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Westland is budgeting for higher
revenues in fiscal year 2015-16

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland expects to see a revenue increase thanks to a 1.65-percent average increase in property tax values and the addition of just over \$370,000 to the undesignated fund balance.

Mayor William Wild and his staff presented their overview of the proposed 2015-16 budget to council. Only one-year budgets are adopted but estimated budgets were presented for the following three years as well.

The proposed budget of nearly \$62 million is about \$1 million higher than the current fiscal year budget. Westland's current millage rate of 18.8 mills will be unchanged under the proposed budget and also under projections for the following four years.

"This is the first taxable-value increase we have seen in seven years," Westland Finance Director Steve Smith said. "We expect that trend to continue with the economic climate and the building activity we are seeing."

Among the additional revenues pro-

jected in the budget:

» Revenue at 18th District Court has been increased to \$4.5 million. "We've seen jumps in the current revenues — \$4.6 million last year and \$4.4 million the prior year," Smith said. "So it's a good number."

Those revenue increases are attributed in part to the Police Service Aid program, which added civilian staff to allow more officers to be on the road. The city expects that trend to continue due to four additional police officers hired under the federal COPS grant.

» The city expects to see one-time revenue of \$650,000 from the sale of a city-owned cell tower. The sale would need to be approved by council.

» It is projected that Westland will see a just over \$200,000 increase in constitutional state revenue sharing, taking it to \$6.7 million. Going forward, Smith said a 3-percent annual increase is expected.

On the expenditure side:

» Non-union staff at 18th District

See BUDGETS, Page A2



Fans of the Easter Bunny line up for a little face time.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marshmallow Drop
ushers in Easter holiday

Hunting season was canceled for marshmallow droppers who ventured out to Elizabeth Park in Trenton on Friday morning, but the sun was shining and the weather pleasant by the time the Easter Bunny's helicopter took to the air at 11 a.m. for a visit to the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

The cancellation of the Downriver event due to dense fog may have been a first in the 31-year history of the Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop where thousands of youngsters scramble to retrieve marshmallows dropped from a helicopter and turn them in for prizes.

Youngsters who made it to Elizabeth Park didn't leave disappointed. While there was no shower of marshmallows, there were prizes for each child.

At Nankin Mills, 20,000 marshmallows were dropped during three trips over the Nankin Mills picnic area where youngsters were divided in three age groups: 4 years and



Who runs faster, kids or moms? It looks like a dead heat as the youngest marshmallow hunters head out.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See DROP, Page A2

Wife of slain
referee files
\$51 million
lawsuit

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The wife of a slain Westland referee has filed a \$51 million lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against the man who went to prison in her husband's death, as well as the soccer league and team he played for.

A lawsuit was filed Friday morning listing Kristen Bieniewicz as the plaintiff. Listed as defendants are: Bassel Saad, the man who struck her husband, John Bieniewicz, during a soccer match he was officiating last June; the Bintiell Stars Football Club, the team Saad played for; Jamal Alsaghir, the owner and operator of the Stars Football Club; and Michigan United Soccer League, the league the team played in.

The suit asks for \$51 million, \$1 million for each year John Bieniewicz was expected to live for, according to a doctor's estimate, said James Aho, the Livonia attorney representing Kristen Bieniewicz.

"Plaintiff's decedent, John C. Bieniewicz, was in extraordinary physical

See LAWSUIT, Page A2

Cities, school
district host
forum on roads
proposal

The cities of Wayne and Westland and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools have joined together to present a community forum, Understanding the Roads Proposal, which will be before voters on May 5.

The forum will be 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road.

There will be a brief presentation about the state proposal by the Michigan Municipal League. City and school officials also will share information

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Candidates begin filing for Wayne, Westland city elections

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Voters in both Westland and Wayne will be going to polls this year to elect council members. Westland voters will also be electing a new city clerk for the first time because the position became an elected post. Incumbent Eileen DeHart Schoof, 66, will be not be seeking reelection.

Wayne voters will voting with a ward system for the first time, along with voting for a new mayor.

Westland

Along with electing a city clerk — a full-time

position earning \$91,000 and serving a four-year term — Westland voters will be filling four council seats.

Incumbents with expiring terms are Council President James Godbout, along with councilmen Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves. Johnson and Reeves have each paid the \$100 fee in lieu of nominating petitions to seek reelection.

Non-incumbents Steve Boron — who unsuccessfully ran for state representative as a Republican in 2014 and Libertarian in 2012 — and former Wayne-Westland Schools board member Debra Fowlkes have

also paid \$100 in lieu of nominating petitions to run for council.

“Three other people pulled nominating petitions but they haven’t returned them, so they aren’t candidates yet,” Schoof said. “The deadline in April 21. I’ll get more people filing.”

An August primary will be required, if more than two candidates are seeking open seats. That means more than eight candidates for council, more than two for clerk.

In November, the top three vote-getters in the council race will earn four-year council terms, while the fourth-place finisher gets a two-year term.

Wayne

This year for the first time, Wayne voters will be casting their ballots based on a ward voting system. Under regulations recently approved by council to implement the charter amendment, candidates must live within one of six newly created wards.

During the primary election, voting for the candidates is limited to voters from that particular ward. In the general election, voting will be citywide.

This year, candidates will be elected in Wards 1, 2 and 3. If they decide to run for reelection, councilmen John Rhaesa

and Skip Monit would be incumbents in Wards 2 and 3. There isn’t an incumbent in Ward 1.

All of the council seats have four-year terms.

Voters at large will select someone to serve the remainder of James Henley’s council term. Henley resigned last year about six months into a four-year term. David James was appointed to serve until the next regular election.

Unlike council, the mayor only serves a two-year term. Current Mayor James Hawley was appointed to serve until the November election following the resignation of long-time mayor

or Al Haidous. The resignation came after Haidous was elected to the Wayne County Commission last year.

Last year, Wayne voters also approved term limits which will keep incumbent Councilman Albert Damitio from running for reelection.

The filing deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. Westland is accepting nominating petitions currently, Wayne begins taking nominating petitions April 7.

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ROADS

Continued from Page A1

about the proposal’s impact on their communities and school district. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

The forum is open to the public.

In December, the Michigan Legislature decided to put the proposal before voters in May. If approved, it would:

- » Eliminate the sales and use tax on vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel.
- » Increase the state’s sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent.
- » Dedicate 60 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax and an amount equal to 12.3 percent of the first 5 percent of the use tax to the School Aid Fund. Currently, 60 percent of the first 4 percent of the sales tax is earmarked for the fund.
- » Provide for the School Aid Fund to be

used exclusively for aid to public K-12 and community colleges and eliminate universities as an allowable use for the fund.

- » Dedicate 15 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax to be used for revenue sharing with townships, cities and villages. Currently, 15 percent of the first 4 percent is earmarked for revenue sharing with local governments.
- » Increase the fuel tax to 41.7 cents per gallon from 19 cents per gallon of gasoline and 15 cents per gallon of diesel.
- » Remove the depreciation discount for annual vehicle registration fees.

The House Fiscal Agency has estimated that the sales tax increase would generate more than \$1.6 billion per year, with \$1.2 billion going toward roads, \$130 million to mass transit, \$300 million to the school aid fund and \$95 million to local governments.

Trial date set in fatal beating of woman

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A June 22 trial date has been scheduled for four men charged in connection with the beating death of a Westland woman whose body was found dumped on a Dearborn Heights street.

Terrence Harold Johnson, 44, and Randy Batts, 31, are charged with first-degree murder and torture in the death of Diedre Akins, 46. Johnson was Akins’s live-in boyfriend, sharing a home on Grand Traverse in Norwayne. Both men have been held in jail since their arraignments.

The medical exam-



Hurston-Herron Bashlor Batts Johnson

er’s autopsy report found that Akins, whose body was discovered on Powers near John Daly early Jan. 18, had died of multiple blunt-force trauma injuries, including to her head, and had suffered several broken ribs.

Two other Westland men — Michael Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23 — are charged with being accessories after the fact.

The charges are that Bashlor and Hurston-Herron helped dispose of Akins’ body.

Both are jailed in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond. All four defendants have entered not guilty pleas. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Qiana Lillard is scheduled to hear the case.

Dearborn Heights Police began investigating the case after Akins’s

body was found without any identification.

Later the same day Bashlor, accompanied by a cousin who is a Detroit Police officer, came to the Westland Police Department to provide information in the case. That led officers to obtain and execute a search warrant at the home on Grand Traverse where Akins and Johnson were living.

Subsequent testimony was that an argument over drugs had escalated into a fatal beating.

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BUDGETS

Continued from Page A1

Court are scheduled for 2-percent pay raises.

- » The Fire Department budget includes funding to hire three additional firefighters. The new firefighters wouldn’t start until Oct. 1, which would save the city about \$35,000 over a July 1 hire date.

The city has applied for a SAFER grant to fund 13 new firefighters. If that funding, for a two-year period, is received, Budget Director Debra Peck said the three budgeted positions wouldn’t be needed.

Westland and Wayne have a merged fire department, sharing the services of Michael Reddy as chief. The city estimates saving approximately \$185,000 annually by having a shared chief who is contract employee.

Administration is recommending a five-year extension of Reddy’s contract with a \$15,000 raise effective July 1. That would take Reddy’s salary to \$130,000 — as retired Westland fire chief, he receives a pension and benefits from the city’s retirement program. Wayne contributes \$50,000 toward Reddy’s salary.

- » Westland also shares the services of Department of Public Services Director Ramzi El-Gharib with Westland. The recommendation in this budget is to make El-Gharib a full-time employee at an additional \$20,000 cost. As a Wayne retiree, El-Gharib receives no insurance from Westland, and Wayne would continue to contribute to his salary.
- » Established with proceeds from the Taylor Towers refinancing, the Capital Outlay Fund has 2015-16 projects proposed, including refurbishing the Mike Modano Ice Arena with construction of four new locker rooms — one for females

— improvements to restrooms and other areas, along with a new ice resurfacing machine.

Additionally, the proposed budget would replace a fire rescue vehicle. Proposed renovations at the police station are out for bid and because the project is being evaluated, including phases, it wasn’t included in the proposed budget.

Next up, city departments will begin presenting their proposed budgets. The first session is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 18. The second session is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 20. Both meetings will be held at Westland City Hall.

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page A1

condition, approximately 6’4”, 185 pounds, with very little body fat, having run close to 30 miles a week while refereeing soccer, for the last 20 years,” the court complaint reads. “In addition, Plaintiff Bieniewicz adhered to a strict dietary regimen, and was the epitome of perfect physical condition for a 44-year-old male.”

John Bieniewicz was in the process of pulling out a red card during the match Saad was playing in last June at Livonia’s Mies Park when Saad struck him, several witnesses testified to during court hearings. That blow led to Bieniewicz

icz being declared dead two days later.

A message was left for Brian Berry, one of the attorneys who represented Saad during his criminal proceedings, Friday morning seeking comment. An official who answered the phone at the Michigan United Soccer League’s office in Royal Oak referred comments to president Rick Cook. A message was left for Cook seeking comment Friday morning.

The complaint alleges the soccer league did not have adequate screening in place for its players. Saad faced some charges after striking another soccer player during a match in Canton in 2005.

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DROP

Continued from Page A1

younger, 5-7 years old and 8-12 years old. While only one marshmallow was needed to claim a prize, kids scrambled to get as many as they could. One lucky child in each age group walked away with an extra special prize after finding a colored marshmallow.

The annual 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.

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Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

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School-city partnership gives students hands-on building skills

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

When house prices dropped and people had increasing difficulty qualifying for a mortgage, Wayne-Westland Community Schools decided to stop having homes built by its construction technology students, at least temporarily.

At that same time, Westland was receiving federal money from programs like the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to fund home construction and rehabilitation.

"We partnered with the city. It was a win/win. We take a blighted property and put a new one in its place," said Mark Valchine, William D. Ford Career Technical construction technology instructor. "The partnership of working with the city is exponential to what the students learn."

Along with constructing new homes or rehabilitating blighted ones, the construction students work on other smaller



Campbell

Wild

community projects.

"Whether is a pavilion (for Rotary Park) or the Free Little Libraries, the students love it," Valchine said. "They love seeing their projects around the community."

Great partnership

Calling it a great partnership, Westland Mayor William Wild noted the students would be working on a new pavilion at Curtis Woods Park this year. The students are in the process of installing a wooden gym floor at the new Jefferson Barnes Community Vitality Center. The floor had been removed from the closed Bailey Recreation Center.

"This has allowed us to do projects we would not have been able to do otherwise," Wild said. "And it provides great job-skills development for the students. It's great hands-on experience."

Calling Valchine the driving force of the program, Wild said it's pretty impressive to think of all the students who have been prepared for real world jobs.

The first- and second-year construction technology classes have 80-90 high school students, with additional students in the evening adult-education program.

"This has been a great partnership; it has worked out so well," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell said. "(Deputy Community Development Director) Rick Gowan thinks these are the best-built homes in the city with the instructors, Rick and Dave Parker (another staff member) out there daily and the professionals like plumb-

ers who work on the home."

The increasing sale prices for the building trades partnership homes is telling, Campbell said.

"It is really a sign of how NSP works and still works stabilizing neighborhoods," said Campbell.

Increasing prices

In 2011, the students built a home in the 31000 block of Birchwood at a cost of \$75,000 and it was sold for the same amount. The sale was nearly break-even in 2012 but in 2013 sale prices began exceeding construction costs. In 2013 a home built on Second for \$80,000 sold for \$94,000. The 2014 home, in the 400 block of Hix, was built for \$85,000 and sold for \$119,000.

"We've seen the (real estate) market as a whole get stronger," Campbell said.

