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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Ideas explored for Ford Road land

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

About the only thing certain about the future of the former Westland City Hall site is that the property at Ford and Carlson is likely to be cleared of its existing buildings by the end of the year.

The former city hall, which was vacated last fall, the closed Bailey Recreation Center and the former fire station 1, which moved to a new building on Central City Parkway, are all slated for demolition.

What to do with the newly vacant land — located adjoining Tattan Park to the east,

Central City Park with the Farmers Market Pavilion to the south, 18th District Court and the Westland Police Department to the west — is getting some study and discussion.

"No decisions have been made. We are going into election season. Typically, there is a lot of misinformation out there," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "We want to bring everyone up to date on where we are at in a public meeting."

At a study session Monday, council members heard from planning consultant John Jackson of McKenna Associates about a concept for a mixed-

use, private/public partnership.

McKenna was hired in 2008 by the Downtown Development Authority to develop plans for Ford Road 2020. It was a conceptual plan and zoning district overlay for the Ford Road corridor.

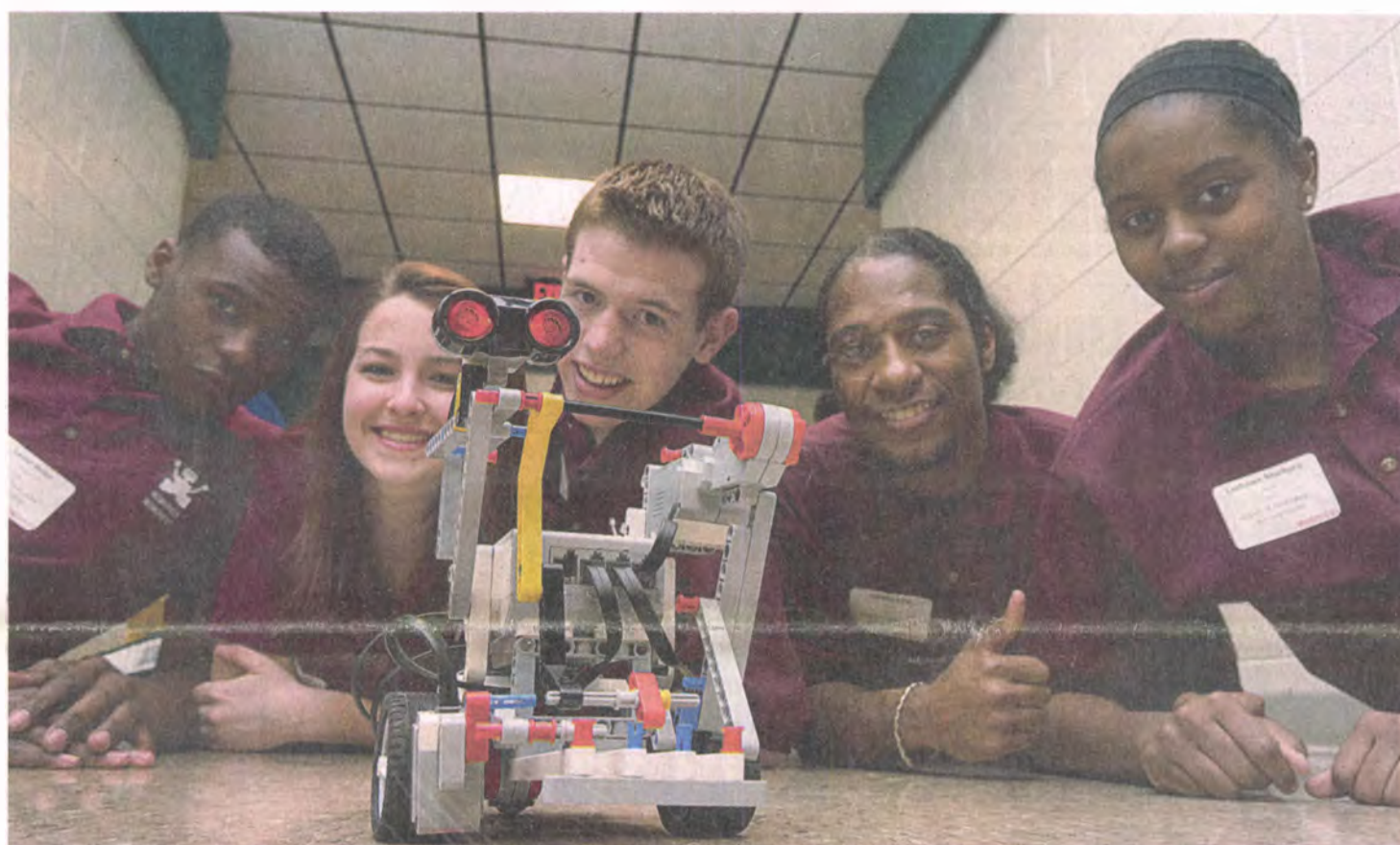
Partner with developer

The concept presented by Jackson was to have the city partner with a developer for a project that would create open civic space while offering space for uses such as medical or education, retail and restaura-



FILE PHOTO
City officials have begun discussing what will be done with the site of the former Westland City Hall, Bailey Recreation Center and Fire Station 1 on Ford Road

See **PROPERTY**, Page A2



The William Ford Career Technical Center team included Lavail Nolan, Brooke Jennings, Conner Weber, Wes Erby and Lashaun Marbury.
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

W-W school board wants residents to support road tax request

By **Sue Mason**
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board is asking residents to vote yes on Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot.

The board voted unanimously to approve a resolution supporting the proposed Michigan Sales Tax Increase for Transportation Amendment, citing the restoration of funds for education and the maintenance of roads for everyone's safety.

District Superintendent Michele Harmala, in asking the board to approve the resolution, said that "given the need we have to invest in our students through the School Aid Fund, this would allow us to provide appropriate programs for our students."

"I think the one thing in the proposal is that it guarantees educational funding," Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin said. "One thing we need to have is some stability in our school district finances. This district, as large as it is, needs to know what kind of money it will have for the upcoming year, so this board, this superintendent and this administration can make the kind of decisions that are needed."

"If you think we need help in the schools, this kind of financial proposal that will give us help in the schools to the tune of \$300 million. I encourage you to vote yes," he added.

See **ROAD TAX**, Page A2

Teams test STEM knowledge at Wayne-Westland Robofest

By **Sue Mason**
Staff Writer

Shirts and ties. Hawaiian shirts and Panama hats. Students came dressed for hopeful success at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Robofest.

A part of Lawrence Technological University's Robofest 2015, the event pitted

small student-created robots against each other for judging on their ability to complete specific tasks. The teams came from Wayne, Westland and Northville and more distant areas like Troy, Walled Lake, Adrian and Commerce.

"It's pretty intense. We're putting some real-world pressure on these students," said

Zachary MacLean, electronics/robotics technology at the career technical center. "We did this a few years ago, but the interest is far greater today. I think it's the emphasis on STEM education; the kids finally get it."

Robofest include two segments: the RoboBowl game in which the programmed autonomous robot had to bowl,

shoot or kick a tennis ball to knock down four water bottles; and an exhibition in which students were judged on their robotic creations. The teams were competing to advance to the state competition with hopes of making it to the world competition in May at LTU.

See **ROBOFEST**, Page A2

Businesses can meet city officials at Wayne Chamber of Commerce lunch

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

In past years, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce would host a State of the City luncheon. This year the program is a chance to meet local lead-

ers. "We didn't feel we should have State of the City. The community needs to go to the State of the City," chamber board member Don Nicholson said. "This is basically for the businesses in town."

So instead of hearing a State of the City speech, guests at the luncheon on Thursday, April 9, are invited to a Meet Your Leaders Luncheon with networking.

Wayne Mayor James Hawley and chamber president the

Rev. David Furno of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will speak at the luncheon. They will be joined by Wayne City Manager David Murphy for a question-and-answer session following the speeches. The city is dealing with

financial difficulties — there is a more than \$600,000 shortfall in the current fiscal year and a more than \$2 million deficit projected for next year. A ballot question to establish a

See **LUNCH**, Page A2



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County Parks ready for annual Marshmallow Drop

Join Wayne County Parks as it celebrate the 31st annual Marshmallow Drop at 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

"The annual Marshmallow Drop is the start of many fun, free, family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks each year, and I am happy we can provide these opportunities for our residents and visitors," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said.

"Going on 31 years, it has become a tradition for families from across the metro Detroit area."

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from the Easter Bunny's helicopter to the delight of thousands of children, who scramble to collect these goodies and trade them in to receive a prize.

To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to fully participate, children will be divided into age groups: ages 4 and younger, ages 5-7 and ages 8-12.

