Hewlett of Orchard Lake.

Grandparents are Michele and Craig Lundquist of South Lyon and Mary and Robert Hewlett Jr. of New Hudson.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • [www.middeathnotices.com](http://www.middeathnotices.com)

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



### ABRAMOVICH, HILMA

Age 94 December 20, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Dear mother of James and Robert (Jessica). Grandmother of Jennifer (Carl) Haslett. Sister of the late Bernice Peterson. Aunt of Charlene, Karen, Ronald & William. Visitation Tuesday, December 30, 2014 10a.m. until 1p.m. Funeral service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorials to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 Venoy Rd., Westland, MI 48185. [www.santeiufuneralhome.com](http://www.santeiufuneralhome.com)

Santeiu Funeral Home



### HACKETT, JEANNE P.

December 13, 2014. Age 95. Beloved wife of the late Robert V. Hackett. Loving mother of Hilary Small and Amy Palmer (David). Beloved grandmother of Garrett Small (Tara), Stephanie Young (Erron), Jeffrey Small (Amber), Drew Palmer (Sarah), and Amanda Palmer. Great-grandmother of Hudson, Turner, Beckham, Aiden, and Mackenzie. Jeanne was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from Hillsdale School for girls in Cincinnati and went on to study Art at both the Cincinnati Art Academy and Chicago's Ray Vogue School of Design. After her marriage, she moved to Birmingham and became involved in the community, working for 26 years as a volunteer in the Emergency Department of Beaumont Hospital. She was a great supporter of The Community House and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center, as well as a member of The Village Club for 54 years. Her interest turned to creating jewelry and she enjoyed what she always said was a modest success. Memorial Service Saturday, January 17, at Christ Church Cranbrook (Lone Pine, West of Woodward), Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to The Village Club Foundation, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, or Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, or The Community House, 380 Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at [www.DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://www.DesmondFuneralHome.com)



### LANPHEAR, BETTY JO

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of our dear sweet mother and grandmother. On the evening of December 21st, Betty lost her battle with cancer, while surrounded by her loving family. Born in Sparks, Oklahoma, on September 14th, 1935, she moved to Plymouth, Michigan, with her mother and father in 1937. She resided in Plymouth until 1979, when she purchased her home in Northville, MI, where she spent 30 years celebrating Christmas, birthdays, Thanksgiving and family parties. She is survived by her sister, Jayna Eckler; her children, Duane (Kathy) Lanphear, Mary Ellen (Jimmy) Hover, Diane (Glenn) Keen, and Suzie (Chris) Dominique; and grandchildren, John and Kristine Lanphear, Jamie Hover, Haden, Haley and Victoria Keen, Nathan, Austin and Logan Dominique. Preceded by her father, Leo Wilson Arnold; mother, Ellen Lenora Moody; brother, Jimmy Arnold; and former husband and dear friend, Neal Lanphear. A memorial celebration will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth on December 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.



### OLSEN, SHIRLEY IRENE

Age 79 of Monroe, formerly of Garden City, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, December 13, 2014 in her home. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 3, 2015, 12 noon until a memorial service celebrating Shirley's Life at 2 p.m. from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2275 S. Custer Rd. Rev. Katherine Kolodziejczyk, pastor of the Church will officiate. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Shirley's honor are asked to consider the Humane Society of Monroe County. For more information, to send a floral arrangement or leave an online condolence, please visit [www.allore.com](http://www.allore.com)



### HURT, LEON STANLEY

Age 91, December 25, 2014. Beloved husband of the late Cora Ann and Rose Marie. Loving father of Felix, Theresa "Teri" Friedman, Raymond and David. Dear grandfather of Amanda, Raymond Jr., Jason, Jonathan, Kaysee and Sarah. Great-grandfather of Leo. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Tuesday at 11 a.m. Visitation Monday from 1-8 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Please share a memory at [www.rggharris.com](http://www.rggharris.com).

### KERT, HARRY

Died December 23, 2014, age 81. Beloved husband of Corrine. Dear father of Caroline Kert of Boulder, Colorado, Kevin (Donna) Kert of Hartland, Michigan, and Brian (Rebecca) Kert of Livonia, MI. Grandfather of Dylan, Donna Lee, Owain, Mackenzie, Reagan. Brother of Friedell Wolson and Glorine Katanick. Visitation Tuesday, December 30 9:30 until time of services at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Harry's memory to the organization of your choice. Share a memory: [mannsfuneralhome.com](http://mannsfuneralhome.com)

### BRECKELS, MARK WILLIAM

Formerly from Birmingham, died November 13, 2014. Born in Detroit March 14, 1956. He is survived by his mother Frances, siblings Mike, Jon (Charlene), Ann Marie (Ron), Chris (Elena), and Suzy (Marty). He loved Heinz Ketchup, Miracle Whip and baseball.