A second part of the partnership with the schools is that the Homebuyer Assistance Program is utilized to assist

with the home purchases. Program criteria are based on income — 80-percent area median-income limits — the ability to qualify for a mortgage and sales price.

The current year home is in the 34000 block of Marquette where the city approved a lot split and consolidation to create two buildable lots. Built for \$85,000, Campbell said that home is listed for \$149,900.

"The realtor recommended listing it for \$179,900 but the median income is \$50,000, so that price would be too high for (income eligible) buyers," Campbell said.

The Homebuyers Assistance Program helps low- to moderate-income families purchase homes and was used in selling all of the student-constructed homes. That assistance can include help with a down payment, along with educational programs on credit and financing.

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LPS teachers union: Campaign violation deserves warning only

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Complaints filed against Livonia Public Schools and its teachers union alleging violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act should be dismissed in the district's case and result in no more than a warning letter for the union, according to responses the district and union sent to the state Bureau of Elections.

Livonia resident Loyd Romick filed a complaint with the Michigan Secretary of State alleging the district and union violated the law by sending campaign-related messages to LPS email addresses. Specifically, the complaint against LPS says an email supporting certain LPS school board candidates for the November election was sent to LPS addresses. In Michigan, it is a misdemeanor

or for a public body or an individual acting on its behalf, to use or authorize the use of computer hardware or software or other public resources to make a campaign contribution or expenditure.

The complaint against the Livonia Education Association and the Michigan Education Association says they contributed to certain LPS candidate committees by sending a campaign-related email to their 1,000 or so teachers. A knowing violation is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000.

A letter from Goodman Acker, the law firm representing the teachers union, says an employee of the Michigan Education Association/Livonia Education Association mistakenly sent the communication using the wrong email list and the MEA/LEA will reimburse the district \$21.02

for the use of the list, the same amount it charged for the list in response to a recent FOIA request.

The letter says the complaint is "virtually identical" to one investigated by the state attorney general after a county clerk inadvertently used the county computer system to send a fundraising email on behalf of Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to a statewide list. The investigation determined the cost of the use of the email system was too minor to merit consideration and should result in no more than a warning letter.

As in that case, the use of the LPS email list and server were inadvertent and should result in no more than a warning letter, the letter from Goodman Acker says.

A letter from Keller Thoma, the law firm representing LPS,

says the email was not drafted nor sent by the district or a person acting for the district, but rather a secretarial employee of the MEA, Pat Gearn, who mistakenly used the district's email system. "Representatives of the MEA immediately acknowledged and apologized for this error," the letter says.

Gearn is an MEA employee and does not act for nor on behalf of the district, the letter says: "To suggest that the school district is somehow responsible for the content of the email in this case is akin to contending that any employer is responsible for the content of every email (spam or otherwise) that is delivered to its employees through its email system."

Romick said he expects to file rebuttal statements. He has 10 business days from

March 23, the date he received copies of the responses, to do so.

Dated Oct. 14, 2014, the email recommended four of the eight candidates running: Mark Johnson, Colleen Burton, Liz Jarvis and Dan Centers. Only Centers ran unopposed. All four were elected; those who had opponents won by more than 2,200 votes each. The email also stated the MEA office had signs and literature "if you want to stop by."

LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa previously said, "The school district was not involved in this. It was a simple mistake in which an MEA employee selected an incorrect email list when sending information. We do not believe it was intentional."

LEA President Joanmary Nenninger did not return calls from the Observer.

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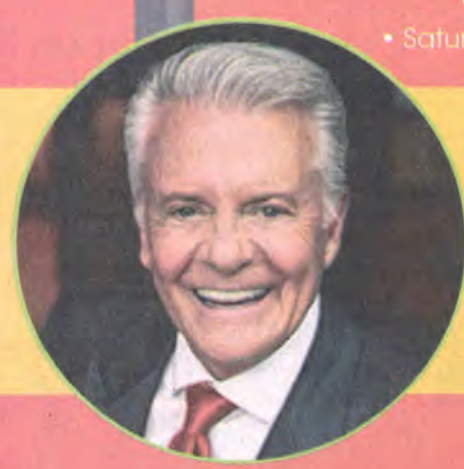


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Laurel Park Place to undergo \$5M renovation

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Laurel Park Place will receive an estimated \$5 million facelift in an effort to attract new and younger shoppers. The project was announced at a press conference Thursday at the Livonia shopping center, built in 1989. Construction starts this week and is expected to be finished in November.

The renovations include a brighter, more modern color scheme, new flooring, new seating and energy-efficient lighting.

"We want to create a fresh, exciting retail experience," said Todd G. Huhn, the mall's general manager. "We hope to boost the mall's overall character by introducing patterns and colors that create movement and interest throughout the common area."

"We want to bring in new people, attract a younger, fresher crowd,"

he said.

The retailer H&M, which specializes in family fashions at affordable prices, is moving into the mall later this year, taking up the space of seven stores fronts and necessitating the relocation of the mall offices and long-time tenant Charisma Salon.

Sarah Enlow, marketing director for Laurel Park Place, said the mall management team strives to keep the selection of retailers "fresh and exciting." Currently, there are 75 stores, including anchors Carson's and Von Maur.

CBL & Associates Properties bought the 500,000-square-foot mall in 2005.

"Other than the food court addition that we made about five years ago, the property has been largely unchanged since it was built," Huhn said. "It has become dated. CBL has always had a history of investing in their properties; the time has come for Laurel



Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia hopes to attract new customers, including younger shoppers, with \$5 million in renovations expected to be completed by November.

Park."

Huhn said the hope is to draw new customers to the mall, both Livonia residents who have bypassed the mall in recent years and those from outside the community.

The mall is on Six Mile, just east of I-275.

Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West, who attended the press conference, said it is an exciting project for a property located in the hub of the community. He said the mall continues to be a favorite among shoppers because of its size and the ease with which people can get in and get out.

"It's great for our city, great for our mall and great for the I-275 corridor," he said.

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Building on old hospital land coming down

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The far west structure, building 72, on the old Northville Psychiatric Hospital property will be coming down now that an asbestos abatement and demolishing contractor has been selected by the Northville Township Board of Trustees.

The township board awarded a \$197,200 contract for demolition of the rundown building to Adamo Group. There is a 10-percent contingency on the project. The township owns the property and is working on clearing and has taken down a couple other buildings including the power-



This building, No. 72, at the former Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital on Seven Mile, is to be torn down soon.

house.

"We've had success with Adamo before in terms of the demolition prison (former Scott Prison at Five Mile and Beck roads) and they worked to our satisfaction and they were the low bidder," said Township Board Trustee Marv Gans at the March 19 meeting.

This past year AKT

ty for \$19,530.

Township residents approved a bond of \$23.5 million in 2009 to purchase the property. The township has used grant funding and some of its own to begin the cleanup and demolition of the buildings on the site.

The plan is all ready underway on the REIS side of the old property, which has them constructing retail and commercial sites to go along with the University of Michigan Medical facility on the remaining 68 acres of the 350 acres.

The township plans on developing its portion into park land. Next steps this spring will have Adamo preparing for the full tear down.

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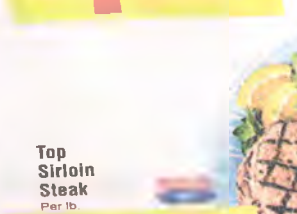
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‘Inflatable colon’ stops by hospital to teach people about colorectal cancer

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Patients and employees of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia saw a sight Tuesday near the south lobby they aren't likely to forget anytime soon.

As a part of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, which wrapped up in March, the local office for the American Cancer Society has taken an "inflatable colon" tunnel around Southeast Michigan, allowing visitors to see up close how various diseases affect their body.

It's a tool that certainly saw plenty of attention at the hospital, said Dr. Paul Friedman, a surgeon who works with patients on colon issues at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

"A 15-foot colon you're walking through is not something subtle," he said. "It really gets people's attention."

The idea behind it is to encourage people to get regular checkups before something develops that requires major surgery, Friedman said.

"If you treat it early, the results are far better than they would be if something was presented or showed up later," he said. "They're talking about screening and colonoscopies for people over 50 years of age. If it's normal, you don't necessarily need another one for 10 years."

Colorectal cancer, also known as colon cancer, is the third-deadliest cancer in the United States for both men and women, according to the American Cancer Society. There is a 90 percent survival rate of the dis-

ease if it is detected early, though only 40 percent of people with the disease are diagnosed then due to low testing rates.

Jennifer Nagy with the American Cancer Society said she's toured with the inflatable colon throughout March, taking it to area hospitals, malls and other public places to help teach people the importance of colon health.

She said the campaign has shown signs of success: In addition to those who take pictures of the colon and post them on Facebook or Instagram, many have shown an interest in trying to schedule a doctor's appointment.

"It's all about education and awareness in the end," she said. "Most of the time, it's answering the questions the community has."

The stop at the Livonia hospital Tuesday was the last on the tour.

It's important for patients to keep tabs on their health, even in between routine colonoscopies, Friedman said. He said sometimes a colonoscopy is needed even in between those done every decade, depending on what a doctor finds or what symptoms show up in a patient.

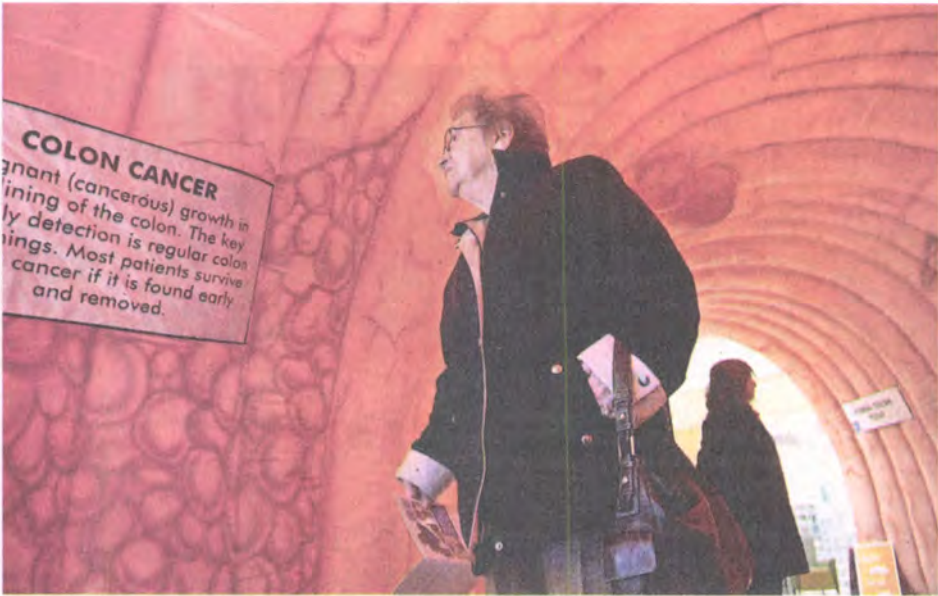
"The basic idea is at 50, then, depending on what's found, maybe every three years, every five years or every 10 years," Friedman said. "Symptoms, when you see a doctor, will often trigger a recommendation for a colonoscopy."

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Jill Lauterbach and Carol Pooya, both of Livonia, take a look at the colon.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ernestine Calderone, of Detroit and Yolanda Calderone, of Bellingham, Wash., walk through the colon.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Dr. Paul Friedman, MD, FACS, is a surgeon at St. Mary Mercy Livonia.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reconstruction of I-96 began one year ago



It's been one year since I-96 shut down for reconstruction. Some minimal work will continue this spring on the project, but it will have little impact on drivers.

FILE PHOTO

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Tony Corey no longer worries about losing another wheel rim driving I-96 to work.

"When they fixed it, I was able to know I wasn't going to have any more tire issues," said Corey, who moved to Livonia from Dearborn three years ago. "It's a lot smoother."

Sunday marks the one-year anniversary of contractors shutting down the seven-mile stretch of freeway from Telegraph to Newburgh in Redford and Livonia. That shutdown lasted more than five months, forcing drivers to find an alternate route to get to work. It crowded local roads, changed traffic signal timing and even led Google Maps to remove the stretch of free-

way from its online maps program while it was under construction.

Even after the freeway reopened following a "family fun day" Sept. 21, crews continued to make minor repairs and enhancements to the freeway, something that continues this spring.

The work is minimal compared to the freeway closure, however. It includes planting 500 trees, rehabbing a pump station along the freeway, adjusting the right-of-way fence at 10 locations to improve sight distance and other punch list items.

Also being worked on is the installation of a drain in the northern embankment near Yale. This is needed after there was excessive water flow onto the freeway last summer.

All the work will be done with single-lane

closures during off-peak hours, said Diane Cross, a spokeswoman with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Despite the chaos the construction caused traffic, Redford Chamber of Commerce executive director Marti Swek said she and others were happy the freeway was closed completely to allow for reconstruction to finish sooner.

"We're back to our normal flow of traffic here," she said. "You can pull out onto Five Mile without having to sit and wait."

She said she had not heard if there were any chamber member businesses in the township that saw sales drop too significantly, but said she could not speak for all the businesses along the freeway.

Corey said he and his wife were just recently

reminiscing about the work to reconstruct I-96 throughout Redford and Livonia. He said it's hard to believe it's already been a year.

Keeping the freeway looking as good as it did when it reopened in September is the only challenge Corey sees while driving it home from work to his house. The freeway can be littered with a wide array of items, including a bumper left in the shoulder of eastbound I-96 earlier last week.

But other than that, he said MDOT handled the work and communication with drivers wonderfully.

"I don't have any complaints," he said. "I think the way they did I-96 should be a model plan for the way they do future freeways."