There will be one colored marshmallow to be found for each age group. The finder of the colored marshmallow will receive an extra special prize.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation, ITC Holdings, Taylor Ford, Flagstar Bank, Zeal Credit Union, KSP Insurance, UAW Region 1A, N Zone Sports, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne County Community College, Fox 2 News, Observer & Eccentric Media and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

For more information on Marshmallow Drop or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.



Kids from across Wayne County and southeast Michigan took part in last year's Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

Air Museum rolls out 20th annual Bomber Buffing

The Yankee Air Museum is inviting people to roll up their sleeves and join its 20th annual Bomber Buffing on Saturday, April 11.

This year it's bigger than ever, because the C-47 Skytrain "Yankee Doodle Dandy" also needs to be shined. The four-engine B-17 heavy bomber "Yankee Lady" and twin-engine B-25 medium bomber "Yankee Warrior" are also in need their aluminum skin polished to a high gloss. They'll be in Hangar 1, Bay 8, on the west side of Willow Run Airport.

Winter inspections and maintenance are complete; the planes have been washed. Buffing is the last step in preparing for the 2015 flying and air show season.

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Hungry Howie's pizza luncheon will be served



Volunteers help prepare Yankee Air Museum's four-engine B-17 heavy bomber "Yankee Lady" for the 2014 air show season.

for everyone. People are encouraged to bring plenty of clean, soft rags. Mothers Polishes, Waxes and Cleaners Inc. has donated plenty of aluminum polish for people to use.

"Twenty years we've been doing this and it never gets old," said Ray Hunter, chairman of the YAM Board of Directors. "I'm always amazed by the large crowd that comes out every April to

help us and believe me, it's a big help."

Hunter said this polishing party is even more important because 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. It's also the 70th

birthday of the Yankee Lady, which was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Forces on July 16.

"World War II veterans are passing rapidly, the youngest might be 86 or 87 years old. We work very hard to keep our airplanes in top flight condition to honor them," Hunter said. "Veterans, their children and grandchildren all marvel at these aircraft when we fly them into air shows and believe me they notice and appreciate the high gloss finish."

Hangar 1 is on the northwest side of the airfield. Follow the road signs for west and south access to Willow Run Airport to get to Hangar 1. Entry will be through the door under the awning of M2 Aircraft Management.

For more information about YAM, call 734-483-4030 or visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Library hosts program on de-cluttering your home

The Friends of the Livonia Library is sponsoring a program, How to De-clutter for a Happier Life, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road.

Speaker Therese Nagi, a member of the Friends, will share many ideas for how to disperse of articles that are difficult to discard such as cell phones, electronic gadgets, musical instruments, pianos, grandmother's flowered china, books or any other item not used for several years.

The program is free to attend. For more information, call 734-466-2495.



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Police investigate fatal shooting of Redford man

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland Police are continuing to investigate the fatal shooting of a Redford man who was found dead in his vehicle Saturday night.

Police identified the victim as Joseph Austin McClendon, 21. He was found dead in his vehicle having suffered several gunshot wounds.

"We're still working on the investigation. We've talked to a few people," Westland Deputy Police Chief Todd Adams said.

Officers were dispatched around 10:30 p.m. to Henry Ruff and

Annapolis after residents reported hearing several gunshots. The area is on the city limits of Westland and Inkster.

A copper-colored Ford Explorer was found stopped on the Westland side of Henry Ruff. Officers reported the lone occupant, later identified as McClendon, was found dead in the vehicle, having apparently died of his injuries at the scene.

"We believe he was shot where he was found. We (police officers) were there within several minutes," Adams said.

Not far from the crime scene is an Ink-

ster public housing development that sees a lot of narcotics enforcement, but the victim was found parked in a church parking lot, Adams said.

"It's kind of an odd place for him to be. We don't know if this was random, a domestic or a robbery," Adams said.

At this time, police said there are no suspects and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or 734-721-6311.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

A laptop computer was reported stolen from a home in the 29000 block of Manchester on March 26. A Westland man said he ordered the \$578 computer and had it delivered to the address where his brother lives.

UPS reported the computer was delivered March 17, but the resident said it was never received.

Vandalism

A resident in the 29000 block of Warren Road told police March 27 that overnight someone smashed the rear window of his car that was parked in front of the home.

Larceny

On March 29, a Wayne man told police that someone stole his bomber jacket and driver's

license from a locker at Planet Fitness, 34634 Warren Road. He said he locked the locker but when he returned from working out, the lock and his belongings were gone.

Identity theft

A Westland woman told police March 26 that someone stole her identity and applied for unemployment benefits. She said her employer, a Canton business, received notice that she was seeking unemployment benefits.

Vandalism

A Canton man told police he went to play cards at a business in the 35000 block of Warren Road on March 24 and returned to find someone smashed his vehicle window with a piece of cement. He said the glove box had been

searched but nothing was missing.

Fraud

On March 26, a Westland man told police someone tried to file his 2014 income taxes. He said he hadn't filed his taxes yet but received a follow-up letter from the IRS required to complete his return.

Identity theft

A Westland woman told police March 26 that about two weeks earlier she realized that she'd lost her driver's license. When she attempted to replace it online, she said she received errors and decided to go to the Secretary of State in person.

Once there, she said she was told a State of Louisiana employee had a hold on her identification. She said she never had been to that state.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

Two tailgates, both from Ford F-150 pickup trucks, were reported stolen from vehicles parked at the Ford Wayne Assembly Plant, 37625 Michigan Ave., March 25.

A third tailgate from an unspecified model truck was reported stolen March 25 from a vehicle parked at the Ford Stamping Plant, 37500 Van Born.

Larceny

A resident in the 4000 block of Howe told police March 25 that someone had stolen her wheelchair from her yard sometime within the previous week. She said she uses the electric wheelchair when she leaves home.

On March 19, she said

she had returned home with her daughter after dark and left the wheelchair parked on the front lawn about four feet from the front porch. She said her young daughter was afraid to go into the garage in the dark to store the wheelchair.

It was raining when she awoke the morning of March 25, the resident said, and she remembered the wheelchair was outside. She didn't want it to get damaged and went to check but it was gone.

Valued at \$3,000, the wheelchair is described as maroon or burgundy in color.

Larceny

A black 1990 utility trailer, valued at \$1,800, was reported stolen from a home in the 4700 block of Hayes on March 25. The owner told police he

had sent a friend to retrieve tarps from the trailer while he was at work. The trailer was there at about 10:30 a.m.

When he returned home later in the day, he said the trailer was gone. It was described as having wood around the front half of the trailer with a trailer gate held up with black ratchet straps.

Stolen vehicle

A 1996 Dodge Neon, valued at \$500, was reported stolen overnight March 27 from the parking lot of the Pebble Creek Apartments, 33420 Michigan Ave. The owner said she parked the vehicle, which is registered to her stepfather, the previous night but it was gone the next morning. She said the car had been unlocked.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Attempted fraud

Garden City Hospital faced potential fraudulent activity March 25 when a woman allegedly came for treatment and used the health insurance information of a friend who had been at the hospital earlier.

The first patient came with her 7-year-old daughter to the hospital, located at 6245 Inkster Road, and later left the hospital about 9:30 a.m.

Her friend came in about 12:45 p.m. that day and allegedly used the first woman's medical information and Social Security number. An alert hospital employee recognized the similarity in the provided information and notified the supervisor.

The second woman allegedly said that she used the false ID because someone took her insurance card. She then said that she was leaving the

hospital emergency room to retrieve her own medical card but allegedly never returned.

The hospital indicated in the police report that the false information wasn't processed.

Fraud

A resident in the 32000 block of Pierce reported March 24 that someone fraudulently used her Bank of America credit card. When she checked her balance online, she found numerous charges which totaled \$322.

Theft

A 30-year-old Garden City woman reported March 30 that someone stole her TomTom GPS device from the emergency room parking lot at Garden City Hospital, 6245 N. Inkster Road.

The woman said that her 2012 Chevy Impala had been unlocked. Nothing else was taken from

the car.

There is no hospital video of the theft.

A resident in the 6300 block of Henry Ruff reported a break-in of his garage March 30.

The thief gained entry by damaging the roll-up garage door. A tool box and hand tools valued at \$600 and a chain saw valued at \$400 was stolen from the garage.

Property damage

A window was broken at Smokers Depot, 28829 Ford, on March 24.

After a review of the store video, the manager thought that it might be a former customer. The video showed a man about 45 years old, 5-foot-8.

A man had been asked to leave the store previously after others in the store said he had been changing signs in the store.

By Sue Buck



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Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Village of Westland support police, fire

At a recent meeting of the City of Westland City Council, representatives from the Village of Westland, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation made a presentation to the city's fire and police departments.

Members of the board for the Village of Westland and Roger Myers, CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan presented Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers and Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik with checks to the nonprofit organizations supporting important community outreach efforts led by each department.

The Village's presentation was in recognition and appreciation for the outstanding public service consistently provided by the City's Fire and Police Departments.