### BREWER, DEBORAH LOU

December 19, 2014 Age 65. Beloved mother of Jonas (Shannon) and Wyatt. Loving grandmother of Gunnar and Riley Wallgren and Waylon and Eamon Brewer. Dear sister of Sandra Perry (Lou) and Roberta Stewart. Aunt of Gunnar and Gannan Dudlar. Daughter of the late Bob and Betty Hickson. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500, Saturday, January 10th at 1:00p.m. until memorial service 2p.m. Memorial tributes to Wounded Warrior Project or Pets For Vets. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at [www.DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://www.DesmondFuneralHome.com)

A.J. DESMOND & SONS

May the memory of your loved one... bring you peace.



Plymouth resident Mary Ann Foss (left) and Carole Porambo of Canton collect new children's hats, mittens and scarves at the Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle event.

## Women's Giving Circle aids Salvation Army, Goodfellows

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle recently donated four bags of winter wear accessories to the Salvation Army in Plymouth to distribute to area children.

Approximately 40 women from the Plymouth-Canton area donated the clothing earlier this month at a fundraising social at the Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor. A monetary donation also was collected for the Goodfellows.

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle is a fund of the Canton Community Foundation that provides grants to address the needs of women and children in the greater Canton and Plymouth areas. Approximately 80 women comprise the Giving Circle, which aspires to make a positive community impact through philanthropy.

Visit <http://www.cantonfoundation.org/giving-hope/>.

## GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, features editor, [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

### Livonia Garden Club

Lisa Steinkopf, a certified indoor landscape technician and nurseryman and a member of the Garden Writer's Association, will give a PowerPoint presentation on succulents, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Succulents are low maintenance and come in all shapes and colors. Plants will be available for purchase. Visitors are welcome. [livonia-gardenclub.org](http://livonia-gardenclub.org)

### Kensington Metropark

» Help count birds with experienced leaders who will lead teams to various parts of the park, 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Meet at the nature center at the park, 2240 W. Buno, Milford. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Register at 810-227-8917. The event is free, but park admission is \$7.

» Take a hay ride or sleigh ride noon to 4 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Dec. 28-Jan. 1, 2015, at the Farm Center. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12, free for children, 2 and younger; 248-684-8632.



## Stop smoking with classes, online support, tips

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Need some encouragement to stop smoking in 2015? The American Lung Association offers five tips to quit tobacco use in the new year:

» It's never too late to quit. Although it's best to quit smoking as early as possible, stopping it at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life.

» Learn from past experiences. Most smokers have tried to quit before and sometimes people get discouraged thinking about previous attempts. Instead, treat those experiences as steps on the road to future success. Think about what helped you during those tries and what you'll do differently in your next attempt.

» You don't have to quit alone. Telling friends and family that you're trying to quit and enlisting their support will help ease the process.

» Consider medication. The seven FDA-approved medications, including nicotine patches and gum, help smokers quit.

» Every smoker can quit. Each person needs to find the right combination of techniques and above all, they need to keep trying.

If encouragement alone isn't enough to help you keep your New Year's resolution, consider taking a stop-smoking class.

### Local class

Arthur Weaver, M.D., of Northville is the grandfather of stop-smoking classes in Metro Detroit. He began offering free annual sessions in 1966.

"At one time my program was the only one in town. Now there are a lot of different things, including the nicotine patches," he said. "And I think



stay off. It takes a lifestyle change if you really want to quit. We want them to fully understand what they are going through, how to handle problems as they arise and how to avoid danger spots." Situations that might tempt a former smoker to resume the habit include stress-related activities and alcohol consumption.

### Quitting for good

Weaver said most smokers come to his program after quitting and then resuming tobacco use.

"We did a study one time on those people who were able to stay off a full year and we found that on average, they had quit 3.8 times. So, a lot of people do have to learn from past failures."

Weaver doesn't discourage participants from using tobacco cessation medications in conjunction with his program, although he said he believes most individuals can quit without them.

"I've been successful with patients who smoked as much as four packs a day. Now is the time to quit." Weaver said he's not sure for how long he'll offer the annual sessions.

For more information about Weaver's program, call Livonia's Department of Community Resources at 734-466-2540.