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Livonia Stevenson celebrates 20 years of Japanese language courses

Shown in its name, in its school colors and in its course offerings, Livonia Stevenson High School is truly global. A special 20th anniversary celebration of the school's Japanese language courses on Tuesday afternoon is reflective of the school's decades-long focus on global education in Livonia.

SHS Principal James Gibbons noted that Stevenson's namesake is Adlai E. Stevenson, the fifth U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in the 1960s. The school, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this fall, was the in the U.S. to be named after the ambassador. Gibbons noted that the SHS light blue color in its logo represents the United Nations.

In keeping with its global focus, Stevenson first opened its Global Education program 30 years ago. Ten years later, the school began to offer Japanese language courses as an elective for students.

"We're very proud of our global presence here at Stevenson," Gibbons said.

Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama, Honorable Consul General of Japan in Detroit, attended the celebration.

"Congratulations to staff, students and teachers on 20 successful years of Japanese language education," he said, noting that he has been impressed by the offerings at Stevenson High School since coming to the Detroit area in September 2013.

"I've heard great things about Stevenson High School," he said, acknowledging the many Japanese contests and quiz bowls the SHS students have won.

This year, the team of Michael Wilson and Nicole Chua placed second in the state at the Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl. Davis White was a final-

ist in the Michigan Japanese Speech Contest and presented his speech on March 28 when he received the Consul General's Award. Ashley Usery was also a finalist in this competition and she placed third in the Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl. Erin McAfee took first place in the artistic category in the Nengajo Contest (Japanese New Year's Card).

Katayama said Livonia and Japan have a "close friendship," adding that there are 27 Japanese companies with facilities located in Livonia and approximately 300 people are employed at those facilities.

"Livonia is No. 3 in Michigan for the number of Japanese companies with facilities," he said.

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa said the district is very proud to offer specialized learning opportunities for students, such as those offered through the Global Education program, the Japanese language courses, the International Baccalaureate program at Franklin High School, which was the first IB diploma program in Wayne County, and also the newest addition to LPS, the Niji-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School.

"These are all examples of the global opportunities we are offering to our students here in Livonia," he said, noting that his own children took advantage of those opportunities when they attended Stevenson.

Liepa congratulated the staff and students on the anniversary and said the program's longevity is a testament to those who founded it two decades ago at Stevenson.

"What a wonderful accomplishment," he said. "It really speaks to our brand, that Livonia Public Schools offers many opportunities for our students to succeed."



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stevenson High School Japanese students have won many awards in Japanese quiz bowls and other contests. Pictured from L-R front row: Jacob Grosan, Jenna Serazio, Kathryn Dave, Ashley Usery, Faith Young (Nicole LaPointe behind Faith); Back: Andy Roskelly, Kyle Gill, Nathan Lipski, Hunter Dewhirst, Lukas Richters, Alec Said, Jacob Triplett.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Niji-Iro students actively listened and watched the performance by the SHS Japanese language students during the celebration on Tuesday.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SHS Japanese instructor Melisia Taylor performed the "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" song with the students.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ayata Nakamura has a blast during the singing and dancing performance with SHS Japanese language students, including Ashley Usery, who is pictured behind him.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rin Kobayashi and Kirara Noguchi sing and dance during the celebration of Japanese language classes in Livonia Public Schools. Pictured behind them: Faith Young, Jenna Serazio, Nicole LaPointe.

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- told by others that the pain is from a bursa in the knee
- wants advice on what is or is not safe to do

The doctor will begin by establishing how much this pain diminishes the patient's ability to exercise and interferes with his or her way of life. Then the doctor will question and examine the patient with the intent of establishing a diagnosis. The possible causes for the pain include the patient's concern of phlebitis, a ruptured baker's cyst, osteoarthritis, sciatica and strained calf muscles.

Learning from the patient the pattern of the pain, examining the legs for swelling, moving the legs and the lower extremity muscles to elicit pain, and possibly taking x-rays of the knees or ankles, provides the diagnosis.

In this instance, the patient is experiencing muscle strain.

Then the doctor can answer the question of what the person can or cannot do. The physician will start the discussion by noting that the adage: "No pain, no gain," is wrong. If the patient engages in an exercise or activity that causes the calves to hurt, the patient should stop that activity. "No pain, no gain" is only appropriate for normal muscles one is trying to strengthen.

Then the doctor informs the patient that resolution of the pain may take months. Healing requires rest but daily life necessitates movement.

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Focus on investment return, not taxes

Q: Dear Rick: How can I avoid a relatively large tax bill and still take advantage of my taxable mutual fund investment? Until 2012, I did our taxes and I usually received refunds from \$500-\$1,000. Most of the tax account was CDs which resulted in low interest payments. In 2013, the taxable account was moved to various Fidelity mutual funds covering stocks and bonds. Since then, I have paid taxes to the IRS \$1,550 in 2012; \$1,140 in 2013 and \$1,925 in 2014, based on dividends, short-term and long-term capital gains. If I move the investments into a low-expense index fund it may reduce the tax



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

liabilities since the index funds are relatively stable. Does this make financial sense?
A: Your focus is on the wrong spot — what you paid in taxes. Focus on what ends up in your pocket.
Even though you paid more in taxes, your investments made substantially more than they did in the CD, and even after paying the higher taxes you have more money. Exactly how it should be.
At many of my seminars, I always ask for a

show of hands for anyone with a main financial goal to lower their taxes. Inevitably, a fair number of people will raise their hand.
I always choose one of these people and ask them why they don't want to win the \$5M lottery. Of course, they always respond that they do want to win the lottery. But then I point out that if one of their major financial goals is to lower their taxes and they win the lottery, it would increase them substantially.
I recognize that everyone would want to win the \$5M even though it may cost them \$2M in taxes. The reason is that when it comes to the lottery, people will focus

on what ends up in their pocket. Unfortunately, they don't do that with their investments, which is a mistake.
Index funds may not reduce your tax liability. After all, index funds make capital gain distributions and they also have dividends, and in the case of bond funds, interest.
One alternative to consider is tax managed funds where portfolio managers run them and implement certain strategies to offset gains and losses. Vanguard has a number of tax managed funds to consider. The beauty of these funds is they are tax sufficient and make good economic sense. Another great thing about Vanguard

Funds is that they are low-cost and commission free.
Tax considerations are important, but they're not the most important thing. After all, particularly when it comes to investments, we're talking about capital gain taxes and for most people that's 20 percent or below. Therefore, when people are focusing on taxes, they're focusing on the 20 percent not the 80 percent.
Our tax laws are complex and, unfortunately, getting more so. Over the last 10 years, we've had more than one tax law change a day. Therefore, for the great majority of people, what you think you know about taxes is generally wrong.

In addition, the majority of investments — such as annuities — are sold with the idea that they have great tax breaks and that is wrong. In fact, in many situations like annuities, they don't lower your taxes, they actually raise them. More importantly, they don't put more money in your pocket.
When it comes to investments, be smart with taxes but don't let the tax tail wag the dog. Focus on what ends up in your pocket after taxes.

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

State senator touts Proposal 1 as 'product of compromise'

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, acknowledges that Proposal 1, set for a May 5 vote, isn't perfect.
"It's a product of compromise," Hopgood told Westland Rotary members and guests April 2. "It wasn't my first choice." If not approved by voters, he said, "then I don't think we're going to fix the roads well and certainly not soon."
Hopgood noted it took a "really visual crisis" to put the roads issue in the forefront. "Raising taxes is always a little more difficult," he said, also agreeing enforcement of truck weight limits is an issue.
If approved, Proposal 1 would increase sales/use tax to 7 percent, as authorized by constitutional amendment. It would also:
» Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
» Increase portion of use tax dedicated to the School Aid Fund.
"Every year we delay is a year lost," he said of road repairs.
Challenged by a Rotarian on legislators passing the roads issue

to voters, Hopgood said, "I think it's a promise. I'm not into threatening people."
"Can work together"
Hopgood, 40, a Taylor resident, said of Republican dominance in Lansing, "Some of the big philosophical things have been a challenge." The support of Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican legislators for career-technical education is common ground for Hopgood, who cited Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center.
"It's a real example of where we can work together," he said. "I don't want that to prevent me from moving good public policy forward."
Energy use is also an issue for Michiganders, he said. "To figure out how to meet the needs of the state of Michigan can be a challenge."
Coal is brought here from Appalachia. "Coal isn't necessarily the cleanest way to produce electricity," he said.
Federal rules on emissions also mean some smaller, older coal-based power plants will close. Hopgood noted natural gas is volatile in price, adding he hopes Snyder pushes for stronger energy policies.



Of Rotary clubs, including Westland, state Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, said, "I think that they're a great piece of the community. I really enjoy visiting them."

Hopgood also touched on education and school funding. "I tip my hat to you for doing things in the community and trying to make a difference," he said, referencing Rotary literacy

efforts as well as Snyder's third-grade reading initiative.
Wayne-Westland as a district has been challenged under Proposal A, he said. He reiterated the need for skilled workers.
"We can get skills to our young people and they can go out and be more readily employable."

New district

Hopgood, a married father of two, was born in Korea and moved here when adopted as a toddler. He's a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in political science, and is pursuing a master's degree in public policy through Northern Michigan University.
His district, newly drawn in 2014, now includes Westland, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, Sumpter Township and Taylor.
He served three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives before moving to the Senate, where he's a lame duck.
Of Rotary Clubs, the legislator said, "I think that they're a great piece of the community. I really enjoy visiting them."
His dad was active in politics, and Hopgood got his start as a legislative aide in Lansing for his state representative, later running for and winning that seat.
"Spending time in Westland is very important," he said of his new, large community to represent. He's been to Cooper Upper Elementary and Schweitzer Elementary recently for visits.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Lions to offer free hearing, vision screening April 25

The Lions Clubs of District 11A1 of Lions Club International will offer free hearing and vision screening during its annual convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel - Livonia from April 24-26.
Free hearing and vision screening tests will be available to the general public from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, on a first-come, first-served basis.
Free hearing screening for all ages will be provided by the Lions Hearing Center of Michigan and will take place in Room 150 of the Embassy Suites Hotel - Livonia.
Free kids vision screening will be provided by Lions Kids Sight and will take place in Room 151 of the Embassy Suites Hotel - Livonia.
The Embassy Suites Hotel - Livonia is at 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia. Victor Parkway is just east of I-275 and runs between Seven and Eight Mile roads.
District 11A1 consists of 35 clubs with a total of approximately 1,000 Lions serving the communities of Wayne and Monroe counties.
For more information about the free hearing and vision screening tests, call 313-279-1494.

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, **on April 28th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

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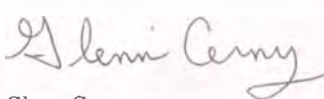
Publish: April 5th, 2015

Devin J. Adams
City Controller
LO-000273145 3x2

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
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 2 and 5, 2015

LO-000023944 3x2

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, April 21, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2015-03-01-02 submitted by Trinity Health-Michigan, d/b/a St. Mary Mercy Livonia Hospital, pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone land adjacent to the south end of the hospital at 36475 Five Mile Road, located on the west side of Levan Road between Five Mile Road and Schoolcraft Road in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20, from RUF (Rural Urban Farm) to PO I (High Rise Professional Office).

Petition 2015-03-01-03 submitted by Leo Soave, pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the properties at 35700, 35800 and 35850 Ann Arbor Trail, located on the north side of Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne Road and Newburgh Road in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 32, from RUF (Rural Urban Farm) and C-1 (Local Business) to R-1 (One Family Residential - 60' x 120' Lots).

The above-mentioned petitions 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
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: April 5, 2015

LO-0000336729 3x4

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:

Marching Band Musical Equipment Bid for the 2014-2015 School Year

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 "Marching Band Musical Equipment" will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 10th 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 10:00 A.M. on the 10th 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 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

"Marching Band Musical Equipment"

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

Publish: April 5, 2015

LO-000027811 3x8



Chupac



Packer



Surowiec



Murray



Scafero



Brown



Bumbar

Metro Airport Ambassadors earn President's Volunteer Service Award

Sixty-three Airport Ambassadors at Detroit Metropolitan Airport were honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award at a banquet luncheon held at DTW's Westin Hotel.

With more than 500 hours served, Sam Gemus of Riverview, Diana Surowiec of Redford, William Bialkowski of Dearborn and Sharon Kelly of Trenton received the prestigious gold pin, along with Shuta Suzuki of Novi from the youth category. The President of the United States issues the award every year to volunteers to thank and honor Americans for their volunteer service.

"There is no question that the helpful and

friendly service provided by our volunteer Airport Ambassadors increases overall customer satisfaction at Detroit Metropolitan Airport," Airport Authority CEO Tom Naughton said. "To have five of our volunteers earning a gold pin from the President is outstanding."

In 2014, DTW Airport Ambassadors answered nearly 340,000 questions at six locations throughout the airport in both terminals. Ambassadors can be identified by their blue vests assisting travelers or helping connect lost and stranded passengers with their families.

Winners were presented with a bronze, silver or gold pin correspond-

ing with the level of service reached in 2014, along with a certificate and letter from President Barack Obama at an awards luncheon held at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things," President Obama said.

Silver Volunteer 2014 Presidential Service Awardees went to Joe Scafero of Livonia, 490.25 hours; Daniel Packer of Livonia, 400.50 hours; Carla Chupac of Livonia, 345.00 hours; Traci Sincok of Plymouth, 332.25 hours; Donald Green of Plymouth, 286.50 hours; Roy Brown of Redford, 272.00 hours, and Ruth Bumbar

of Redford, 255.25 hours.