City Council members and Mayor William Wild also were also thanked for their leadership and

support for public safety initiatives across the Westland community.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM), headquartered in Southfield, is a faith-based, multi-site system that has served seniors of all faiths since 1945. PVM serves more than 4,300 seniors and currently has 25 senior living communities, including continuing care retirement communities (apartments, assisted living, and skilled nursing all on one campus), subsidized senior housing, and market rate senior housing. The PVM Foundation advances the PVM mission by providing philanthropic support for benevolent care, innovative services and wellness programs for residents and seniors throughout the state.

For more information on Presbyterian Villages of Michigan or Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation log on at www.pvm.org



Gail Quann, board chair for the Village; Jean Pisha, board vice-chair; Ellen Byrne, Executive Director, and Roger Myers, CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, present Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik and Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers with a check to support their community outreach efforts.

Review all statements, bills for accuracy

My 94-year-old dad received his gas bill the other day and he was stunned when it was more than 60 percent higher than the previous month. As opposed to assuming the bill was correct, my dad called the gas company to find out.

He got the standard answer that the meter had been read the meter and the higher bill was the result of that reading. My dad had me come over so I could read the meter. Lo and behold, it was totally different from what the gas company told him. When we reported the number on the meter, the company agreed that there was a mistake and my dad's bill was substantially reduced.

The lesson learned is just because you receive a bill doesn't mean that it's accurate.

Too many people assume that when they get an invoice from an entity such as a utility company or a financial institution, it's accurate. They make the assumption that these companies are infallible and the bills must be accurate.

Other people believe that even if there is a



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

mistake, it is too much of a hassle to get a company to correct it.

As far as I'm concerned, both are wrong. Companies make mistakes and getting them to correct the errors is not be as burdensome as you think.

Never assume a statement is accurate and that you don't have to review it. Every statement whether it's a bill from the utility company or statement from your bank or financial institution, needs to be reviewed for accuracy.

Companies make mistakes all the time and it is up to us to keep them honest. In addition, if you have had your sensitive information stolen, reviewing statements can be your first indication that something is wrong.

I'm not saying that companies intentionally make mistakes. However, mistakes do happen.

Years ago when I was reconciling my checking account I realized that the bank had cleared a

number of my checks twice. When I contacted the bank I was told they were aware of the error and would correct it. They also told me that this error affected hundreds of people and I was the only one, who called. Something is definitely wrong with that.

In this technology friendly world, we can assume that computers are always right and we are wrong. However, that is not the case. We all know that humans make mistakes and we should also recognize that computers make errors too.

My advice is be more like my dad. He checks every statement, whether it's a bill in a restaurant, his bank statement or his utility bill.

Mistakes happen so take the time to review your statements. If something doesn't look right, question it and don't hesitate to keep going up the chain of command until it is resolved.

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

Saab appointed Westland DPS deputy director

Hassan Saab has been appointed as deputy director of the Westland Department of Public Services.

A professional civil engineer, Saab also holds a doctoral degree in structural engineering and has over 20 years' experience in civil engineering. Most recently, he was employed with the Wayne County Department of Public Services and the Environment.

Saab has extensive experience in environmental facilities management, parks and recreation, land resource and water quality management and roads.

"With Hassan's considerable experience in civil engineering and his knowledge of the processes by which road and other engineering pro-

jects are funded and approved, the city will benefit as it works to address the community's aging infrastructure," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

Saab also has a master's degree in civil engineering and is a published author. During his tenure with Wayne County, he was involved in a comprehensive reorganization of the DPS that included updating position classifications and improving the service delivery processes. The reorganization included development of information technology systems for improving data collection and online monitoring of work flows.

Saab will be acting as the engineer in charge of assessing city infrastructure and overseeing major road projects, bridges, water and sewer and storm water management. He also will be responsible for maintenance functions related to streets, public right-of-ways and public facilities. Some of those operations include snow and ice control, street repair and sweeping, street signs, lights and landscape maintenance.

In addition, Saab will be the technical adviser to city consultants overseeing all engineering work, such as design, bidding and inspections of all infrastructure improvement projects, to ensure compliance with city, state and federal requirements.



Saab

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

Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid for the 2014-2015 School Year (See Attached Specifications)

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT Purchasing Bids, 2014-2015 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Sealed bids marked **Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid** will be received until 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day April, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. **Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.**

The Bid Opening will take place at 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day of April, 2015, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

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

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

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

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

Prices bid are to be **F.O.B. Destination**. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request. **Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission.** All bids must be submitted on the attached bid form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

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

"Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations. hlau@livoniapublicschools.org. 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

5-star rating

Parkside Credit Union has been awarded 5 stars in Bankrate.com's Safe & Sound® Ratings service for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2014. A 5-star rating is the highest award rating and is defined as a "Superior" ranking of relative financial strength and stability. For more than 17 years, Bankrate.com's Safe & Sound® service has given consumers information on the relative financial strength and stability of U.S. commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions.

"In today's economic climate, it's important for consumers to trust that their money is protected," said Don Ross, CEO of Bankrate.com. "Earning a 4- or 5-star designation from the Safe & Sound® Star Rating is traditionally a strong indicator of financial strength and stability in a financial institution."

Bankrate's Safe & Sound ratings are comparisons to both industry peer norms and standards. Individual performance levels are determined from publicly available regulatory filings and are compared to asset-size peer norms, industry standards and key absolute benchmarks. To learn more about Bankrate's Safe & Sound ratings methodology, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2o6pku>.

Parkside Credit Union is a Michigan-based nonprofit financial institution and has been serving the community since 1953. Parkside has offices at 36525 Plymouth Road, Livonia, and 1747 S. Newburgh, Westland.

Slice for Life

Buddy's Pizza invites metro Detroiters to enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza during the 39th annual Slice for Life event Monday, April 13, benefiting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Patrons can visit any of Buddy's 11 locations,

including the one at 33605 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The family-owned pizzeria has partnered with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen every year for more than half of Buddy's 69-year history, raising more than \$2.7 million to fund metro Detroit's hungry and support the soup kitchen's other programs.

From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., patrons who purchase a ticket can visit any Buddy's Pizza full-service location to enjoy an all-you-can-eat two-topping pizza and salad meal. A carry-out option is also available for purchase at all 11 Buddy's Pizza locations and includes either a four-square two-topping pizza or a medium-sized antipasto, Greek or house salad.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.cskdetroit.org or by calling 313-579-2100, ext. 153/170.

OUR VIEWS

Now's your chance to help your community into the future

The political season is upon us and as a reminder for those people thinking about being a candidate for local office: the filing deadline — April 21 — is near.

Holding office is a serious commitment, and residents considering a run for mayor, city council or city clerk need to be sure they're making the right decision before filing by the 4 p.m. deadline.

Local government is the foundation of our democracy. Being an elected local official requires a commitment of time and effort and a willingness to communicate with constituents. This is one level where residents can interact with their elected leaders face-to-face at city hall, the local grocery store or a restaurant.

There are many reasons people choose to run for public office, and candidates would wise to take a close at their reason. Some people run for office because they want to give back to their community. They love their city and believe they have the solutions that will make it better. There are some candidates who run for public office because a local issue that has them at odds with current officials, and there are those who run to just run or make themselves feel more important.

Voters should have choices in an election. That is what democracy is all about. We encourage candidates who can make a positive difference, who can help position the city for a bright future, who truly want to serve their hometown and make it a better place to throw their hats into the ring.

Do you have what it takes to hold office? If so, you have until Tuesday, April 21, to decide.

Here are the local offices that will be filled in this election cycle:

Westland City Council: Four seats will be filled this election year. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected to four-year terms, and the candidate receiving the fourth highest number of votes is elected to a two-year term.

Westland City Clerk: The Westland City Clerk is an elected position. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected to a four-year term.

Wayne City Council: A charter amendment approved last November has changed how council members are elected in Wayne. Currently, council members are elected citywide; however, the charter amendment establishes six wards, and council candidates are required to live within the district. Only residents in that district elect their district council members.

Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be effective in the primary and general elections in 2015, and districts 4, 5 and 6 will be effective in the 2017 elections. Candidates for such districts will be required to have their principal residences in their districts at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their tenure.

Wayne Mayor: The mayor serves a two-year term and will be the only local position elected citywide in Wayne.

Garden City Council: Four seats will be filled in this year's election. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes get four-year terms and the next two vote-getters earn two-year seats.

Garden City Mayor: Garden City has a city manager form of government. The day-to-day activities are handled by the city manager, while the mayor performs mainly ceremonial functions and over the city council. The mayor serves for two years.

Garden City Library Board: Voters will fill positions of two members whose terms are expiring and fill the remainder of a third term. The two candidates receiving the most votes at that election will serve six-year terms ending in 2021. The third-place candidate will serve the remainder of a term ending in 2019.

A nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity with Campaign Finance Act Compliance Statement must be filed with the city clerk in order for a name to be placed on the ballot. Nominating petitions are available at the local city clerk's office.

We encourage folks who are thinking about running for office to give it serious consideration. It is at the local level where you can have the most impact on your community.



OUR VIEWS

Easter message is one of hope meant for all

It's Easter this Sunday, and Christians worldwide are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago.

Believers are gathering in churches adorned with white lilies to hear trumpets blare, choirs sing and pastors proclaim that, through faith in Jesus, they too will live eternally in Heaven.

It's a message of hope for a world that, at times, seems hopeless.

Christians believe that their life on earth is fleeting compared to the life they'll live forever in Heaven, where there are no problems of any kind, including sickness, pain and death.

It gives them that joy and peace that surpass understanding to face the trials of their daily lives, knowing those trials are only temporary.

It also gives them the hope, when they lose a spouse, child, parent or friend, that they'll see their loved one again in Heaven, where they'll be together forever.

The story of Jesus, God's son, rising from the grave after dying on a cross to take the punishment for the sins of everyone has been retold every year since that first Easter morning.

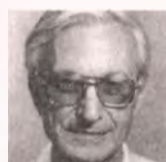
It's a story first shared by the women visiting Jesus' empty tomb and his disciples who, fearful for their own lives immediately following his crucifixion, courageously went to their own deaths to spread it to the 1st-century world.

It's a story recorded in the Bible for every generation since — a message of hope meant for all people for all time.

GUEST COLUMN

Then and now: How things change over a half century

There will be a special anniversary this week of a unique community institution that proves that change is the only thing that is guaranteed. The 50th anniversary will be that of the then-*Observer Newspapers* in Garden City and Nankin Township. The launching of the new editions was timed to create an editorial and advertising presence in the two towns in advance of the opening of Westland Center, which opened in July 1965.



Leonard Poger
GUEST COLUMNIST

I joined the *Observer Newspapers* 13 months after it launched as the third Garden City-Nankin community editor. But I still have vivid memories of what the communities looked like a year earlier.

With the arrival of the *Observer*, the two communities were served in part by five newspapers. The major source of information and advertising was the *Associated Newspapers*, which had a *Guardian-Review* in Garden City and the *Eagle* in Nankin Township. The others were the *Dispatch*, *Western Wayne Press* (published by the *Ypsilanti Press*), the *Press & Guide* (published by the *Dearborn Press & Guide*), which served only Nankin.

Driving through the main roads, you could see the Mazzoni family jewelry store in a new location on the southeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt with the three-year-old Kmart store on the opposite corner. The Mazzoni business had recently moved into the former Garden City Hall after the new municipal opened a few blocks north.

At the downtown's center were numerous businesses, such as Garden Lanes, the LaParisien Theatre, two gas stations on opposite corners, plus a nearby Harley Davison motorcycle shop. Only Joe D's bar remains.

Changing downtown

The *Observer Newspapers* operated initially out of main office in Livonia but soon moved into office space at 5649 Middlebelt, adjacent to the bowling alley.

On the northwest corner were Minder's Drugs with its counter food service, Kmart, Hershey's Shoes and Al Nash's health and beauty aid business. (Only the shoe store and Kmart remain.) Within walking distance of the office were the Garden City school board offices, the library, the Secretary of State branch, and North Brothers Ford, which moved two miles further west in 1967.

Car buyers could drive along Ford Road and kick tires at Merollis Chevrolet (now Gordon Chevrolet), Stu Evans Lincoln-Mercury (now a vacant lot and building), a Dodge dealership, and Red Holman Pontiac (now just Red Holman Buick-GMC).

By the way, a new Ford Mustang could be had for under \$3,000 with the gas tank filled at 30 cents a gallon.

In Nankin, the township offices were in the Township and Sewer Department offices on Ford at near Carlson. Driving north on Wayne Road, retail businesses were sprouting to take advantage of the soon-to-open West-



A fountain was a main feature of the East Court of Westland Shopping Center when it opened in July 1965.

land Center.

One was the Quo Vadis Theatre, which was adjacent to the Algiers Drive-in. Down the street was the Topps Discount Store.

Residents and businesses could deposit their money the National Bank of Detroit, Detroit Bank & Trust, Manufacturers Bank, Bank of the Commonwealth, Wayne Community Credit Union or the Garden City Community Credit Union.

If you had major medical problems, you could be admitted to Garden City Hospital, Wayne County General Hospital or Annapolis Hospital (part of the Peoples Community Hospital Authority), among others. Only Garden City Hospital remains under its original name. Annapolis is now being operated by Beaumont Health Care system.

Your rubbish was hauled to the Central Wayne County Incinerator Authority, a regional facility supported by five suburbs. Like many other public services, the authority along with the hospital organization is old memories.

Grocery shoppers in the two towns had plenty of choices among the major chains: Kroger, Farmer Jack, Great Scott, Wrigley, A&P and Chatham. The only one still open is Kroger, joined in 1989 by Meijer in Westland.

In 1965, Garden City schools was nearing a record 14,000 student enrollment with 15 buildings: nine elementaries, four junior highs and two senior highs. Now the enrollment is down to under 5,000, four elementaries, one middle school and one high school.

The Wayne Community Schools (Westland was added to the formal name five years later at the request of then-Mayor Gene McKinney) had nearly 28,000 students. The northern section of Nankin was in the Livonia Public Schools, which then had an enrollment of 38,000 with four high schools and a fifth in the planning stages. Now the enrollment is half of its peak. The section of the township was in the Nankin Mills district, which offered a K-eighth-grade program. New ninth-graders were sent to the nearby Bentley High in Livonia. In the late 1960s, the Nankin Mills district was dissolved with the land and students divided among the Livonia and Wayne-Westland districts.

Political changes

Fifty years ago, political changes were underway. Garden City, operating under the rules of a 1933 city charter, was about to see the start of a campaign to change the governmental rules through a proposed city charter that would have a full-time mayor and part-time city council. The proposed charter was defeated a year later when part-time mayor Ed Freeh Jr. was defeated by Tim Murphy.

In Nankin, a similar charter campaign was underway, also with a proposed full-time mayor and part-time council. One year after the *Garden City* and *Nankin Observer Newspapers* were launched, Nankin voters approved the new charter. Township Supervisor Tom Brown was elected the city's first mayor. He served until late 1969.

Many of the businesses along Ford, Middlebelt and Wayne Road are long gone

While the *Observer* continued and expanded, I can still remember the "old way" of writing the news, features and editorials of the day. I could walk a few blocks or drive two or three miles to interview public officials or cover night meetings. Phone calls were made on a rotary phone.

Stories were written on a manual typewriter, and I had to use carbon paper to keep a copy of my stories. At times, the typewriter ribbons had to be changed. Photos were taken with an office Polaroid camera. With only one deadline a week, the editorial staff could take time to talk to news sources for background on the issues of the day. Delivery of the papers was mainly by school-aged children; now it's done by adults.

Now reporters and editors work remotely and use computers and smart phones to communicate. They write, tweet and post on Facebook. Breaking news is written and immediately posted to www.hometownlife.com and updated for the printed edition.

I realize that change is necessary. I love my cell phone and computer. But sometimes it's fun to look back after a half-century and remember how things used to be.

Leonard Poger was an *Observer* & *Eccentric* community editor for 33 1/2 years, retiring in January 2000. He lives in Westland.

OBSERVER

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Amal Faram, her granddaughter by the same name and Buthayna Farah are having a conversation with mosque visitors Denise Smith and former state Rep. Dian Slavens.



Hasina Abdu (standing) visits a table where other Muslim women are talking with Canton mosque visitors.

Canton mosque welcomes visitors to build relations

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Mansoor Nasir is proud to call Canton home. It's a place where he said the Muslim community has long been well-integrated.

"Canton is one of the most diverse communities I've ever lived in," he said. "That's what I love about it."

Yet, he has a wish for residents of the larger Canton area, including its Muslim community.

"I would like for the people to get to know their neighbors a little more personally," said Nasir, a biomedical engineering professor who has lived in places such as Washington, D.C., and California's Bay Area.

To that end, the Canton mosque drew about 60 people Saturday afternoon by welcoming visitors - some going to a mosque for the first time - to share coffee and conversation.

Visitors came from Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Ann Arbor, Dexter and other communities to mingle with their Muslim neighbors. They talked about their families, their religion, their communities, their shared vision for a better, more tolerant world.

Amal Faram, 19, who came with her grandmother, said she wants non-Muslims to better understand her community, apart from world tensions that can divide rather than unite.

"I want to be part of the community to show that we're not how the media always portrays us," she said.

Pete Zerger, a Livonia resident who attends Living Peach Church in Plymouth, said he grew up with Muslims in Dearborn. He and several members of the church, including Randy Short, its pastor, attended Saturday's gathering.