The American Lung Association also offers a helpline at 800-LUNGUSA, an online Freedom From Smoking class at [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org), and local courses that meet weekly.

A new class begins Jan. 13, 2015 at Henry Ford OptiEyes, Westland Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway, Westland. The class runs 5-7 p.m. and meets Tuesday through Feb. 24. Register at 888-427-7587 or visit [henryford.com/tobacco-free](http://henryford.com/tobacco-free).

a lot of other people have taken up the effort to try to help people quit. We're no longer the only program ... but we're the best."

Weaver, 91, takes an intensive approach, requiring participants to attend class five consecutive days. His upcoming series, Monday-Friday, Jan. 12-16, starts with an introduction at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile at Farmington Road. Classes also will meet at the library.

Participants are expected to stop smoking immediately, rather than gradually reduce dependence on nicotine.

"We know that when people try to quit smoking they are most likely to go back in the first week," Weaver said. "It's their most severe withdrawal days and we are there every night to support them. We get a lot of people coming each evening and if they are serious, they appreciate it."

"But it also takes some time to explain what they need to know to get off and

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### ACA learning session

Botsford Hospital presents a learning session on the Affordable Care Act, 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The ACA marketplace open enrollment period closes Feb. 15, 2015. The session, which is free, will help people learn about their options under the ACA; 248-442-1633

### Blood drive

The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Make an appointment by calling 248-473-1800 or register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

### Breastfeeding class

Botsford Hospital's breastfeeding clinic helps new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$35. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or visit [botsford.org](http://botsford.org).

### Hearing Loss

Mike Robinette, Au.D., CCC-A, talks about the latest hearing aid features, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297; [afcrack@comcast.net](mailto:afcrack@comcast.net).

### Joint class

Oakwood Healthcare orthopedic specialists will talk about the sources of shoulder, hip and knee pain, along with treatment options, 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 13, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy & Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive in Dearborn. Register for the free class at [Oakwood.org](http://Oakwood.org) or call 800-543-9355.

### Nutrition class

Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron and a Botsford Hospital dietitian will demonstrate the differences in tastes and benefits of whole grains as well as

winter greens and vegetables, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost: \$10 and includes a \$5 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Registration required. Class is limited to 30. Register at the Guest Services Counter at the store; 734-779-6100.

### Open house

See the University of Michigan Livonia Health Center's newly renovated offices and meet its physicians and staff, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 10, on Farmington Road just south of Eight Mile. The practice offers primary care for the entire family, including prenatal and OB-GYN services, newborn, pediatric, adult and geriatric care, sports medicine and more. A drawing will be held for two tickets to the Michigan vs. Michigan State basketball game on Feb. 17, 2015, in Ann Arbor. For more information visit [www.uofmhealth.org/livoniahealthcenter](http://www.uofmhealth.org/livoniahealthcenter) or call 248-473-4300.

### Ongoing

### Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

### Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes to ease arthritis. Classes are 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org).

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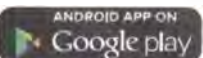
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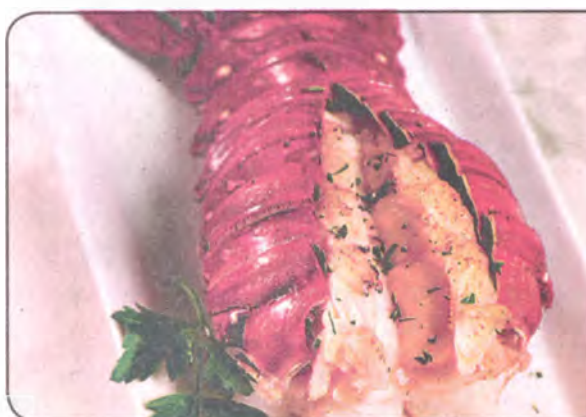
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 Previously Frozen,  
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**Avocado**  
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# JOB

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A GANNETT COMPANY

By Michael Kingston

Unless you've suddenly morphed into Henry Cavill's Superman and can confidently reply "only Kryptonite," "What are your weaknesses?" is the one interview question you can't avoid. While there is no one-size-fits-all response, the following tips will help you prepare for the inevitable question.

**1. Be honest with yourself:**

We all have weaknesses. We all make mistakes. You need to be as clear on your weaknesses as you are on your strengths. If you're unsure, take an online personality profile test or ask colleagues who you trust to give you a candid opinion of what they perceive your weaknesses to be (and strengths).