At the Bronze Level were Cheryl Regnier of Canton, 227.50 hours; Mary Pannemann of Canton, 225.25 hours; Flora Murray of Livonia, 217.50 hours, and Lonnie Haines of Canton, 145.75.

The President's Volunteer Service Awards were established in 2003, and are officially issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

To learn more about the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Ambassador program, visit www.metroairport.com/volunteer. To learn more about how to qualify for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov or call 866-545-5307.



SUBMITTED

Trevor Sullivan at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor with Birmingham Groves coaches Brendan Flaherty (left) and Brian Baldrige. Sullivan, of Southfield, was planning on playing football at Groves next year. The coaches came to visit him and they retired his number 56 jersey which he wore at Berkshire Middle School during the past season.

Olympic skaters show their heart at Detroit Skate Club

Bronze Olympic medalist and four-time National Champion Jeremy Abbott will be performing a special routine ahead of a night of open skating, food and music to benefit Southfield teen Trevor Sullivan who is in need of a heart transplant.

"We were asked if we would be willing to skate in a show to help raise funds for Trevor's transplant. The answer was a very obvious yes. No one should have to go (through) what he is going through, and with something like this, the medical expenses can become very steep," Abbott said.

"This is a great way to help benefit Trevor and his family, plus the show is full of extremely high-caliber skaters, which will be very entertaining. You will be doing a good thing, and be entertained as well — it's a total win win."

Joining Abbott for the 7 p.m. performance Friday, April 10, will be 2015 U.S. Bronze Medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue; 2014 Canadian team

Olympians Alexandra Paul and Mitchell Islam; Alissa Czisny, two-time U.S. Ladies Champion; and Harmony Theatre Company, a Theater on Ice Team, which was the national champion in 2012 and is currently the national Silver Medalist.

The fundraising event is to benefit Sullivan, a 14-year-old Birmingham middle school student and football player who suddenly developed cardiac failure in February and is now awaiting a heart transplant. The community is rallying around the teen to help his parents with medical and other associated bills, including a GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/mpf11w. You can also keep up to date with Trevor at www.facebook.com/groups/TeamTrevor/.

An open skate with food and music will follow the performance from 7:20-8:30 p.m. The Detroit Skate Club is located at 888 Denison Court, Bloomfield Hills. Suggested donation is \$10 for the evening. Rental skates available.

Stabenow seeks HOPE for Alzheimer's patients, families

By Sandra Armbruster
Staff Writer

SOUTHFIELD — John D. MacInnes put a face to Tuesday's discussion about Alzheimer's.

The 87-year-old Bloomfield Hills man took his turn, standing and offering comments that earned applause from the audience that had gathered in Southfield to hear U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow discuss legislation she has introduced in Congress. That legislation, if approved, would offer education and options to families of Alzheimer's patients.

MacInnes had some ideas of his own.

"Eight years ago I was diagnosed with Alzheimer's," said the articulate MacInnes, noting that he had just had an appointment with his neurologist. "She said that at your stage now, you should not be driving. 'I tell you, that's a blow.'"

MacInnes would later go on to offer comments on the needs of those with the disease that robs its victims of their memories — things like a better transportation system in the metro area and expanded use of

caregivers to support families.

A stigma

The meeting had been marked by speaker after speaker commenting on a medical community that they said frequently considers a diagnosis hopeless and doesn't continue treatment.

There is a stigma to an Alzheimer's diagnosis, said Kristin E. Cahill, a social worker with U-M's Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center. And she saw MacInnes, who has served on the Alzheimer's Association advisory team, as the antithesis to that stigma.

Cahill commented on what she said was MacInnes' dignity, eloquent speech and ability to "give back," and she called for others to "still respect people" who have the disease.

That's part of what Stabenow wants her legislation to do — offer hope to families and the Alzheimer's patients who, she said, sometimes are never even told what their diagnosis is. One in every three people will suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia, she said.

Added to that is a lack of care available in the African-American com-

munity, said Paula Duran, a psychologist with an office in Farmington Hills who has devoted herself to helping fill that need.

Bringing HOPE

Stabenow, whom the Alzheimer's Association praises for her advocacy, said that her proposed bipartisan legislation would bring HOPE (or Health Outcomes, Planning and Education for Alzheimer's Act). The legislation would bring information and treatment options to those caring for patients, she said.

To those who worry about cost, Stabenow said that to not offer HOPE would cost more, but she worries about cuts in the next budget for both Medicare and Medicaid.

"It doesn't have to be this way," she said. "The economy has turned around ... We're coming out of the hole."

She suggested that loopholes allowing companies that "pretend to leave" the U.S. and not pay taxes should be closed.

Stabenow and officials with the Alzheimer's Association encouraged those present and the general public to "not

take no for an answer" when advocating for patients.

"It's about priorities and values," she said.



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Easter with Jesus: 1973 film version of 'Christ' still resonates with audience

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Sandy Ramirez couldn't wait to get her Jesus hug.

She was among the hundreds of people Wednesday at the Maple Theater in Bloomfield Township to see a special screening of the 1973 version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and to meet actor Ted Neeley, 71, who starred in the movie and spent the past 40 years or so playing Jesus in various stage productions.

"When I came in here, I saw Ted standing in the lobby," said Ramirez, who came to the screening with her sister, Amy McAdams. "I gave him a huge hug and I told him this is the only way I'll get to hug Jesus on earth."

By her account, it was the 28th time she had seen the movie.

"I would take the bus from Detroit to the Americana (in Southfield) just to see it," she said. "I dragged all my friends with me, I knew all the songs. It's just a terrific musical and a great story."

Before the movie started, Neeley and three other cast members from the film — Barry Dennen (Pontius Pilate) and Bob Bingham (Caiaphas) and Kurt Yaghjian (Annas) — sat on stage inside the auditorium and shared with the audience their experiences filming in Israel and other parts of the Middle East.

Director Norman Jewison had just wrapped up another musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, when he decided to tackle the story of Jesus and his last seven days on earth as a man. The film, an adaptation of the



The four main cast members from the 1973 film version of "Jesus Christ Superstar": Ted Neeley (Jesus), Barry Dennen (Pontius Pilate), Bob Bingham (Caiaphas) and Kurt Yaghjian (Annas).

1970 rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, is considered one of the great musicals of all time.

Hugs and autographs

Livonia residents Tristan Babcock and Cassie Haupt came to the see the movie for the first time. Babcock works at the Radisson Hotel in Farmington Hills, where Neeley happened to be staying.

"I checked him in," Babcock said. "We were talking for about 15 minutes when he told me he was in this movie and I should come out and see it."

Babcock said Neeley was interested in hearing about the local charities in the area and mentioned he's a big fan of Forgotten Harvest.

Royal Oak residents Abbey Lilly-Lacca and Jordan Segal stayed around after the movie to get an autograph and hug from Neeley.

"He's so great with his fans," she said. "The fact that he takes the time to hug each and every person in line is something I've never experienced at one of these events," she said.

Donna Griffin and her son, Alexander McCarthy, 17, a senior at Canton High School, came from Plymouth to see the show and meet Neeley.

The movie came out roughly 25 years before McCarthy was born, but like most fans he knows all the songs and lyrics.

"We've watched the movie so many times," Griffin said. "He literally grew up with it."

Bridget Theodoroff

and her daughter Fiona drove from Washington Township to see the movie.

"We watch it every Easter," she said. "It gets us spiritually ready for Holy Week."

She also shared part of the conversation she had with Neeley after getting her autograph and hug.

"We told him when he went to heaven, hopefully years and years from now, Jesus would be proud of him," she said with a smile.

Walking in those sandals

Neeley was already an established Broadway star when he auditioned for the part. He admits he was a bit scared at first, taking on the responsibility of "walking in those sandals."

Neeley and other cast



Livonia residents Tristan Babcock and Cassie Haupt attending a special screening of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Maple Theater in Bloomfield Township.

members were starring in a Broadway production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* before the movie was filmed. It was met by loud protests from all religious circles and the cast wasn't even sure if the film would be released.

But in the end, everything worked out. He met his wife on the set and carved out an iconic role that he's still performing in theater productions around the world.

"I'm the luckiest man alive," he told the audience. "And I just happened to be in the right place at the right time when I landed the role ... if there's a dream out there you want to pursue, I say go for it."

Neeley said playing the role of Jesus helped

shaped his spiritual identity and brought him "nothing but good things." He said over the years he's met many people who told him they discovered their faith watching the movie.

"You can't walk in those shoes without feeling something," he told the audience. "Imagine walking in those sandals in Israel — it was a daily epiphany"

For Dennen, who played the role of the Roman governor, wearing a giant cape while filming in the middle of the desert was hot.

"It was boiling hot," he said. "It was like acting inside a sofa."

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John Glenn goalkeeper Jackie Mueller (pictured during a game earlier this season) played well in the Rockets' 1-1 draw with Livonia Churchill.

PREP SOCCER ROUNDUP

John Glenn, Churchill battle to 1-1 deadlock

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's up-and-coming girls soccer team earned a 1-1 draw against host Livonia Churchill in a KLAA South Division game played Wednesday night.

The Rockets' lone goal was scored by Kendra Pennington.

Holding the Chargers' offense in check was John Glenn goalkeeper Jackie Mueller, who "played outstanding," according to Rockets' head coach Ralph Cabildo.

Spartans tie SLE

Livonia Stevenson's Megan Verant ripped a waist-high cross from Jesse Wagner into the back of the net late in the first half Wednesday night to help the Spartans earn a 1-1 draw with visiting South Lyon

East.

The result left the Spartans with a 2-1-2 overall record and 0-0-1 mark in the KLAA Central Division.

"We gave great pressure the second half, but were unable to break the deadlock," said Stevenson head coach Chris Grodzicki.

The Cougars' lone goal was netted 30 minutes into the first half when a ball played down the left wing eluded the Spartan defenders.

"Hannah Reamer came out to cut the angle, but the ball was slotted to the far post," said Grodzicki.

Verant answered five minutes later, but that goal concluded the scoring.

Trojans post first win

Clarenceville earned its first victory in girls soccer

Wednesday with a 7-0 defeat of River Rouge in nonleague play.

The Lady Trojans (1-3) didn't allow a single shot on net and didn't allow the Panthers to get inside their 18-yard line. Clarenceville dominated the field on offense, too, with more than 25 shots on goal.

Jordan See was the leading scorer with four goals. Nickendra Thomas, Samantha Franco and Jillian Bunker added one goal each.

"Dawn Longoria and Sarah Curvin played aggressively on offense and created multiple scoring opportunities for us," Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody said.

"We looked strong by having good communication, passes and shooting opportunities throughout the entire game."

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

GAME ON!

Franklin slugs way to opening-day victory

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A two-out rally turned into a two-out rampage for Livonia Franklin's softball team Wednesday afternoon at Livonia Stevenson.

The five-run, second-inning outburst set the tone for the Patriots' 13-3 five-inning victory in the season opener for both teams.

The first three hitters in the Patriots' batting order – senior Becky Giacobbi, freshman Ashley Kent and sophomore Brooke Garbarino – formed a menacing trio as they scored a total of nine runs and knocked in seven.

The threesome also joined forces to hit for the cycle as Giacobbi rocked a double and a triple while Garbarino launched a line-drive home run over the left-field fence in the fourth.

Making her varsity softball debut, Kent lined three singles, two of which were run-producing hits.

Clean-up hitter Megan Chapman also enjoyed a productive afternoon as she went 2-for-4 with three RBI.

"I was impressed with our hitting," said Franklin head coach Linda Jimenez. "Our young girls all hit the ball well. We need to work on our pitch-



Stevenson's catcher tracks down a foul pop Wednesday afternoon against Franklin.

ing a little bit. At times we pitched like we were losing 13-3, not ahead."

Lead-off batter Kassidy Lipinski went 2-for-3 with an RBI for Stevenson. Seniors Natalie Moore and Laura Coleman were the only other Spartans to record hits (both doubles).

Chapman pitched the first four innings to earn the victory for Franklin. In addition to the four hits, she walked five.

Moore went the distance in

See VICTORY, Page B2



Franklin's Ashley Kent ripped an RBI single during Wednesday afternoon's season-opening victory over Stevenson.

TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW

Mass exodus of seniors won't faze Spartans

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Florida sunshine will be drawing several members of the Livonia Stevenson boys track-and-field team south this week for spring break vacations, but it won't totally distract the Spartans from staying sharp for the two-month schedule that lies ahead.

After losing a whopping total of 27 seniors from its

talented 2014 team to graduation, the Spartans realize they can't take a week off and maintain an edge.

"I'm planning on running on the beach every day while I'm down there," said Stevenson senior captain Mike Muffler, who is traveling south with fellow senior captain Nick Hitchcock. "I'll try to get at least a mile run in every day to

See STEVENSON, Page B2



Pictured from left are Livonia Stevenson track-and-field athletes Ladarius Sharpe, Christian Sullivan, Nick Hitchcock, Mike Muffler and Erik Grisa.

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BOYS TRACK PREVIEW

Franklin looking to keep strong run going

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Livonia Franklin boys track-and-field team may be smaller and younger than in years past, but the Patriots still have the potential to be mighty.

A perfect 5-0 in KLAA South Division dual meets last year and division champions three of the past four seasons, Franklin will again have a target on its back – however, it's tough to hit a target that moves as swiftly as many of this year's Patriots.

"The quality and effort of the guys who came out this year is solid," said Franklin head coach Pat Koelzer. "While our distance group should consistently generate points, the other events will often depend on the opponent's strengths and weaknesses."

"Our sprinters should once again be competitive, but we're still building in hurdles and most of the field events."