"I have a lot of friends in the Muslim religion," Zerger said, "and I'm exploring it more."

Short, a Westland resident, said it's important for people of all faiths to understand one another.

"It's how issues are solved - not through violence, suppression or marginalization," he said. One young Muslim

woman, Buthayna Farah, said it was important for her to attend to try to build community relations so that residents from all cultures and religions can have a better understanding.

"That's the goal," she said.

The mosque event came amid a backdrop of anti-Muslim violence elsewhere, such as the shooting deaths of three students in North Carolina - incidents that Muslims say only heighten the need to promote tolerance.

"I want others to see that we are human, like anybody else," said Hasina Abdu, who chairs the outreach committee for the mosque, or Muslim Community of Western Suburbs. "And we, as Muslims, have to become more involved in outreach efforts through our mosque. We have to get out of our comfort zone."

Canton police officer Ziad Elias, who lived in Baghdad, Iraq, until age 20, attended with a couple of other Canton officers to bridge relations with local Muslims. Elias is Christian, but knew many Muslims growing up.

Elias surprised some at Saturday's event when he spoke to them in Arabic.

"It's nice to meet people with the same culture and talk," he said. "And it's good public relations. The (Canton Police) Department really cares about that."

Visitors learned that the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs is not only a place of worship, but also has facilities such as Crescent Academy, a school for students in kindergarten



Mansoor Nasir (right) of Canton talks with Pete Zerger of Livonia at the Canton Mosque

through eighth grades, and a gymnasium.

The crowd broke into smaller groups to have conversation and get to better know each other. Visitors also got a tour of the mosque.

"When you get to know people personally, your attitudes toward them change dramatically," Nasir said, adding later, "In the end, we all want to live in a healthy community and work toward making it better."

dclcm@hometownlife.com
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Canton police officers stand and talk with a mosque member while other visitors sit at tables and chat.



Canton mosque visitors sat in small groups to talk.



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TOUCHING REMEMBRANCE

Churchill soccer team pays tribute to Abby Rubenson

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The upbeat and touching tribute that preceded Monday night's Stevenson-Churchill girls soccer match would have made Abigail Rubenson smile. Her older sister, Liz, is certain of that. "Oh, she would have loved it," Liz Rubenson said while releasing a warm smile moments after she played a starring role in the Chargers' 0-0 draw with the Spartans. Liz Rubenson is a first-year sophomore defender for the Churchill varsity soccer team. Her 9-year-old soccer-loving



Abigail Rubenson

little sister Abigail passed away last July after a valiant battle with cancer. As the Chargers' starting line-up was announced prior to Monday's games, the Churchill players wore T-shirts that read, "In Memory of Abby Rubenson". Churchill's public-address announcer then read a short tribute to Abigail. The brief ceremony was inspiring for Liz Rubenson. "It was emotional for me, but more than anything it got

me pumped up," she said. "I wanted to play hard for her." Rubenson was instrumental in helping the Chargers shut out Stevenson as she hustled around the pitch. "Liz played very, very well tonight," raved Churchill head coach Reid Friedrichs. "Her play on the ball and off were outstanding." In October, the Livonia City Soccer Club hosted its inaugural Abby Rubenson Cup tournament at Ward Church in Northville. The champion: Abby's former team, which prevailed in a PK shoot-out.

ewright@hometownlife.com



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Churchill sophomore defender Liz Rubenson (right) excelled during Monday's game against Livonia Stevenson.

TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW



ED WRIGHT

A Westland John Glenn track-and-field athlete clears a hurdle during Tuesday's home meet against Livonia Franklin.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Deep, speedy Rockets shooting for stratosphere this spring

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's boys track-and-field team has started the 2015 season as if it was shot out of a cannon – or, more appropriately, a Rocket launcher. On March 21 in Ypsilanti, the Rockets captured the talent-saturated Huron Relays held inside Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse by piling up 47 points, three more than runner-up Belleville. While it was the Rockets' supply of speed that put them in a position to take the title, it was a final-event power play that lifted them to gold. "We picked up eight points in the final event when Deshawn Baker-Williams placed second in the shot put," said John Glenn head coach Jason Dixon. "We wouldn't have won without that." Dixon said this team's combination of talent and willingness to embrace work could make this spring special. "I like the guys' work ethic," said Dixon. "They work hard, which makes coaching easy." The Rockets will be paced in the leadership department by captains Austin Hickerson, a senior, and Kenyatta Mason, a ju-

nior. Both speedsters are members of the school's record-holding 800-meter relay team. "Austin is my right-hand man," said Dixon. "If I get pulled away from practice for a little while, I can tell him to take over and I know everything will be fine." "Our captains are selected based on integrity and who can lead, and Kenyatta falls under both those categories." The Rocket with the highest point potential is probably senior sprinter Jaron Flournoy, who has committed to run track at Louisiana State University beginning in the fall. Flournoy's blazing wheels were on display at EMU, where he won the 60-meter dash in 6.80 seconds. "Jaron puts that Superman 'S' on his chest during meets," said Dixon. "He has amazing talent. If he puts it out there every day, there's no telling how far he can go." John Glenn's top distance runner is Zeke Thompson, who can excel in everything from the 800 to the 3,200. Freddie Thompson is an extraordinary hurdler. He placed second in the 60-meter hurdles at EMU with a time of 8.70.

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GIRLS SOCCER

Marian's depth burns Ladywood, 4-1

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With the ground outside covered in snow, you couldn't have asked for better timing to book an indoor match Wednesday afternoon between Division 2 state powers Birmingham Marian and Livonia Ladywood at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. And the host Mustangs found the climate controlled surroundings to their liking as they downed Ladywood, 4-1, in the Catholic League Central Division opener for both teams. The Mustangs, state runner-up the past two seasons to Richland Gull Lake, improved to 4-0-2 overall as sophomore forward Elaina Eckert figured in all four goals. Ladywood, which dropped to 2-2 overall, actually tallied the game's first goal with 29:44 left in the opening half when sophomore Taylor Bullard pounced on a rebound following a shot by sister

Kennedi Bullard after Samantha Riga sent a pass into the 18-yard box area. But by halftime Marian would go up 2-1 as Hannah Redoute tied it off an assist from Eckert with 6:01 left and Eckert would score what proved to be the game-winner off an assist from Redoute with 2:16 remaining. Zoe Hudson's goal with 24:04 left in the match off an assist from Eckert made it 3-0 and Redoute's second goal of the afternoon came with 5:11 to go after Ladywood sophomore keeper Holly Cusick was unable to handle Eckert's initial shot attempt. "I think it went the way that we thought it would, but you could just tell we got tired," said Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team fell to 2-2 overall. "And they took advantage of some mistakes by us and some sloppiness in our own end. Those two shots they scored

See BLAZERS, Page B3



BRAD EMONS

Among Ladywood's key returnees this season are (from left) tri-captains Kennedi Bullard, Samantha Riga and Andrea Kwasniewicz.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MU's Salloum goes deep twice in sweep

Sophomore shortstop Nicole Salloum was the sultan of swat Monday as she homered twice and finished with eight RBI as Madonna University swept a non-conference women's softball double-header against visiting Cleary College. Salloum, the former Livonia Churchill High standout, went 2-for-3 with three RBI as MU captured game one in five innings via the run rule, 11-1. Mikey Kish also belted a 3-run homer, while Breanna Keethler added a 2-run shot for MU. Kasey Trierweiler also knocked in two runs. That was more than enough for winning pitcher Bree Crampton (9-4), who allowed just two hits and a walk while striking out seven in five innings. In game two, Salloum went 2-for-4, including her third homer of the season to go along with five RBI in a 13-5 five-inning RUI victory. Other offensive stars for MU included Trierweiler (3-for-3, RBI); Morgan

Thompson (2-for-2, two RBI); winning pitcher Erin Combs (2-for-3, two RBI); and Kish (two RBI). Combs (9-3) allowed three earned runs on seven hits over five innings. She struck out three and did not allow a walk. Cleary College fell to 3-15 overall. The Crusaders were scheduled to return to the diamond 3 p.m. Wednesday at home against WHAC foe Aquinas College. **MADONNA 7-2, SIENA HEIGHTS 1-1:** The Crusaders (16-7-1, 2-0) used a pair of pitching gems to open Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play Sunday by sweeping a double-header against visiting Siena Heights University (12-9, 0-2). The Crusaders captured the opener, 7-1, as senior Bree Crampton (7-4) allowed just one hit and one walk over seven innings to go along with 13 strikeouts. Offensively, Emma Cook and Mikey Kish each went 2-for-4 with two RBI to pace MU's 12-hit offensive attack. Breanna Keethler also contributed two hits and an RBI. Nicole Salloum also knocked in two runs. Kelsie Abbott collected the lone hit for the Saints. MU captured the nightcap, 2-1, as Erin Combs (7-3) also went all seven innings allowing just five hits without a walk and four strikeouts. Morgan Kaiser went 3-for-3 with a run scored, while Cook added two RBI. Abbott (10-3), the losing pitcher, went all six innings allowing seven hits and no walks while fanning four.