**2. Put a positive spin on it:**

Always highlight examples of where you've turned your weakness into a strength, but don't mention a weakness you're still working on. Any you reveal to the hiring manager must be those you've resolved, especially if they are in any way related to the vacancy for which you've applied.

**3. Watch your language:**

Words such as "frustrated" and "impatient" will reflect negatively on you, for example, "I get frustrated when analyzing financial information." Respond with, "I don't always find financial analysis an easy part of this job, but I have attended additional training courses and spent time with our financial manager to gain a thorough understanding of what's needed. He was so pleased with my progress that last month he asked me to prepare a financial report for his department." This demonstrates a depth of self-awareness and an ability to respond to your personal weaknesses.



## 10 tips to deal with the INEVITABLE QUESTION

**4. Don't rehearse the response:**

It's impossible to role play an exact response to this question as it will be influenced by the way the interview is progressing. Mentally prepare a general answer but nothing more. Most hiring managers prefer a natural reply, not a clearly rehearsed one.

**5. Some weaknesses won't be relevant:**

If you struggle with admin but you've applied for a sales position, that won't generally be an issue. Good sales people are notoriously bad when it comes to admin. You are demonstrating that your job search is focused on roles that will play to your

strengths. Apply a positive approach, for example, "I'm quite weak when it comes to admin so I have developed my own checklist in every job that I've been in and monitored it throughout the project's life cycle." In that way, you demonstrate your awareness of your weakness and how you manage it.

**6. Stick with work-related weaknesses:**

Your inability to resist munching your way through copious amounts of popcorn every time you go to the movies isn't really relevant.

**7. Don't use clichéd responses:**

"I work too hard" or "I'm a perfectionist" are typical responses to this question uttered by many candidates. They don't ring true and sound rehearsed. Don't be tempted to use them.

**8. Make it specific:**

By citing "lack of organizational skills" as a weakness, your response is too vague. Give specific examples, such as those mentioned above. Why are your organizational skills poor? How have you taken steps to resolve those issues?

**9. Avoid jobs that work on your weaknesses:**

Continually being called to work in an area of weakness is demoralizing for employees and one of the top reasons that people change jobs. If you know you lack the confidence or ability to make a formal presentation to a room full of potential clients, don't apply for jobs that rely on those skills.

**10. Above all, be authentic:**

Having a weakness doesn't make you inadequate, it makes you human. Even Superman had a weakness, remember?

Michael Kingston is a top industry hiring manager with over 18 years' experience and author of the internationally best-selling Pass The Job Interview guide.



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# 2015 Lincoln MKZ is 'attracting next generation of luxury car buyers'

By Greg Mullin  
Staff Writer

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ continues to represent the road ahead for the Lincoln Motor Co., said Steve Hunsinger, sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn.

"With its design, performance and technology, the MKZ is attracting the next generation of luxury car buyers," he said.

Those customers enjoy a wide range of standard features, plus three power train options:

The standard 2.0L EcoBoost I-4.

The available 3.7L Ti-VCT V6 engine.

The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid, which offers the third-generation 2.0L Atkinson-cycle I-4 gas engine.

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ competes head-to-head in the luxury mid-size sedan market with brands like the Acura TL, Cadillac CTS, Infiniti Q50 and Lexus ES 350, while the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid contends with vehicles like the Infiniti Q50 Hybrid and Lexus ES 300h.

"There are many standard features on the MKZ that aren't offered on many of the competitive models," Hunsinger said.

"One of the most intriguing features of the MKZ is the push-button transmission, which is on the dashboard, alleviating the center console shift and offering a more open feel to the cabin of the vehicle," Hunsinger said.

The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."

Exterior design features include:

Adaptive LED auto headlamps.



The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."

FORD MOTOR CO.

Auto high beams.

Body-color exterior door handles with chrome insert.

Configurable daytime running lamps (available with select and reserve equipment groups).

LED tail lamps and light-pipe driving lamps.

Split-wing grille with chrome surround.

Pedestal-mounted heated side-view mirrors with integrated turn signals, blind spot mirrors and security approach lamps.

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Rectangular dual exhaust with bright tips.

Retractable panoramic roof.

Interior design features include:

10.1-inch LCD instru-

ment cluster.

Ambient lighting — customers can choose from seven different colors (select equipment group).

Flow-through front console with storage bin, trinket tray and two cup holders.

Genuine wood appliques.

Illuminated scuff plates.

Premium leather seating surfaces (select and reserve equipment groups).