The talent base of Franklin's strong cast of returners is diverse, ranging from distance standouts Keenan Jones and Tony Floyd to lightning-quick sprinters Nathan Rodgers, Brandon Smiley and Matt Wirick.

"Keenan is the school record holder in the 3,200, 2014 regional champ in the 1,600 and a two-time state qualifier," said Koelzer. "He is the leader of the distance crew and will be putting up a lot of points for us again this season."

"Tony has emerged as a strong distance runner over the past two seasons. He has been a key competitor in dual meets for us. Coming off a very successful cross country season, Tony is looking to



Senior sprinter Nathan Rodgers reaches for the baton during the 800-meter relay Tuesday afternoon at John Glenn.

make some noise in the bigger meets as well and earn his way to the state meet."

The Patriots' sprint crew is fast and deep

thanks to the return of Rodgers, Smiley and Wirick.

In addition to owning the school's 200 dash record, Rodgers was a key member of the Patriots' well-decorated 400 relay team that qualified for the 2014 state meet.

Just a sophomore, Smiley is primed to build on a fabulous freshman season, while Wirick, who is a senior like Rodgers, is versatile.

"Nathan is the leader of our sprint squad and looks to return to the state meet in a relay and in an individual event," Koelzer noted. "Brandon made an immediate impact as a freshman and Matt expects to be a key contributor again and a big point-contributor for the team."

Senior Charles Keith returns as the Patriots' biggest threat in the jumps.

"Charles came a long way in the high jump last season," Koelzer said. "He earned some very important dual-meet points for us in the high and long jumps. This season he should be more competitive in the bigger meets and hopes to be shooting for state-qualifying height by the end of the season."

Koelzer concluded by saying his team's dual meet schedule will be demanding, as always.

"The KLAA South will be more competitive than ever," he said. "Each dual meet has the potential to go down to the last event. We hope to be in the mix again at the end of the season. In the meantime we will continue to develop our athletes and find the best place for our newcomers to make an impact. It should be a fun season."

ewright@hometownlife.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

SELLERS MARKET

Franklin senior delivers clutch hit in win over Stevenson

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Role player one season, game-changer the next.

That's the path Livonia Franklin senior Hunter Sellers has followed recently.

After serving as a situational contributor last year as a junior, Sellers has earned a regular spot in the Patriots' line-up this year – and he delivered in a big way during Franklin's 7-3 victory at Stevenson Wednesday afternoon.

With the game knotted at 2-2, the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the seventh inning, Sellers drilled a sharp single to center field off Spartan reliever Nate Bunton, plating two runs and sparking a five-run eruption that sealed the deal for the Patriots, who take a 4-1 record into the spring break layoff.

"I'm happy for Hunter because he put a lot of work in over the off-season and he's making the best of his opportunity to play this season," said Franklin head coach Matt Fournier. "That was a clutch hit for us – 3-2 count, bases loaded, two outs. He's really done a nice job for us."



Franklin sophomore Kolby Dewhirst limited Stevenson to two runs over six innings Wednesday afternoon.

Sellers finished the day with two hits, two RBI and two runs. Franklin junior Joe Chinavare was also a tough out, going 3-for-4 with two RBI.

The Spartans, whose record is now level at 2-2, scored single runs in the first and second innings to seize a 2-0 lead. C.J. Breen and Chris Tanderers delivered the early RBI hits for the hosts.

After scoring once in the fourth on Chinavare's two-out RBI double, the Patriots drew even at 2-2 thanks to a Stevenson throwing error.

That set the stage for Sellers, who has shown he's ready to provide a steady bat in what has proved to be a solid Franklin batting order.

Sophomore starting pitcher Kolby Dewhirst earned the victory after giving up just two runs

and three hits over the first six innings. Dewhirst walked three and struck out three.

"I thought Kolby threw well," said Fournier. "He wiggled out of a couple early jams and weathered the storm."

Jack Ferguson pitched the first five innings for Stevenson, giving up two runs (one earned), seven hits and three walks. Ferguson struck out five.

Bunton took the loss after yielding three runs in 1.1 innings.

Franklin outthit Stevenson, 9-4.

Along with pitching the seventh for the Patriots, Mitchell Gonyaw went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run.

Tanderers finished with two RBI and a run for Stevenson. Gordon Ferguson and Dan Bos had one hit each for the Spartans.

VICTORY

Continued from Page B1

the circle for the Spartans, who committed seven errors behind her. Moore struck out three, hit two Patriots and issued just one walk.

Along with her stellar day at the plate, Garbarino sparkled behind it as the Franklin catcher threw out one would-be base-stealer at second and picked another runner off first.

With the bases

jammed with Spartans in the bottom of the fourth, Giacobbi made a fine running catch in center.

Franklin scored once in the top of the first when Giacobbi was hit by a pitch, stole second, advanced to third on a ground-out and scored on Chapman's single.

Stevenson countered with one in the bottom of the inning when Lipinski singled, moved to third on a walk, stole third and scored on a throwing error.

The Patriots loaded the bases with two outs

in the pivotal second when Giacobbi laced a two-run triple up the left-center field gap. Kent then singled home Giacobbi before the Patriots scored two more runs in the frame on an error – the third of three committed in the inning by the Spartans.

Stevenson got one back in the bottom of the third when Coleman led off with a sharp double to left, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Lipinski's single.

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PREP BASEBALL

Mustangs stampede Churchill in opener

Livonia Churchill's baseball team got Flohr-ed in its season-opening game Wednesday afternoon at Northville.

Mustang hurler Evan Flohr yielded two hits and two walks while striking out eight over four innings to lead the hosts to a 10-0 victory.

Robbie Copciac suffered the mound setback for the Chargers as he yielded six hits and two walks over three-plus innings.

The Mustangs' big inning was the fourth when they pushed across four runs to widen their advantage to 8-0. They added two more runs in the sixth.

Nate Guzowski had a hit and a walk for Churchill, which was hampered by four fielding errors.

Dugan Darnell was pest most of the day for Northville as he doubled, walked, stole a base and scored two runs. Connor Walters chipped in with two singles and two RBI.

Wildcats nip Rockets

Host Novi padded a precarious 2-1 lead with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning Wednesday afternoon before holding on for a 4-1 victory over Westland John Glenn.

Senior southpaw Brendan Wetmore was the hard-luck losing pitcher for the Rockets after limiting the Wildcats to just four hits and two runs over five in-

nings. Wetmore struck out three.

"Brendan threw really well," said John Glenn head coach Lawrence Scheffer. "It's early in the season and we're watching his pitch count."

"Overall, I thought we played a good game, especially for our first game out."

Zach Croft, Brian Martin and Bernard Snell accounted for the Rockets' three hits. Croft had Glenn's lone RBI.

Panthers on prowl

On Wednesday, Redford Union bounced back in a big way from Monday's lopsided loss to Garden City with a 12-1 victory over host Harper Woods.

The Panthers sent 12 batters to the dish in the top of the first inning when they scored six runs to set the tone.

Senior left-hander Vince Diaz stymied Harper Woods' bats over five innings as he gave up just two hits while striking out seven.

"This was a nice bounce-back win for us," said RU head coach Bob Miller. "The guys were embarrassed about the game the other day and they came out focused and ready to play."

"I was very impressed by the Harper Woods team. They were up cheering on the fence even when they were down 12-0. There was no quit in them."

Freshman lead-off hitter Tyler Collard had a

game to remember for the winners as he walked four times and scored twice.

"This kid is just a baseball player," said Miller. "We tried him at second base against Garden City and we had him at third [against Harper Woods]. He has great mechanics no matter what he's doing. He knows how to play the game."

Several other Panthers excelled, including Tommie Lewis (two runs), Jacob Gagnon (two runs, two RBI), Diaz (two runs, two RBI) and Brandon Bratt, who had two RBI.

Zebras fall

Salem exploded for six runs in the first inning Wednesday before coasting to a 14-4 victory over Wayne Memorial in a KLAA Kensington Conference cross-over game.

The Rocks struck early against Zebra starting pitcher Devin Pucket, who managed to register just three outs. Beau Smith threw 2.2 innings of relief, giving up eight runs (five earned) while striking out three.

The Zebras' offense was paced by Pucket, who went 1-for-1 with a run; Kent Goodling (1-for-2, RBI, run); Jacob Griffith (1-for-2, RBI, walk); Angelo Wiggins (1-for-2, run); Brian Struppa, who scored a run after drawing a walk and stealing second.

– Dan O'Meara

STEVENSON

Continued from Page B1

stay in shape."

Senior Erik Grisa, one of the Spartans' top distance runners, concurred with Muffler's spring break regimen.

"My dad is a runner, so he'll keep me on a running schedule while we're down there," said Grisa. "Coach gave me a sheet with workouts on it, so I'll probably wake up at eight

every day and get it done."

Sophomore sprinter Ladarius Sharpe, who edged Muffler in the 100-meter dash to win the event at Tuesday's season-opening dual meet against Northville, will join several Spartan athletes at spring break practices on the school's track.

Sharpe, Muffler and senior Christian Sullivan give Stevenson a terrific trio of speed merchants in the shorter distances.

Sharpe said he realized he might be significantly quicker than many of his peers during his second year of middle-school track.

"Once I started practicing and running more, I started doing better, and the more races I won, the more I enjoyed it," he said. "I love running fast. It's a big part of who I am."

Given the wintry elements, multiple-hour meets and all the distractions that the end of senior year can present, participating in track and field can be an enduring experience if you don't truly love the sport.

"I like it because you're out here working together with your friends, helping everybody out," said Sullivan, who is an accomplished

long jumper in addition to a stellar sprinter.

"The feeling of being good at something and trying to get better at it is what I like about running," added Grisa.

Stevenson head coach Scott Shaw draws comfort in knowing that the voids left by the mass graduation losses can be made up not only by the 13 returning seniors, but by a strong supporting cast of younger athletes like Sharpe.

"This is the youngest team we've had in a while," he said. "I'd say probably two-thirds of our team is freshmen and sophomores, but it's a good group of young guys, so we'll be all right. We have four or five sophomores who are making an impact already."

The Spartans are coming off a successful 2014 spring in which they placed second in the KLAA Central Division, second at the Observerland Relays and second at the Kensington Conference meet.

They also won the Livonia City Meet for the ninth time.

Other key contributors this spring will be senior thrower Connor Vaughan, sophomore Jack Valint, junior Mike Licata and senior Jake Plisko.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearings at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on **Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, regarding the proposed **Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.**

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	PROJECT TOTAL
GRAND TOTALS:	4,305,338	5,080,000	3,419,000	3,216,900	3,724,500	19,745,738
TOTALS BY FUND						
General Fund	961,338	1,866,000	717,500	965,400	1,103,000	5,613,238
Grant Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major Streets	390,000	370,000	370,000	370,000	370,000	1,870,000
Local Streets	1,225,000	1,145,000	1,145,000	1,145,000	1,145,000	5,805,000
Cable/PEG Fees CDBG	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water/Sewer Fund	1,266,500	1,036,500	986,500	686,500	1,106,500	5,082,500
DDA	462,500	662,500	200,000	50,000	-	1,375,000

Copies of the Capital Program are available for inspection at the Office of the City Clerk, Monday through Thursday, 9am – 5pm, Garden City City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734) 793-1620.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
City Clerk / Treasurer

Publish: April 5, 2015

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All-state hockey players dominate area honors

FIRST TEAM
Mick Sinclair, F, Stevenson: The owner of game-changing talent and leadership qualities, the senior center was the catalyst of the Spartans' run to the Division 2 championship game. Sinclair earned second team all-state and first team all-KLAA accolades after racking up nine goals and 14 assists during the regular season.

"Mick was the do-everything guy for Livonia Stevenson," Spartans coach David Mitchell said. "He played and excelled in all situations. He was a four-year team member, the captain and leader of the team."

"He was absolutely an extension of the coaching staff on and off the ice, which is what you want and need from your captain. He had an extremely successful and decorated high school career."

Noah Willer, F, Salem: Whenever the Rocks needed a clutch goal in big-time games, Willer came through time and time again. He led Salem's march to the Division 1 quarterfinal, scoring 25 goals and adding 18 assists for 43 points.

The senior forward and assistant captain tallied six points in four tourney games, including a goal and assist against University of Detroit-Jesuit in the quarterfinal at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor.

Willer's strong all-around play earned him all-KLAA honors, as well as D1 all-state honorable mention accolades.

"Noah is a pure goal scorer who uses his body exceptionally well to protect the puck," coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "He led our team in power-play goals each of the last three seasons and (was) a tremendous leader on and off the ice."

The third-year varsity player ended his career fourth all-time in Salem goals.

Josh Smith, F, Plymouth: It was another very successful season for Plymouth and the efforts of Smith had a lot to do with that.

Smith netted 13 goals among 24 points in 26 games and the senior captain was a strong plus-16 player for the KLAA South Division champion Wildcats.

He led Plymouth in points, assists, game-winning goals and shots on goal and the forward was honored with selection to the all-KLAA team, as well as earning D1 all-state honorable mention kudos.

"Josh is one of the most complete players I have coached in high school hockey," coach Gerry Vento said. "He's solid in all three zones on the ice. His hard work, determination and team-first mentality is what made him the ultimate captain."

Austin Bottrell, F, Farm. Unified: The senior forward set a team record for single-season points with 62. Bottrell was good at scoring goals and being a playmaker, scoring 34 goals and assisting on 28.

He had a hat trick in four games.

Bottrell was the fourth-leading scorer in the rugged OAA Red Division and was named to the Division 1 all-state second team. A three-year varsity player, he will play junior hockey somewhere next season, according to coach Ken Anderson.