Salloum

PREP SOCCER

Grounded Garden City edges Patriots, 2-0

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Once Garden City's girls soccer team became grounded Monday night, it managed to separate itself from host Livonia Franklin.

Playing in a gusting breeze, the Cougars scored two second-half goals to edge the Patriots, 2-0, to improve their record to 1-1-1. Franklin slipped to 0-3.

"We were playing the ball in the air too much in the first half," lamented GC head coach Jeff Szyplula. "Once we started to play the ball on the ground and get more movement, we managed to possess better and create some scoring opportunities."

Szyplula said his team always gets fired up to play against the Patriots, who have become a non-conference rival of sorts.

"As far as non-league opponents, I'd say Franklin and John Glenn are our top rivals," he said. "The girls were definitely pumped up tonight, not only because they were playing Franklin, but also because they wanted to get that first win of the season."

Senior standout Lindsay Yankasky registered the night's first net-finder when she rain-bowed home a right-footed shot 7:30 into the second half.

"It was a nice goal because Lindsay is left-footed and she's been working hard on using her right leg," said Szyplula. "She chipped it right over the goalie's head."

Super sophomore Samantha Sultana provided an insurance goal with 10 minutes left when she torpedoed a



Garden City's Samantha Sultana scored a goal in the Cougars' 2-0 victory over Livonia Franklin.

ED WRIGHT

shot into the upper-right corner.

Tatum Spears earned the shut-out in net for the Cougars.

Szyplula also praised the play of senior Savannah Childress, who locked down the Patriots' forwards on the right side of the Cougars' defensive alignment.

Clarenceville toppled

Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody was upbeat and positive about her team's progress Monday despite an 8-0 loss to Wayne Memorial.

"The girls already have improved so much within a week," Moody said. "They looked like a totally different team tonight even though the outcome doesn't show it."

"We played well together. Our defense was clicking, and we communicated throughout the whole game. From last week to this week, it was a totally different atmosphere."

Goalie Jillian Bunker stopped 22 of 30 shots for the Lady Trojans. Jordan See and Sarah Curvin created offensive opportunities and played well defensively, according to Moody.

"Samantha Franco, Kyla Johnson, and Ashli Hearn played their hearts out on defense and saved many goal opportunities for Wayne," Moody said. "Nickendra Thomas, Paola Gonzalez and Kaitlyn Denny played in various roles and played aggressively with power."

COLLEGE SIGNING

Dochenez signs on with UM-D

Spartans' floor leader can play either guard position for Wolverines

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Not much rattles Livonia Stevenson senior Arryn Dochenez when she's on a basketball court.

Opponents of the University of Michigan-Dearborn women's hoops teams are about to discover this first-hand beginning later this year considering the poised and talented Spartan recently signed a letter of intent to play for the Wolverines.

A threat to post a steal or a three-point basket - depending upon which end of the court she's playing at the moment - Dochenez rarely left the court for head coach Tim Newman this past season, which was highlighted by Stevenson's third-straight Class A district championship. Dochenez average just over 10 points per contest while handling both the shooting and point guard responsibilities.

The daughter of Daniel and Bernadette Dochenez, the newest Wolverine said she decided



Pictured with Stevenson senior Arryn Dochenez as she signed her letter of intent to play basketball for the University of Michigan-Dearborn on March 24 were (standing from left) brother Marcus, mom Bernadette, dad Daniel, brother Jeremy and Wolverines head coach Dymetrius Ware.

UM-Dearborn was the college for her in mid-March.

"It has everything I was looking for education-wise and I like that the campus is local," said Dochenez. "The Dearborn campus offers the same degrees as the Ann Arbor campus, so that was a factor."

Dochenez was also drawn to the style of game that the Wolverines play.

"I've been to several

NAIA games and I like the pace," she said. "It's fast and exciting."

Other colleges in the mix for Dochenez's classroom and hardwood talents included Schoolcraft College and Lourdes University, which is located in Sylva, Ohio.

Dochenez also lettered in volleyball and tennis at Stevenson.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Cardinals capture indoor title



The 11U Livonia Cardinals captured first place in the Total Baseball-Wixom 12U winter indoor league. Pictured are (front row from left) Aiden Rowader, Jacob Patterson, Brandon Reiten, Collin Patterson, Cole Rubner, Aiden Rooper, (middle row from left) Edmond Riza, Raymond Kastl, Collin Hanrahan, Aidan Murray, Patrick Coggins, Tyler Weeks, (back row from left) coaches Patrick Coggins, Michael Reiten, Ray Kastl and Gary Patterson. Not pictured is Ray Riza.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act). Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2015-16 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at the Jeffress Center Board Room, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Glenn Cerny
Glenn Cerny
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 2 and 5, 2015

LO-0000235944 3x2.5

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2822-B. Alspach
Req. for a 21' separation variance from Ord. 248 to construct a 20' x 24' detached garage at the west side of the home that would be located 11' ahead of the rear building line of the home; whereas Sec. 7-4.3(c) requires the structure be located so that its front building line is at least 10' to the rear of the rear building line.

Publish April 2, 2015

LO-0000237474

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Livonia Public Schools will receive sealed proposals for:
Technology Move Management Services

Until 1:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday April 14, 2015, will be received by Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 at the Administration Building at which time, and place, all proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained by contacting LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemor.com or Christa Jarnot at christa.jarnot@plantemor.com beginning Friday March 27, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

All interested firms are required to attend a mandatory pre-proposal meeting on Tuesday April 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the LPS Administration Building located at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFP and include a 5% bid bond, 100% Performance, and 100% Labor and Material (Payment) Bonds. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration.

All bids must be accompanied by a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012. Proposals received without a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure will not be considered or accepted.

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

Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals. Livonia Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools

Publish: April 2, 2015

LO-0000237838 3x4

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PREP TRACK & FIELD ROUNDUP

Franklin, Glenn boys finish opener deadlocked

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Given its bizarre series of twists and turns, Tuesday afternoon's KLAA South Division dual meet featuring Livonia Franklin and host Westland John Glenn may have been more appropriate for Wednesday (April Fool's Day) – or on a Friday the 13th.

The meet that showcased two of the division's projected front-runners ended deadlocked at 66-66, but only after the Rockets were forced to forfeit the pole vault and high jump events after the pits and standards at John Glenn were declared unsafe for competition, and both schools' 400-meter relay teams were disqualified for hand-offs outside the allowable zone.

"Glenn's sprinters and top hurdler racked up a lot of points," said Franklin head coach Pat Koelzer. "Our distance crew kept us in the meet and clinched the tie by sweeping the 3,200. John Glenn is a very strong team this season."

Fortunately for the Rockets, the throwing area was deemed safe because senior Deshawn Baker-Williams won the shot put (51 feet, 3 inches) and the discus (141-3) to help his team offset the forfeits.

With their 3,200 relay four-some serving as the catalyst, the Patriots were dominant in the distance events, most notably senior Keenan Jones, who placed first in the 1,600 (4:56.2) and the 800 (2:07.9).

Franklin's Nathan McCall



Franklin's Nikki Hawthorne (left) and Briana Thompson sail over fourth-to-last hurdles during the 300-meter race Tuesday at John Glenn.

captured the 3,200 in 10:55.3.

Freddie Thompson was a point machine for the hosts as he won the 110 highs and 300 hurdles. Austin Hickerson also excelled by crossing the line first in the 400 (53.3) and 200 (22.8).

Louisiana State University-bound sprinter Jaron Flournoy did not compete for the Rockets on Tuesday.

Mustangs out-stride Spartans

Hampered – but not hamstrung – by the graduation of 27 seniors, Livonia Stevenson's boys track-and-field team raced Northville down to the

wire Tuesday before dropping a 77-60 decision.

The Spartans matched up well with the Mustangs nicely in the sprint events, but couldn't stack up in the long runs.

Leading the charge for Stevenson were sprinters Nathan Sudek, who won the 110-meter hurdles in 18.04 and the 300 high hurdles in 44.42; Mike Muffler, who won the 200 in 23.7 and placed second in the 100 in 11.93; and Ladarius Sharpe, who racked up first-place points in the 100 (11.77) and third-place points in the 200 (23.7). Senior Christian Sullivan

also had a solid day for the Spartans as he placed second in the 200 (24.17) and third in the 100 (11.97).

Senior thrower Nick Hitchcock had a dazzling debut, winning the shot put with a personal-best heave of 47 feet, and the discus with a 132-11 distance.

Also scoring the field events were seniors Abdullah Afify (second in the discus) and Connor Vaughan, who was third in the shot put.