"The luxury and elegant attributes of the MKZ have not gone unnoticed by today's luxury car buyers," Hunsinger said. "The MKZ has done very well with current Lincoln owners, but Lincoln is looking at the big

picture of attracting the competitive buyers and converting them to Lincoln owners."

In fact, Lincoln predicts that 45 percent of sales will be to past or current Lincoln owners, while 55 percent of sales will come from "conquest" customers, Hunsinger said.

Jack Demmer Lincoln is ready to serve all customers.

"With the integrity and knowledge of our professional sales staff, today has never been a better time to buy from Jack Demmer Lincoln," Hunsinger said. "From the moment a client enters Jack Demmer Lincoln, it becomes very clear what sets Jack Demmer Lincoln apart

## SAFETY FEATURES

Safety and security features abound in the MKZ. Among them are: AdvanceTrac electronic stability control. Driver and front-passenger knee airbags. Dual-stage driver and front-passenger airbags. Front-seat side airbags. Side-curtain airbags with roll-fold technology. Emergency trunk release. Inflatable rear safety belts (available as a free-standing option with select or reserve equipment groups). LATCH (Lower Anchors

and Tethers for Children). Personal Safety System. Programmable MyKey. Perimeter alarm. Rear-door child-safety locks. Remote keyless entry system. SecuriLock passive anti-theft system. SOS post-crash alert system. SecuriCode invisible keypad. Tire pressure monitoring system. Traction control.

from the competition. "Come in and discover the Jack Demmer difference today."

## Your Destination for Winter Fun!

**FREE PARKING**  
In the Compuware garage  
Mon - Fri 11am - 6pm  
with skating admission

**HOURS:**  
Mon.-Thurs.....11am - 10 pm  
Friday.....11am - Midnight  
Saturday.....10 am - Midnight  
Sunday.....Noon - 8 pm

- Family Outings
- Private Ice Parties
- Field Trips
- Birthday Parties
- Group Rates
- Skate Rentals
- Convenient Adjacent Parking
- Open 7 Days Including Holidays

**The Rink**  
CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK

800 Woodward Avenue  
3 Blocks North of Jefferson  
Located in Detroit's Meeting Place,  
Across from the Compuware Building and Hard Rock Cafe.

**For reservations & further info,  
call 313-963-9393**

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January 11, 2015

- Engineer
- Information Technology
- Skilled Trades
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- Truck Driver
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# Jump Start

## the NEW YEAR with NEW EMPLOYEES

**Special Expanded JOBS SECTION Sunday, January 11**  
**Hire your MOST VALUABLE employee in 2015**

**Be part of the BIGGEST JOB SECTION of the year with JOBS +.**

**Get your recruitment ad in the JOBS + section in the Sunday, January 11 Observer & Eccentric Newspaper!**

**Robust Job Section  
Special Advertising Packages  
Heavy promotion  
Local Job Content**

**Equals MORE ideal Candidates**

Don't miss out on the additional content and job postings  
**Get your recruitment ad in JOBS + section in the Sunday, Observer & Eccentric January 11**

To advertise contact:  
Liz Keiser at 586.977.7538 lkeiser@michigan.com  
or Kathleen Reilly 586.977.7668 kreilly@michigan.com







Vin #5LFUJ20299

**2015 LINCOLN MKC**

**\$223**

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$223 + tax  
Per Month, \$2960 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$1,000 Owner Loyalty Incentive Included



Vin #3LFR617343

**2015 LINCOLN MKZ**

**\$239**

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$239 + tax  
Per Month, \$2962 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$1000 Competitive Conquest Incentive available  
\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available



Vin #1LEG609912

**2014 LINCOLN MKS**

**\$323**

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$323 + tax  
Per Month, \$2968 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$1000 Competitive Conquest Incentive available  
\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available



Vin #2LFBL20793

**2015 LINCOLN MKX**

**\$376**

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$376 + tax  
Per Month, \$2860 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$1000 Competitive Conquest Incentive available  
\$750 RCL Renewal Incentive available



Vin #2LEBL58483

**2014 LINCOLN MKT**

**\$392**

24mo/21,000 mile lease = \$392 + tax  
Per Month, \$2962 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available



Vin # 5LEEL07375

**2014 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR**

**\$583**

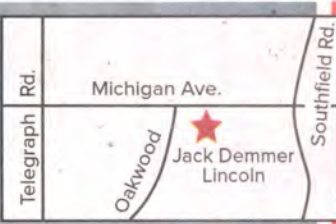
36mo/31,500 mile lease = \$583 + tax  
Per Month, \$2916 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available