"Austin had the best season by a player in our nine years as a team," Anderson said. "Obviously, he excelled offensively, but also was very responsible in our end. We could count on Austin to generate scoring opportunities all year long."

"He has a potent snapshot and knows where to put it. We counted on him in every situation and very rarely did he disappoint. When we needed him, he was there for us."

Drake Cole, F, Farmington: The senior forward was a powerful presence on the attack for three years with the Falcons. He was one of the



leading scorers in the OAA and area the past season with 35 goals, 16 assists and 51 points. Cole, who is looking for a place to play junior hockey next season, had 115 points in three varsity seasons, scoring 68 goals and recording 47 assists. He was named to the Division 3 all-state second team.

"Drake had a great year," coach Bill Newton said. "He was definitely our leader and lived up to all of our expectations. He just got better and better and topped it off with a really nice senior year."

"He was a big part of our (2014) state championship team, too. He'll find somewhere to play at the next level and will do very well."

"Drake is the prototypical forward, what you would call a power forward. He's big and strong and skates very well for a big guy. He can get to places on the ice where he can score goals. He can score beautiful goals and ugly goals. They all count for one."

Noah Saad, D, Salem: The 2014-15 Rocks played like they were on a mission and a catalyst for that mind-set was Saad.

The senior captain was a standout in sparking Salem's sweep of top 10 teams Plymouth, Northville and Brighton in the D1 regional, sending the game against the Wildcats to overtime with a booming goal from the point.

Hard-hitting and durable, Saad provided standout leadership qualities. Ossenmacher said the blue liner "played every other shift and logged a tremendous amount of ice time."

Saad, a third-year varsity player, chalked up three goals and 21 assists, making the D1 all-state second team and all-KLAA squad. With those 24 points, he moved up to second place in career scoring by a Salem defenseman.

"Noah plays with a speed and physicality that few high school defensemen can match," Ossenmacher said. "He has been a consistent performer for us each of the last three seasons."

Alec Allen, D, Stevenson: Allen's motor was always running in first gear for the Spartans, who fed off his relentless work ethic. A two-way threat, Allen tallied two goals and 16 assists while earning first team all-state and first team all-KLAA honors.

"Alec is a player who thrives on competition and has a strong desire to improve," Mitchell said. "Alec only knows one way to play the game and that is to go as hard as he can. Whether a game or practice, Alec's approach was always the same, which is needed to become the type of player he has become. Alec played and excelled in all situations and will be very exciting to see how his career progresses in future years."

Cullen Barber, G, Stevenson: Barber's spectacular season was rewarded when he was presented with practically every postseason award available, including a berth as the starting goalie on the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association's Dream Team and the state's Most Outstanding Goalie award.

While splitting time with last year's starting goalie Andrew Rozenbaum, Barber went 8-1-1 during the regular season with a 1.71 goals-against average and .925 save percentage. He took over the crease on a full-time basis once the post-season kicked in and delivered several outstanding efforts.

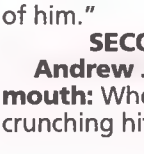
"Cullen just kept earning more and more ice time with his play," Mitchell said. "He is the ultimate competitor, both in games and in practice."

"He seemed to thrive on big situations and stayed calm under pressure. All his accolades for this season were very well-deserved. He has an extremely bright future in front



of him."

SECOND TEAM
Andrew Jossey, F, Plymouth: Whether delivering a crunching hit or deftly depositing the puck over a goalie's trapper, Jossey demonstrated he could do whatever the Wildcats needed.



Jossey, a senior who made the all-conference team as well as being selected to the D1 all-state second team, was a force with a team-high 15 goals and 18 assists in just 24 games.

The prototypical power forward also was a plus-18 as coaches had no qualms about playing him in all kinds of situations.

"Soft hands along with being a powerful skater made him a difficult match-up for the opposition," Vento said. "His combination of strength and athleticism made him a special player."

Liam Walker, F, Salem: One of the most important players for the D1 state quarterfinalist Rocks was senior forward Walker.



When he was out with a mid-season injury, Salem lost all four games. With him back in the lineup, the Rocks took off down the stretch and won a grueling regional.

Walker, had a solid year all season, netting 13 goals and 25 assists for a team-leading 38 points. But he really turned it up in the postseason. He centered the top producing line, which tallied eight of Salem's 12 playoff goals. It was his overtime goal in the pre-regional win over Plymouth that catapulted the Rocks.

The assistant captain brought a mix of "energy and offensive creativity" to the lineup, Ossenmacher noted.

Yet Walker could get it done on defense, too, displaying the "team-first attitude" prevalent on the 2014-15 Rocks.

"He was one of our most effective and tenacious penalty killers during the season," Ossenmacher said.

Dylan Smith, F, Churchill: The senior center wowed opponents with a dangerous combination of size and speed.

His versatility and unselfishness were reflected in the fact that he scored 17 goals and assisted on 17 others.

His most impactful goal was the game-winner in the Chargers' pre-regional overtime victory over Livonia Franklin.

Alex DeFlorio, F, Stevenson: A first team all-state honoree, DeFlorio was a threat to score a goal every shift he was on the ice. DeFlorio's fiery style rubbed off on his teammates. The senior netted 14 goals and 10 assists during the regular season.

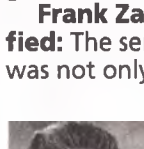
"Alex is a player that plays with a ton of emotion and hates to lose," Mitchell said. "He is very gifted in the offensive zone and has a knack for finding the back of the net. He worked extremely hard to get better and his development was very noticeable from the time he came into our program to the time he left."

Frank Zak, D, Farm. Unified: The senior defenseman was not only adept at performing his assigned role on defense; he regularly jumped into the offense, too.

In addition to scoring four goals, he had 30 assists – an impressive number for any player, especially a defenseman.

Zak's performance was recognized with a berth on the Division 1 all-state first team. He will likely play junior hockey next season, too.

"While putting up great numbers, Frank was asked to play against the opposing team's top line," Anderson said. "He has a knack for being able to slow the game down when he has the puck and



making the right play in critical situations.

"For a defenseman to get that many assists is pretty special. It means he was involved offensively and was always around the puck."

"I assume a lot of those (assists) were on Austin's goals. Frank has a great mind for the game and is definitely a leader."

Justin Makowski, D, Franklin: Makowski was a productive blue-line workhorse for the re-energized Patriots, who enjoyed their finest season in several years. A first team all-KLAA performer, Makowski racked up two goals and 23 assists.

"Justin was our force field on defense," Franklin coach Dennis Gagnon said. "He played a ton of minutes, usually against the other team's best, and nobody got around him in a one-on-one situation."

"He blocked nearly 100 shots, never missed a game, only took one penalty and managed to muster 23 assists. Justin is one of the best defensemen I've had the pleasure to coach."

Jake Zaborowski, D, Plymouth: Among key reasons why the Wildcats were a team to be reckoned with was Zaborowski's efforts both on defense and on the power play.

Zaborowski, a big physical senior defenseman with a heavy shot and ability to make a tape-to-tape outlet pass, collected two goals and 20 assists.

He led Plymouth in power play assists and hits and was named to the all-KLAA and D1 all-state second team for his efforts.

"Jake was a key part of a very successful power play and he could change a game with his physical play," Vento said.

Dillon Phillips, G, Salem: Behind every great postseason run in high school hockey is a goalie on top of his game and that was definitely the case this season with Phillips.

The senior goaltender styled three top 10 teams in a row during the D1 regional (Plymouth, Northville, Brighton) and gave the Cubs of U-D Jesuit all they could handle in the quarterfinal at Yost.

He compiled a 12-8-4 record and .906 save percentage for the season. But against top 10 teams, Phillips went 4-1 and stopped 95 percent of shots sent his way — evidence that he takes his game to the next level during crunch time.

"When Dillon was on, he gave us a chance to win any game we played," Ossenmacher said. "Played big in net making the first save and made some very timely saves during our run."

CO-CHACHES OF YEAR
David Mitchell, Stevenson: Despite losing approximately 80 percent of the scoring from last season's high-powered team, Mitchell was able to orchestrate another banner season for the Spartans, who took off like a finely-tuned Maserati after the holidays. The Spartans' seven-year head coach expertly managed his lines to maximize chemistry and production, leading Stevenson to a 19-6-5 record and berth in the Division 2 state championship game against eventual champion Birmingham Brother Rice. Mitchell led the Spartans to the D2 state title in 2013.

"This team was a group that was very close both on and off the ice," Mitchell said. "They bought into everything the coaching staff wanted them to do. The work ethic and commitment to improvement was consistently at a high level."

"They competed, they battled and they refused to get down or give up, no matter the situation. I could not be more proud of a team than I am of this one. It was truly a memorable season."

Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem: Throughout his eight-year tenure as head coach at Salem, the Rocks have been a highly competitive group with

plenty of success on the ice and accountability off it.

Ossenmacher's professional approach has rubbed off, with players sporting dress clothes (including neckties) when leaving the locker room.

They also have demonstrated maturity and community awareness, helping youngsters during USA Hockey's "Try Hockey for Free" event in February.

And don't forget what the 2014-15 Rocks achieved in rinks all winter.

They posted a 14-11-4 record, but more importantly won a Division 1 regional championship for the first time in Salem history. Salem ultimately fell 4-2 to University of Detroit-Jesuit in a D1 quarterfinal at Yost Arena.

"Although this team went further than any other Salem team, it was not necessarily the most talented team we have had," Ossenmacher said. "But they were one of the most 'bought-in' teams we have ever had."

"It was a special group who were committed to putting Salem first. We probably blocked more shots this year than any other season. That started with our top players. When your leading goal scorer (Noah Willer) also wins the best defensive forward award for your team, it goes a long way in stressing the importance of sacrifice and team-first mentality."

Ossenmacher now has 102 victories at the Salem helm — the most by any Plymouth-Canton Educational Park hockey coach.

Salem's senior leadership also was outstanding, a major factor in the team's perseverance during struggles early in the season.

"At one point we were 8-4 and ranked in the top 10," Ossenmacher said. "Shortly after we were below .500."

"It would have been easy to continue on that downward path, but our leaders (captain Noah Saad, assistant captains Willer, Liam Walker, Dillon Phillips and Evan Newel) wouldn't let that happen, which is why we ended on such an upswing."

Ossenmacher, who gave a nod to the "terrific" efforts of assistant coaches Aaron Cheesman and Brandon Scero, added that the way the Rocks rolled through the regional — defeating Plymouth, Northville and Brighton — was something that will not be soon forgotten at Salem.

"Our state quarterfinals appearance is further than any Salem team has gone," he said. "The way we did it made it even more special. At the time, we were disappointed not making it to Compunware (where the semifinals and finals took place). But we can look back now and see what a special run it really was."

Ossenmacher, a middle school science teacher in the Walled Lake district, resides in Northville with his wife and two children (ages 5 and 2).

2015 ALL-AREA BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM

F-Mick Sinclair, sr., Stevenson
F-Noah Willer, sr., Salem
F-Josh Smith, sr., Plymouth
F-Austin Bottrell, sr., F.H. Unified
F-Drake Cole, sr., Farmington
D-Noah Saad, sr., Salem
D-Alec Allen, jr., Stevenson
G-Cullen Barber, jr., Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

F-Andrew Jossey, sr., Plymouth
F-Liam Walker, sr., Salem
F-Dylan Smith, sr., Churchill
F-Alex DeFlorio, sr., Stevenson
D-Frank Zak, sr., Farm. Hills U.
D-Justin Makowski, sr., Franklin
D-Jake Zaborowski, sr., Plymouth
G-Dillon Phillips, sr., Salem

THIRD TEAM

F-Jason Petras, jr., Farmington
F-Brendan Whitney, jr., Franklin
F-Zach Goleniak, jr., Salem
F-Danny Arnold, sr., F.H. Unified
D-Adam Olson, jr., Stevenson
D-Jared Merandi, sr., Plymouth
G-Matt Monendo, sr., Franklin

FOURTH TEAM

F-Ben Kowalske, jr., Stevenson
F-Chase Wallis, jr., Franklin
F-Joe Majoros, jr., Farmington
F-Jack Cikra, jr., Farm. Hills U.
D-Kyle Kozler, jr., Plymouth
D-Brian Jonik, jr., Farmington
D-Andrew Nathan, jr., F.H. Unified
G-Jared Maddock, sr., Plymouth
G-Nick Borg, sr., Canton

CO-CHACHES OF YEAR

David Mitchell, Livonia Stevenson
Ryan Ossenmacher, Salem

HONORABLE MENTIONS

F.H. Unified: Joey Lajcay; Brendan Dilloway, Lucio D'Ascenzo; Farmington: Richard Lantz, Cam Noseworthy, Jordan Hoke; Stevenson: Vince Glenn, Stephen Olschanski, Alex Hunt, Andrew Nowak, Andrew Rozenbaum; Churchill: Andrew Broyles, Joe Wozniak, Dan Hudy, Parker Hodges; Franklin: Trevor Lassaline; Plymouth: James Baldwin, Kyle VandenBosch, Ben Chafin; Salem: Matt Schaumburger, Evan Newel, Bailey Thompson, Zach Newsom; Canton: Tommy Kiddle, Hunter Schlamp, Connor Wherrett.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Churchill, Garden City earn victories

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's girls tennis team wasn't fooling around on April Fool's Day.

Sparked by a straight-set victory by freshman No. 1 singles player Kaitlyn Rogosch, the Chargers posted a dominating 9-0 victory over visiting Wayne Memorial.

The Chargers dropped just two of the 20 sets against the Zebras.

Rogosch defeated Janae Strickland, 6-3, 6-0, while No. 2 player Triveni Arvikar enjoyed similar success as she registered a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Kendelle Hood.