Malik Lowery's first meet as a Spartan was impressive as he leapt 19 feet, 1 inch to take second in the long jump.

First-year senior Noah Campbell didn't score in the high jump, but his best effort of 5-8 was more than admirable given he's had just a handful of days to work on his new craft outdoors.

Stevenson's lone first-place showing in the relays came in the 400 thanks to good runs by Muffler, Sullivan, Sharpe and Tyler Hudson.

Patriot girls bury Rockets

Livonia Franklin's girls track-and-field team dominated host Westland John Glenn on Tuesday, 120-17, in the season-opening dual meet for both teams.

Senior thrower Sophia Modes got things kick-started for the winners by taking first in the shot put (31-9) and the discus (87-9). Franklin's Mikaela Hille completed the field-events sweep (the pole vault and long jump were forfeited to the Patriots due to unsafe

conditions) with a lead of 14-2.

Franklin sprinter Bryah White was untouchable in the 100, winning in 12.9 seconds while Natalie Douglas and Emily Marano went 1-2 in the mile with respective times of 5:38.3 and 5:45.0.

Northville girls defeat Spartans

The Mustangs defeated Livonia Stevenson's girls track-and-field team 94-43 Tuesday afternoon.

Churchill girls hurdle Plymouth

Livonia Churchill's girls track-and-field team opened its KLAA South Division slate with an impressive 76-61 victory over Plymouth.

The Chargers were bolstered by multiple first-place performances from thrower Gabby Carter, who won the shot put (107-5) and discus (35-6.5); Chelsea Gardner, who took gold in 100 (12.4), 400 (1:01.8) and 200 (25.9); and Caroline George, who won the 1,600 (5:36) and 800 (2:35.1).

Churchill's lone victory in the relay events was accomplished by its 3,200 foursome of Megan Gendjar, Raquel Zwick, Gabriel Swider and Christina Murphy.

Kathleen George won the 3,200 for the Chargers with a time of 12:10.

Churchill freshman Addison Mussen, who is also competing for the Chargers' soccer team in the spring, finished second in the 1,600 (5:37) and the 800 (2:37.7).

PREP SOFTBALL ROUNDUP



John Glenn pitcher Mackenzie Huren rocks into her wind-up Tuesday against Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Rockets hold off Annapolis, 6-4

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's softball team persevered through some tense late-inning moments Tuesday afternoon to chalk up a 6-4 season-opening victory over visiting Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

The Rockets started their season in style by batting around the order during their four-run first inning after the Cougars scored once in the top of the frame.

Annapolis pulled to within 4-2 with a run in the fourth before John Glenn countered with a two-spot in the fifth. Annapolis plated two in the top of the sixth to narrow its deficit to 6-4, plus it had a couple runners on base, but junior pitcher Mackenzie Huren managed to escape the jam with the help of her lights-out drop ball.

"The key for Mackenzie today was that she got ahead in the count on every batter she faced," said John Glenn head coach Dan Huren. "Her drop ball was working really well, too."

Rocket catcher Julia Michlowski made what proved to

be a pivotal play in the top of the first when she gunned down an Annapolis base-runner who was trying to steal second.

"That was huge," Huren said, "because they never tried to steal another base the rest of the game. She earned their respect right away."

John Glenn outhit Annapolis, 7-3. Both teams committed two errors.

Hannah Udell and Chelsea Gilbert powered the winners' hitting attack as they both contributed two hits and an RBI. One of Gilbert's hits was a double.

Huren praised No. 2 hitter and starting shortstop Megan Buford's all-around contributions.

GC mercies RU

Garden City opened its 2015 season with a 14-1 victory over Redford Union Monday afternoon. Junior pitcher Amber Swisher recorded her first varsity mound victory by holding the Panthers to one run, one hit and one walk over the first four innings.

Swisher, who switched to the circle from center-field in the wake of the early-season

loss of expected starting pitcher Abby Joseph, struck out four Panthers.

The Cougars were running on all cylinders at the plate thanks to strong debuts from Kaylen Glenfield (3-for-3, double, triple, three RBI, four runs), Mikey Smoler (3-for-3, double, RBI), Kelsie Powell (3-for-4, two runs, four RBI) and Alicea Ascensio, who went 2-for-3 with two ribbies.

Trojans blanked

The Clarenceville softball team got off to a slow start on opening day Monday, suffering a 20-0 loss to St. Catherine of Siena Academy.

The lone hit for the Lady Trojans was produced by sophomore Claudia Moore (single). Senior Emily Schwartz, junior Nicole Scott and freshman Skler Srock reached base with walks.

Schwartz took the loss in the four-inning game, allowing 17 hits, walking four and striking out five.

St. Catherine pitchers combined for a one-hit shutout, striking out nine. Second baseman Emma Reilly belted a grand slam for the Stars.

PREP TENNIS

Panthers, Zebras triumph

The Redford Union girls tennis team opened its home schedule in style on Monday with a 7-1 victory over Dearborn Heights Robichaud.

Both teams struggled occasionally in the gusty winds, but the Panthers managed to make more adjustments.

The short-handed Bulldogs were forced to default matches at No. 3 and No. 4 singles in addition to their final two doubles slots. The three of the four matches that were played evolved into down-to-the-wire thrillers decided by tie-breakers.

RU No. 1 singles player Abby Walters set the tone by defeating Jazlyn White, 6-2, 6-1. The match was compelling given that both players are left-handed.

"Jazlyn is one of my toughest matches in the league every year," said Walters. "We are friends off the court, but we are both very competitive on it. We have similar game strategies because we both can chase down balls, hit angles and keep the ball in play."

Panthers No. 2 singles player Jesse Kramer proved resilient against Kaitlyn Willis, storming back to win the final two sets 6-1 and 11-9 after dropping the opener, 6-3.

At No. 1 doubles, RU twin sisters Abby and Sarah Bishop dropped a tough 2-6, 6-4, 10-7 setback to Robichaud sophomores Rakhya Smith and Jasmine Turner. RU's second doubles duo of sophomore Kaylay Wiley and freshman Haley Hebner won an intense three-setter, 3-6, 6-3, 10-1, over Jada Nobles and TaPuisha Jackson.

"We have a core of returning players making a strong singles line-up and adding strength to

our doubles pairs," said RU co-coach Eric Geiger, who shares the mentoring duties with Alice Walters. "We expect to hold our own this season. New and returning players have been consistent and working hard in our practices."

"We've already seen tremendous improvement and anticipate building on that through the season."

Zebras triumphant

Wayne Memorial continued its strong start to the season by out-swinging rival Westland John Glenn, 8-1. The Rockets' lone win came when their No. 2 doubles team of Kiara Holmes and Domanique Williams outlasted Karla Strong and Halayna Reynolds, 6-2, 3-6, 10-5.

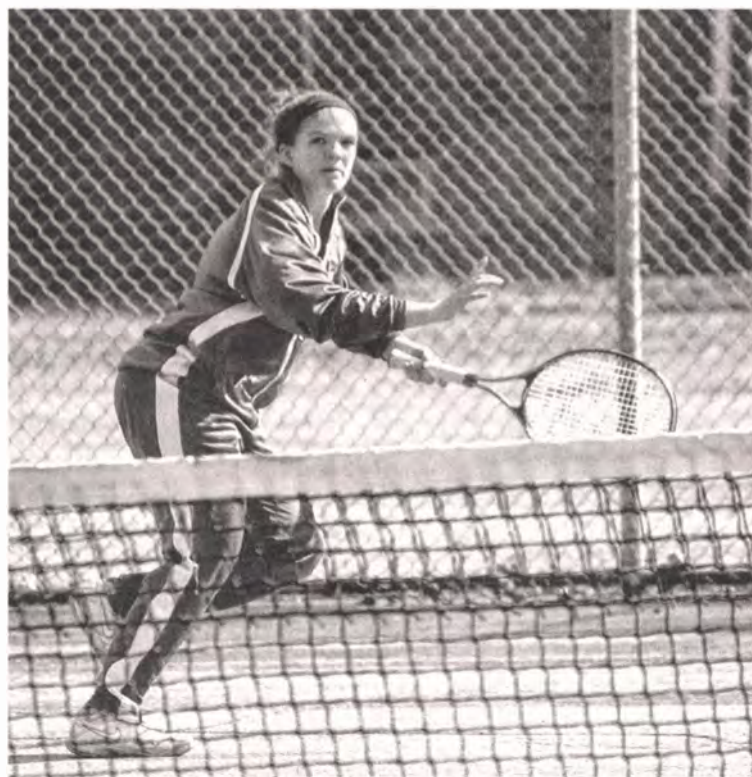
The Zebras dropped just one set in singles play. No. 1 player Janae Strickland defeated Malaysia Martin, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, while No. 2 netter Kendelle Hood swept Makayla Hines, 6-1, 6-4.