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Mon. & Thurs. 9 am-9 pm  
Tues., Wed., Fri. 9 am-6 pm



**SERVICE**  
Monday-Friday  
7 am-6 pm

**\$500 EXTRA NOW...  
\$750 EXTRA ON YOUR TRADE IN!**  
With the purchase or lease of a new vehicle. 1998 or newer, less than 100,000 miles. All prior sales excluded. Offer expires 1/5/2015

All payments are based on A/Z plan, plus tax, title, and plates. All payments include \$1000 Lincoln Owner Loyalty. Please see dealer for details. Expiration date 1/5/2015



# Dream BIG

FINAL DAYS

## SIGN & DRIVE AWAY

### NEW 2015 Ford Escape SE



Buy for \$19,703+  
MSRP \$26,145

Featuring: Equipment Package 200A, Front Wheel Drive, SYNC® with MyFord®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$199\*\*** \$0 Down, \$0 Due at Signing, \$0 First Month's Payment

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2015 Ford Fusion SE



Buy for \$17,769+  
MSRP \$24,760

Featuring: Equipment Package 200A, Front Wheel Drive, SYNC® with MyFord®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$199\*\*** \$0 Down, \$0 Due at Signing, \$0 First Month's Payment

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

## HOLIDAY BONUS CASH

### NEW 2014 Ford Focus SE



Buy for \$15,647+  
MSRP \$23,540

Featuring: Appearance Package 201A, SYNC® & Sound Package, Leather Seats, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$179\*** \$440 due at signing with Zero Down

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2014 Ford Edge SEL



Buy for \$25,771+  
MSRP \$34,815

Featuring: Equipment Package 205A, Leather Comfort Package, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$261\*** \$524 due at signing with Zero Down

**36 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2015 Ford Explorer XLT



Buy for \$29,456+  
MSRP \$37,090

Featuring: Equipment Package 202A, Comfort Package with Leather Heated Seats, Driver Connect Package, Front Wheel Drive, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$324\*** \$563 due at signing with Zero Down

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2014 Ford Flex SEL



Buy for \$26,955+  
MSRP \$35,370

Featuring: Equipment Package 202A, Front Wheel Drive, Leather Heated Seats, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®, Power Windows & Locks, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing, Remote Keyless Entry, Universal Garage Door Opener

**\$286\*** \$673 due at signing with Zero Down

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2014 Ford Transit Connect



Buy for \$22,057+  
MSRP \$28,485

Featuring: Equipment Package 210A, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Privacy Glass, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry

**\$257\*** \$522 due at signing with Zero Down

**24 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

### NEW 2014 Ford F-150 Super Cab STX 4x4



Buy for \$27,078+  
MSRP \$37,675

Featuring: Equipment Package 201A, Communication Package, STX Décor Package, SYNC®, Power Windows & Locks, Cruise Control, Remote Keyless Entry, 18" Aluminum Wheels

**\$287\*** \$584 due at signing with Zero Down

**36 Month Lease**  
Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal.

BRING THIS IN FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000 ON YOUR TRADE\*

# BILL BROWN



www.billbrownford.com (734) 452-1028

**Holiday Hours**  
Wed Dec 24th 9 AM - 1 PM  
Thurs Dec 25th CLOSED  
Fri Dec 26th 9 AM - 6 PM  
Sat Dec 27th 9 AM - 3 PM  
Wed Dec 31st 9 AM - 6 PM  
Thurs Jan 1st CLOSED  
Fri Jan 2nd 9 AM - 6 PM  
Sat Jan 3rd CLOSED

**Showroom Hours**  
Mon. & Thurs. 9 AM to 9 PM  
Tues., Wed. & Fri. 9 AM to 6 PM



32222 PLYMOUTH RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48150

\* All payments and prices are for qualifying AIZ Planners. For qualifying non (not new) AIZ Planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. Extra \$1,000 for your trade offer ONLY valid on 2008 model year or newer vehicles—vehicle must be in drivable condition. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 01/05/15.  
\*\* All payments and prices are for qualifying AIZ Planners. Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Red Carpet Lease. Residency restrictions apply. First month's payment is included in monthly lease price. Payment includes all applicable Ford Incentives including \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash on Fusion and \$1,000 Renewal Bonus Cash on Escape for RCL/RCO leases who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Valid only on 24 month lease. Customer must terminate their current Red Carpet Lease to be eligible. Must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by January 02, 2015.