The day's most dramatic match came at No. 3 singles where Churchill's Kayla Gruich endured a strong challenge from freshman Ciara Casey before winning 7-6, 1-6, 7-5.

Junior Franceska Spallari upended Ryleigh Strong, 6-4, 6-2, at No. 4 singles.

Churchill's all-senior duo of Maggie Trinka and Lexi Fata swept Danialle Lynn and Ra-



ALICE WALTERS

Pictured are Redford Union singles players Mikayla Jones, Rebecca Wiseman, Jesse Kramer and Abby Walters.

chel Cherian, 6-0, 6-2, at No. 1 doubles while the Chargers' No. 2 team of juniors Angelica Zhou and Maddy VanWormer out-stroked Karla Strag and Brittney Behlow, 6-1, 7-5.

Also recording satisfying

doubles wins for the Chargers were the No. 3 team of Julia Marsh and Allie McComber, the No. 4 duo of Sam Swift and Clara Bielawski, and the No. 5 twosome of Allison White and Sunayana Sharma,

who netted a hard-earned 6-7, 6-1, 6-1 win over Shakella Gipson and Halaym Reynolds.

GC nets win over RU

Garden City's all-senior singles lineup proved to be

the catalyst in the host Cougars' 7-1 victory over Redford Union Wednesday afternoon.

The Panthers' lone point came when No. 1 singles player Abby Walters upended Jessica Liske, 6-0, 6-0. Walters used a series of line shots and occasional lobs to out-stroke Liske.

The Cougars took command of the match by winning the other three singles matches with Courtney Cameron defeating Jesse Kramer, 6-3, 6-1, at No. 2; Kaylee Tucker outlasting Rebecca Wiseman, 6-3, 6-0 at No. 3; and Deana Hasimllari swept Mikayla Jones, 6-3, 6-4, at No. 4.

Experience paid off for GC's No. 1 doubles team of Kelsey Bain (a senior) and Alyssa Steffen (a junior), who trumped RU's freshmen twin-sister duo of Abby and Sarah Bishop, 6-2, 6-0. Taylor Rager and Haleigh Maszatics triumphed at No. 2 doubles for GC, 6-4, 6-0, against RU's Kaylah Wiley and Haley Hebner.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP SOFTBALL

Northville nips Churchill, 2-1

The pitching was strong, the defense was solid, but the offense proved to be the missing link for Livonia Churchill's softball team in its 2-1 season-opening setback at Northville on Wednesday afternoon.

Churchill junior hurler Melanie Richardson was brilliant after yielding single runs in the first and second frames, but Mustang fire-baller Allison Zwarka earned the victory in the circle after scattering five Charger hits.

Trailing 2-0, the Chargers cut their deficit in half in the top of the fourth when Erin Carpenter's hit brought home

Rachel Mattison.

Mattison and Carpenter both ripped two hits a piece for Churchill, which got its fifth hit from lead-off batter Victoria Luper.

Richardson yielded eight hits without walking a batter. She struck out eight Mustangs. Zwarka fanned 11 for the hosts.

Zebras rocked

Salem's softball team was hitting on all cylinders during Wednesday's 16-1 victory over Wayne Memorial in a KLAA Kensington Conference cross-over game.

Zebra freshman Claire

Hammond went 1-for-2 with a run for Wayne. Senior catcher Rachel Lefler knocked in Hammond for the team's only run.

'Cats claw Rockets

Host Novi broke open a close game with five runs in the third inning before rolling to a 14-1 victory over Westland John Glenn. The loss evened the Rockets' record at 1-1.

John Glenn starting pitcher Mackenzie Huren suffered the loss before giving way to Heather Gains, who made her high school pitching debut.

Huren was a tough out at the plate, going 2-for-2.

The winners' offensive attack was spearheaded by Jenna Lowney (three hits, three RBI) and Nicole Ireland (three hits, three runs, RBI). Megan Hirt contributed two hits for the Wildcats, who were bolstered by a strong pitching performance from Ally Cummings, who gave up just four hits over five innings.

Silver lining for Trojans

After a tough loss on opening day, Clarenceville played a much better brand of softball in its next game Wednesday despite a 4-1 loss to Dearborn, according to coach Joe De-Caire.

Senior Emily Schwartz pitched six strong innings for the Lady Trojans, giving up six hits, striking out four and not allowing any walks.

The defense committed five errors, however. Clarenceville had three hits with senior Mia Sampson getting two of them, one being a double.

She also scored the lone run on junior Kylee Hammond's RBI single in the seventh inning.

The Lady Trojans made it interesting in the bottom of that inning, but they left two runners on base.

Sophomore Claudia Moore reached on an error and was Clarenceville's only other base runner.

Dearborn pitcher Mariah Coleman went the distance, striking out 13, allowing three hits and walking none. She also went 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBI.

— By Dan O'Meara

Guide to Employment

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Bad habits are hard to break. But by making small changes one at a time, you can overcome your hurdles for a healthier lifestyle.

Celebrity fitness trainer offers tips for reaching goals and staying motivated

Staying healthy doesn't have to mean overhauling your lifestyle. Sometimes small changes can have big impacts. Take it from celebrity fitness trainer Latreal "La" Mitchell: "Everyone can reach their health and fitness goals. It's all about setting attainable goals and staying motivated to see results."

To look, feel and live better, Mitchell is offering tips for small lifestyle changes you can make that can inspire you to make more in the future.

Get moving

If exercise is not a part of your life now, don't worry. "In a short time, you can be doing quality exercises," Mitchell said. "The key is to start small."

Try short sets of pushups, planks, squats and lunges and work your way up. Ten minutes can make a real difference. Remember, little things like taking the stairs instead of the elevator will keep you feeling great all day.

Just be sure to make exercise non-negotiable. Life is busy and it's easy to find any number of reasons to skip a workout. Make yourself a fitness schedule and stick to it – and then don't let anyone or anything stop you from staying on track.

Eat right

The small goal of adding more fiber to your diet can lead you to better nutrition choices. Aim to get 25 to 38 grams of fiber every day. In addition to upping your fruit and vegetable intake and swapping out processed white bread and pasta for the whole wheat variety, fiber supplements can help you meet your fiber goals. But choose wisely, as some options have additional benefits beyond supporting digestive health.

For example, Meta offers products made with psyllium fiber which has multi-health benefits. Try adding Metamucil powder to a morning smoothie. Also try new MetaBiotic probiotic supplement.

For many people, snacking can be a downfall, especially during a busy workday. Try substituting your usual temptations with healthier options. For example, almonds and light popcorn are a good substitute for chips and are more satisfying. If you have a sweet tooth, ditch the afternoon pastry that's high in calories, but won't actually help you feel full. Instead, look for a delicious, easy-to-pack snack like a Meta Health Bar that helps satisfy hunger as a healthful snack.

Lastly, stay hydrated. Skip sugary sodas and sports drinks and opt for water throughout the day. If you need a boost of flavor, add a lemon wedge, cucumber slice or some fresh herbs. Water helps you feel full and process fiber, while helping to keep you hydrated.

More tips can be found at www.metawellness.com.

— StatePoint



Paula Swain

How to bring up difficult topics with aging parents

People are living longer today, so many of my clients are finding that their aging parents are in need of assistance. Caring for your aging parent is something you hope will never happen, but it is something you need to think about just in case it does.

I, as well as other local professionals, have been hosting an "Aging Parents" workshop for the last couple of years helping to educate and answer questions on taking care of an aging parent. I thought would share some of what I have learned in this column.

» Bringing up difficult topics. You may find some resistance. First step is to open up a dialogue with your parent. Make sure to choose the right time and place. Ideally you want privacy. Express your concerns and then simply listen to them (no interrupting). Acknowledge their feelings and share your perspective. Hopefully, you will find a common ground. If not, reach out to someone whose opinion they value – doctor, clergy, adviser, other family members or friend. Ask them to talk with your parent.

» If you can, open up the lines of communication. Find out their needs and wishes. Ask them about long-term care (what would they like to happen if this issues arises), funeral arrangement, finances, investments, medical care decision and insurance. Also, who are their advisers? Ask if you can meet them. Ask where all the documents are kept.

The following legal documents are needed: will, trust (or both) and financial power of attorney (arranges for someone to han-

See PARENTS, Page B6

Stay on track with your wellness goals

With dreams of bettering their lives, people of all ages pledge to create resolutions with the start of every year. Many people discover, however, that it's easy to make a resolution but difficult to stick to it.

With these helpful tips from Sunsweet and Dawn Jackson Blatner, registered dietitian, certified specialist in sports dietetics and licensed dietitian nutritionist, it's easy to get back on a healthy living track:

1. Get back on track

Falling off the wagon can be discouraging, but don't let your mind get in the way of your might. Track your daily meals and snacks to help you stay focused on what and how much you are eating. Writing in a food journal is a great way to look back over your week to see what you did well and could do better next week.

2. Pack your lunch

Being in control of what



Staying on track takes will power and determination, but by squeezing a few easy hacks into your day you'll be on your way to reaching your wellness goals.

you eat throughout the day is powerful in staying on track with your resolutions. Why hit the greasy food truck outside when you can whip up a fresh salad at home? Sunsweet's

Quinoa, Grape and Prune Salad is an easy, protein-packed lunch that will power you through the day.

See GOALS, Page B6

Revisiting those new year resolutions

So now that it's spring, how are we doing on those new year resolutions? Yeah, remember those? Every year we make those promises to ourselves and, every year, many of us break them – usually in the first month.

The good news is we survived another Michigan winter. The bad news is we are seeing the effects from hibernating all season long – not only physically, but mentally. Winter can take its toll on our minds, even more so than our bodies. Spring is the time to rev up and recharge. Dust off those running shoes and get to work.

When talking about our health and wellness, make small changes and set attainable goals to encourage a permanent lifestyle change rather than trying to make a complete overhaul overnight. That will



Barbara Deyo

set you up for failure.

It's a good idea to re-assess every so often. I find the change of seasons is a good time to evaluate what's working, what's not and fine-tune our goals.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you set your workout goals for the future:

1. Show up: The hardest part is putting on your workout clothes and getting in the car. No matter how badly you don't feel like doing it, once you get there, you will be glad you did. Now that the weather has

See DEYO, Page B6

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Plan the perfect Alfresco gathering

Tips for delicious pairings and decorations for your next outdoor event

The days of chilly air and dull skies have been replaced with the sights and sounds of warmer weather. This change in the season is cause for celebration, so pull out all the stops for an outdoor gathering guests will long remember.

From festive decor to the bright colors of seasonally inspired cuisine, use these tips for setting up your alfresco spread:

Make a memorable entrance. Invite guests into your gathering with warm and cheerful decor, starting with your door. Hang a moss-adorned wreath with a few vibrant sprigs of pink roses or yellow tulips, which you can keep up long after the event.

Deck the table. Make sure your centerpiece provides a bright and welcoming ambiance. A low key gathering calls for the downhome elegance of daisies and grasses shooting from mini terra cotta pots or aluminum canisters. More formal events will shine with fresh cut lilies, roses and tulips placed in short cube or rectangle glass vases.

Start with small bites. Serve a few appetizers for your crowd to enjoy as they wait for other guests to arrive. You can't go wrong with deviled eggs garnished with fresh herbs or cheese and crackers. Aim for three cheeses - one hard (Parmesan), one soft (Brie) and one blue.

Serve pairings that please. Spring foods pair perfectly with a fruit-forward wine like pinot grigio. Choose one of high-quality from the northern region of Italy such as Barone Fini Valdadige Pinot Grigio (\$12). This crisp and clean wine goes well with seafood, chicken or white-sauce pasta entrees.

Embrace spring flavors. Bring the garden to your table with fresh fruits and vegetables. Plump, red strawberries look and taste wonderful atop a bed of fresh spinach



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Pull out all the stops for an outdoor gathering guests will long remember.

CHICKEN BREASTS WITH TOMATOES AND OLIVES

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 (6-ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup multicolored cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- 3 tablespoons oil and vinegar dressing, divided
- 20 olives, halved
- ½ cup (2 ounces) crumbled feta cheese

Prepare grill to medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken evenly with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Place chicken on grill rack coated with cooking spray, and grill 6 minutes on each side or until chicken is done. Combine tomatoes, dressing and olives in skillet over medium heat; cook 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut each chicken breast half into 3/4-inch slices. Top each chicken breast half with 1/4 cup tomato mixture. Sprinkle each serving with 2 tablespoons cheese and torn basil leaves, if desired.

with a drizzle of balsamic vinegar. Fresh asparagus stems give quiche and egg casseroles texture, while also making a great sauteed side dish. Also try this Chicken with Tomatoes and Olives recipe that's easy to make and sure to please.

From simple floral arrange-

ments to the colorful foods you serve, creating a lovely alfresco gathering is easier than you think. For more ideas to make your event memorable, visit facebook.com/BaroneFiniWines.

- Family Features

PARENTS

Continued from Page B5

dle the finances).

Also discuss patient advocate - health care power of attorney - arrangements for someone to handle medical issues. I have this document drawn up for my children on their 18th birthday. When your child turns 18, they are considered an adult and you will not be able to make health care decisions for them anymore. This is a very important document that everyone should have.

There are many forms of dementia. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia. There are some medical problems that can mimic the symptoms of dementia - urinary tract infection, dehydration, over-medication and depression. Some tips for keeping your mind sharp - walk, eat healthy, do crossword or mind puzzles, read and change your routine. Try brushing your teeth with the opposite hand - it's not that easy.

Understanding the definition of being admitted to the hospital or being admitted under "observation" when you are on Medicare. When a patient who meets Medicare's three-day formal admission requirement moves to a skilled nursing facility, the program covers 100 percent of the first 20 days. Patients leaving the hospital for a nursing facility after an "observation" stay pay the full cost out of pocket.