Ciera Case kept the momentum flowing for Wayne with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Gifty Tawiah at No. 3 singles before No. 4 player Ryleigh Strong was too strong for Andi Edwards, 6-0, 6-0.

Wayne's top doubles duo of Danialle Lynn and Rachel Cheriyan defused Leanna Carreon and Hanna Mcelmeel, 6-2, 6-3.

Also picking up points for Wayne were the No. 3 doubles tandem of Macey Wolf and Sara Hively, who triumphed Bryanne Campbell and Camille Hollins, 6-0, 6-1; and the No. 4 twosome of Britany Nahle and Tirzah Ault, who white-washed Tori Miller and Megan Bjerck, 6-0, 6-0.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Redford Union's Abby Walters eyes a forehand return during a match earlier this week.

Scott Martin Band in Canton releases its first CD

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Scott Martin had just finished his second acoustic album in 2007, when he decided to turn a solo music career into a team effort.

"I needed a band, so I recruited some fellows," said Martin, a singer-songwriter who plays guitar and harmonica.

Eight years and a few personnel changes later, the Scott Martin Band has released its first CD, *Play*. And although the band carries Martin's name, the Canton resident stresses the group truly is an ensemble act.

"Each guy brings to the table something, not necessarily musical, although that is first and foremost," said Martin, who writes original songs in addition to booking gigs.

Drummer Tony Archer came up with the album's name. Steven Haack, bass guitarist, is Martin's "right hand man," and longtime friend. David Roof, the band's newest member, recorded the album at his studio, Rooftop Recording in Grand Blanc.

"Steve suggested it should be a full band effort. It took us seven months to record the album. The four guys currently in the band play on every cut. There are no additional musicians."

10-song CD

Nine of the songs are originals, penned by Martin. *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen, also on the album, is among the many cover songs, including rock, alternative and alternative country, that the band performs at venues such as Sean O'Callaghan's and Plymouth Roc, both in Plymouth.

"We had to get licensing for the song. I thought it was a hoot because I had to write a check to Bruce Springsteen. It was kind of a fun process. I took a picture with my cell



The Scott Martin Band, Scott Martin (left), David Roof, Steven Haack and Tony Archer, recently released its first CD.

SUBMITTED

phone of the check — which he hasn't cashed yet."

The CD is available at the band's shows and it can be downloaded online from CD Baby and iTunes.

Upcoming shows include Sean O'Callaghan's Saturday, April 11, and B Boomers Sports Bar & Grille in Allen Park, Friday, April 24. The band will be back at Plymouth Roc on May 29. Scott Martin Band also has played at several Backyard Beats summer concerts in Canton and will perform Saturday, June 20, at Canton Liberty Fest.

"I don't mind playing covers. I don't like playing the same covers all the cover bands play. We try to be really

picky and tasteful about what we play cover-wise. We play everything from Stevie Wonder to Bruno Mars, Goo Goo Dolls to Tim McGraw. We try to be diverse."

Young musician

Martin, who graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, grew up in a musical family in Westland. His mother played piano and his grandfather played accordion and harmonica.

"I was blessed with music nonstop in our household from the earliest of my memories ... Buddy Holly, Elvis, Fats Domino. My late father played some guitar but always had music on," he said. "We shared

that love of all things musical throughout the house.

"I have played music one way or another since I was in single digits — 8 or 9. The song writing and singing and guitar playing started in my teens."

Martin took drum lessons and played percussion in junior high and high school bands. He also sang in the high school choir and played in local rock bands.

"It was after high school I picked up the guitar." He played acoustic solo shows before forming the band.

Martin, who is married and the father of two grown children, also plays drums in a rockabilly band, Nobody's Business. He said he enjoys

the musical and social aspects of performing but never considered music a financially-viable career. He has worked for Ford Motor Co. as a group leader at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne for 27 years. Two other band members work nonmusical day jobs. Only Roof is involved in music full time.

Martin said he feels blessed the band continues to book gigs at local venues.

"I hope we sell a lot of CDs and that people come to our shows and recognize the songs."

Visit the band's page on Facebook and at reverbnation.com/scottmartinband.



Dueling piano players take flying leaps at their keyboards.

Dueling Pianos International to film concert in Canton

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Twelve pianists will take the stage two at a time to mix piano skills, vocals, fast-paced comedy, and sing-alongs Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The entertainment concept, known as dueling pianos, pairs two pianists in an interactive concert.

"There is a lot of audience participation. The audience is just as much a part of the show as the entertainers are," said Jason Scarcelli, executive director of Lorio-Ross Sterling Entertainment, Royal Oak, which is bringing Dueling Pianos International to the stage.

"There is a sing-along. And it's not to be confused with a *Kumbaya* moment around the campfire. It's a sing-along in that the audience is encouraged to shout out the hook to

their favorite songs."

But that's not all. The performers will recruit willing audience members to join them on stage throughout the show.

"We want to stress the word, volunteer," Scarcelli added.

The show is at 7 p.m. at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$15, available by calling 734-394-5300. Buy online through April 2 at cantonvillagetheater.org and pay \$13.

Private, public shows

The performers will include four Michigan-based musicians and eight others from across the country. They're among 273 pianists on the Dueling Pianos International roster who perform at corporate functions and theatrical events worldwide. Dueling Pianos International also staffs piano bars such as 526 Main, in Royal Oak.

"This will be a little differ-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A dueling piano player mixes comedy and musicianship during his act. Twelve dueling pianists will perform Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater in Canton.



An Elton John impersonator will be among the dueling pianists who will perform Saturday, April 4, in Canton.

ent than seeing it in a bar. In a bar, guests would be going in

and out of the show, mingling with each other. This is almost like a concert because the

audience won't have any distractions," Scarcelli said. "We'll be featuring a lot of talent, as opposed to strictly sing-alongs."

"These entertainers are the best dueling piano players in the country. Before they are piano players, before they are singers, they are entertainers."

The musicians will include Bill Connors who impersonates Elton John, and Marshall Charloff as Prince. The concert will be filmed to create a promotional piece for Dueling Pianos International. Scarcelli hopes the film will be used in a reality-style television series set to air next year.

"The more enthusiastic the audience is, the more they are screaming and shouting and singing along to the hooks and laughing, the better chances are (the film) will augment the reality series."

For more about Dueling Pianos International, visit duelingpianoshow.com.



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Use food color to create custom egg dyes you won't find in a kit. Visit McCormick.com for seasonal color combinations.

Brighten your Easter feast with unique flavor twists to refresh traditional dishes like ham and deviled eggs. And don't forget the decorations — it's easy to create vibrant centerpieces using eggs dyed in the hottest seasonal shades.

"We've developed easy tips to dress up your table, from the ham to the centerpiece," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "An orange glaze can bring new flavor to the classic ham, while food color can be used to make a variety of spring-inspired egg dyes to feature in Easter table décor."

For more Easter dinner recipes and egg dyeing ideas, check out www.McCormick.com and visit McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.

Courtesy of Family Features



ORANGE GLAZED HAM

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour 45 minutes
Servings: 24

1 bone-in spiral-cut ham, about 10 pounds
1 cup orange marmalade
1 teaspoon mustard, ground
½ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon black pepper, ground
¼ teaspoon cloves, ground

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham on side in roasting pan. Mix marmalade and spices in small bowl until well blended. Brush ½ marmalade mixture over ham, gently separating slices so mixture can reach middle of ham. Cover loosely with foil.

Bake 1 hour, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Remove foil. Brush with remaining marmalade mixture. Bake 45 minutes longer. Serve ham with pan drippings.



SMOKY DEVILED EGGS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
¼ cup mayonnaise
½ teaspoon McCormick Mustard, Ground
½ teaspoon paprika, smoked
¼ teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
2 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher.

Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, smoked paprika and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon.

Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

Tip: Deviled eggs are a snap to customize once you create the base of egg yolks, mayonnaise and ground mustard. Try adding chili powder, red pepper and cumin for a Southwest variation or dill weed and parsley for a dill and mustard version.



EASY LEMON DAISY CUPCAKES

Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 18

1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons pure lemon extract, divided
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, softened
2 tablespoons sour cream
1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar
10 drops McCormick Yellow Food Color
18 large marshmallows

Decorating sugar
Jelly beans
Green sprinkles

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding 1 tablespoon of lemon extract. Spoon into 18 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup ¾ full. Bake as directed for cupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire rack. For frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and remaining 2 tablespoons lemon extract in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Stir in food color until evenly tinted. Frost cooled cupcakes.

To decorate cupcakes, cut each marshmallow crosswise into 5 slices. Sprinkle 1 side of each marshmallow slice with decorating sugar. Arrange 5 marshmallow petals on top of each cupcake to resemble daisy, pressing marshmallows into frosting. Place jelly beans in center of petals. Garnish with sprinkles.