Taking care of an aging parent can be overwhelming. Make sure to take care of yourself. Ask for help. Join a caregiver support group.

Don't try to do this alone. There are many organizations and programs willing to help. Check out some of these websites.

» www.aaalc.org - Senior Alliance - senior resources

» www.alz.org/gmc - Alzheimer Association

» www.caregiver.com - Great articles on all aspects of aging parents

» www.caring.com - Search for housing options in your area

» www.caremanager.org - Looking for local or out of state care manager

» Eldercare Locator - 800-677-1116, referral service sponsored by the federal government that can direct you to resources in your area

Preserving your relationship with your parents is extremely important. Understand that they may be unwilling to talk to you. They may resent you for interfering. You may have to try different approaches to get them to open up with you. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Paula Swain CFP®, is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 1225 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Contact her 734-738-6300. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. The opinions here are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations. Consult with an adviser about your specific situation.

GOALS

Continued from Page B5

3. Choose right at snack time

The 3 p.m. slump is almost unavoidable. You're three hours past

lunch and it's too soon for dinner. Instead of reaching for an unsatisfying bag of pretzels or chips, bring Sunsweet Ones Individually Wrapped Prunes or nuts from home to curb the afternoon hunger. Ones are lower in sugar than other

dried fruit and have a low glycemic index of only 29. Prunes are digested and absorbed slowly by the body, which helps to sustain energy over a longer period of time compared to foods with a higher glycemic index.

4. Get moving

Everyone has a lot on their plate and with a busy schedule comes loads of stress and anxiety, but much of that can be alleviated with exercise. If you think about it, 30-40 minutes of exercise a day is only 2 percent of your day. Small changes,

like walks around the block or using an app to count steps is a great way to track your movement throughout the day.

5. Make it fun

Instead of making drastic resolutions early in the year, and inevitably falling off the wagon

a month or two later, embrace a healthy living lifestyle. The key to lasting, lifelong health is to make changes you enjoy. Make eating well and exercising fun and it won't be hard to stick with.

- Family Features

DEYO

Continued from Page B5

warmed up, it certainly makes it easier to get motivated.

2. Make an appointment: Hire a trainer, get a work out buddy or commit to a class schedule. It makes it easier to show up if someone is holding you accountable. Once you have arrived, you will have a more successful workout if someone is there with you to help guide you or cheer you on.

3. Warm up: A proper warmup increases blood flow to your muscles, reducing stiffness and risk of injury and will improve your overall performance. It also gives your mind time to prepare for the task at hand.

4. Break a sweat: You might as well make your time worth it. No sense in showing up and phoning it in. Sweating stimulates

the lymphatic system (allowing the body to dispel toxins), controls mood swings, helps prevent colds and other illnesses, clears up your skin and, of course, burns calories!

5. Breathe: When you breathe deeply, it keeps you calm and focused, maintains your heart rate, oxygenates the blood and helps to release endorphins. Proper breathing is just as important as completing your reps.

6. Hydrate: Drink water before, during and after your workout. In fact, drink water all day. Something as simple as drinking enough water throughout the day will increase your metabolism, curb your appetite, aid in digestion and help you perform at peak efficiency. A good rule of thumb is to drink a half-ounce to one ounce of water per pound of your body weight daily.

7. Cool down: You need to gradually reduce

your heart rate once you are done and allow the oxygenated blood to circulate and deliver much-needed nutrients to your body to help grow and repair your newly worked-out muscles. A post workout stretch also helps to eliminate lactic acid in the muscles.

Whatever your goals are, remember to be kind to yourself and make the commitment to yourself first. Remember step one - show up. The rest will fall into place.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerry Washington, Shaun Robinson, Erin Cummings and many more. Barbara has been named Best of the Best by BRIDES Magazine, Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV-TV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor in downtown Birmingham. Contact her at 248-203-1222 or go to www.deyostudio.com.

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Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management, Inc.



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4:30 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.
Colleen McDonald, Director of Community Relations, Senior Helpers.

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Livonia woman proudly wears state pageant crown

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Forget everything you think you know about beauty pageants, from stereotypical stage moms to girls with too much makeup.

Sierra Bognear, 24, a Livonia resident and the new Miss Michigan United States, will set you straight.

"People say to me, 'Oh, you do pageants' and then I get that certain look from them. People really don't know what it's like to compete in a pageant. The girls are not what people think they are. For the most part the girls I've met have had beautiful spirits ... beautiful inside and out. Two young girls I met in the Miss United States pageant hardly had any makeup on. I wish people could see that side of it."

"I would encourage any girl to get into pageants, to go for it."

That's just how Bognear, the middle child of 13 siblings, took to the pageant stage three years ago. She had always thought about entering a competition, but as a teenager was shy and couldn't imagine modeling a bathing suit for judges. But when a friend, who planned to compete, encouraged Bognear to give it a try, she took a second look at the pageant experience.

"I was getting older and gaining more confidence," said Bognear, a Farmington Harrison High School graduate who studied theater in both California and Georgia before transferring to Madonna University where she is finishing a degree in criminal justice. She



Sierra Bognear of Livonia, crowned Miss Michigan United States, will compete for a national title in July.

hopes to graduate next year. "She (her friend) said it was a good opportunity to get out the issues I'm passionate about, to use it as a platform to raise awareness."

Nonprofit organization

Those issues include at-risk girls, helping to empower and build self-esteem in young women and encouraging them to pursue higher education.



Sierra Bognear, Miss Michigan United States, is studying criminal justice at Madonna University. She also models and hopes to act on film and television.

Bognear created a nonprofit organization, Girls With A Purpose, last year to address those topics and "maybe make changes in the community and the world."

"I've always been passionate about working with young girls. Lately I've been learning more about human trafficking," Bognear said. "It's important to raise awareness."

She reached out to a group of 12- to 14-year-olds in a latch-key program and hopes to partner with Alternatives for Girls, a Detroit organization that helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation.

Earlier this week, Bognear read to youngsters at an early learning center, although her first official appearance as Miss Michigan United States will be April 8 at a Detroit Pistons game.

Bognear competed in the Miss Michigan USA pageant

system, which includes the Miss Universe competition, for two years before switching to the Miss Michigan United States pageant program, which has teamed with the Miss World competition.

During a preliminary run for the Miss Michigan USA, she was a first runner-up and won the Miss Pure Michigan title. She went on to compete in the pageant, but didn't place in the finals.

Family, faith

Bognear said her family has supported her interest in pageants, both financially and emotionally. Faith plays a big role in her attitude toward competition.

"My parents raised us up always going to church on Sunday and Bible study on Tuesday," said Bognear, who has been involved in praise dance ministry. "It guides me and it's something I always carry with me."

Bognear prays before competition, tries to do her best and knows "it's in God's hands now." Modeling in front of pageant judges isn't about showing off in a bathing suit, but "it's about your presence and confidence and what you bring to the table," Bognear said. "I'm so much more comfortable. I'm happy with what God has molded and shaped. I don't have to try and be what people think a pageant girl should be."

For more about the Miss Michigan United States pageants, visit missmichiganUS.com.

Work is nonstop with new baby, but mom loves every minute

My folks ran into my best friend this past weekend at a local bar/restaurant. When my mom mentioned it to me later she told me she had thought about taking a picture and sending it to me, but then decided that might hurt my feelings and make me feel jealous about not being out on the town. You know what, though? I'm not jealous. I have never been happier in my life, and never would I trade these moments with my daughter for anything else, even a night out.

It's just after 4 a.m. right now. I am exhausted, to say the least, and have been up now for just about an hour. Baby girl has started teething and really is having a hard time. She woke up only twice last night, but unlucky for me the timing of her wake-ups caused me to have yet another night with little sleep. But when I wake up at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., I am happy. I have never felt so loved in my life before, and have never been so needed. My baby wakes up and cries for me — her mama — to feed her, or hold her, or change her.

The day will be long, no doubt. I will commute to my new career and spend the day working hard so that my daughter can have nice things in her life. I think about her constantly while I am there. After work, I drive back across town and pick her up. Then comes the fun part; we have limited time to get playing, trying real food, bath, books and bottles done. Of course I also have the household things to keep up with, and certainly if it's nice out we want to go for a walk. Sometimes, it's 9 p.m. and my baby has fallen asleep, and I lay exhausted next to her and think to myself "Did I have dinner today?" It's a constant go-go-go, but I wouldn't give any of it up.

Exhaustion then, now

When I think back to other times in my life, I remember being busy and feeling like I never had time to get things done. I think I didn't get enough sleep at times, and I can clearly recall moments when I felt I was suffering from extreme exhaustion. But I had no idea what exhaustion was. I didn't know there was such a love that one would want to wake up with a screaming baby in the middle of the night, three or four times in eight hours. I didn't know exhaustion meant sleeping a few hours at a time, for months at a time, and still managing to be the play date, be the food provider, and the bath giver, and the launderer and the housekeeper, all while still being the mom and also working full time to be the financial provider too.

Mom. It's an awesome word. A mom is a whole lot of things — a friend, a shoulder to cry on, a person to feed you and bathe you and clothe you and comfort you. A mom is a person who will always listen to you and understand you and let you pour your heart out. A mom will hold your hand no matter how old you are, and will rub your back and tell you everything will be OK when you are feeling your worst. I have always admired my mother, and now there is a little girl who will call me Mom, and hopefully, one day, she will admire me too.

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of motherhood from a new, single mom's perspective. Contact her at sarahmarriedavies@gmail.com.



Sarah Davies
THEN THERE WERE TWO

Brides Against Breast Cancer brings gowns to Canton

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Brides who buy a gown April 18 at Fellows Creek Golf Club will benefit a cancer-related nonprofit organization at the same time.

Brides Against Breast Cancer travels the country selling donated wedding gowns and will bring 400-600 dresses to Fellows Creek. Lori Hagey, show manager, said it visited southeastern Michigan last year but that Canton is a new stop on the tour.

"Our organization is fairly new. We've been around four years," she said. "We started out with 30 shows and we're up to 150. It has grown rapidly. We run two-six shows every weekend. We have trucks all across the country."

Hagey said each tour stop combines a bridal trunk sale with wedding vendors for a "one-stop" show. Brides can try on dresses, buy a favorite and take it home that day. Sizes range from 4-20 and prices go from \$75-\$1,800. The average price is \$600. New dresses, some with original price tags from \$6,000-\$10,000, are donated by retailers and designers. The sale also includes gently used gowns donated by former brides.

"We have everything from David's Bridal to Kleinfeld in New York," Hagey said. "No gown in our inventory is over \$1,800."

The show will run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for VIP attendees and 2-5 p.m. for general admission. The VIP session, limited to approximately 100 participants, costs \$20 and will include beverages, "lite bites," and giveaways. General admission is \$5.

Hagey said 78 percent of show sales support fund cancer-related programs and services.

"We have our headquarters in Sarasota, Florida. The money goes to fund not only programs in Sarasota, but to the Health Support Network." The Network's website offers information on exercise, stress reduction, nutrition and cancer.

Fellows Creek Golf Club is located at 2936 S. Lotz. Register at bridesabc.org or call 877-721-4673.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A bride considers a gown at the Brides Against Breast Cancer trunk sale.



Wedding gowns await shoppers at a Brides Against Breast Cancer sale.

BIRTHDAY



Joseph Knapp, 90, of Livonia

SUBMITTED

Joseph V. Knapp of Livonia celebrated his 90th birthday with family and received a special memento. Glenn Anderson, former state senator, presented him with a flag that had flown over the Capitol. "Joe could not have been happier," wrote his wife, Carole, in a letter to the *Observer*. "Joe is an all-American guy who loves his country." He was born on Feb. 19, 1925, in Elmsford, N.Y. As a young boy, he moved with his parents and two sisters to Tarrytown, N.Y., to live with his grandparents. His grandfather was a gardener for the Rockefeller family and rented a house on the family estate called Pocantico Hills. Knapp graduated from high school and was inducted into the

U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943. He was stationed in South Dakota, South Carolina and Missouri and was sent to England before being discharged in 1945. He attended General Motors Institute in Flint, graduating in 1950. He joined the labor relations department at Fisher Body in Janesville, Wisc. While in Wisconsin he met his future wife on a blind date. Their 62nd wedding anniversary is Oct. 24. The couple has four children and five grandchildren. Knapp was transferred in 1959 to the Willow Run plant, where he worked as trim superintendent. He retired in 1987. His hobbies include wood working, reading and puzzles "by the dozen."

ENGAGEMENT



Andrew Robert Sheard and Lida Ann Baur

SUBMITTED

BAUR-SHEARD

Lida Ann Baur and Andrew Robert Sheard announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Phil and Ann Baur of Farmington, is a 2011 graduate of Farmington High School. She plans to

graduate in 2015 from Taylor University, Upland, Ind. Her fiancé, son of Dan and Sue Sheard of Elizabethtown, Pa., also attends Taylor University. A May 2015 wedding is planned in Wheaton, Ill.

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Butterflies

Jed Bromfield will present "Witness Metamorphosis: Raising Caterpillars" 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members. Questions, call 734-223-5510, or visit www.sembabutterfly.org.

Livonia Garden Club

Sue Grubba will talk about which plants are worth buying and which plants to avoid, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Grubba is an Advanced Master Gardener, president of the Association of Professional Gardeners, Michigan School of Gardening instructor, landscape designer and owner of Creative Scapes in Rochester Hills. Visitors are welcome. For more information, visit livonia-gardenclub.org or email rmo78jsa@aol.com.

Miller Woods tours

Take a free guided tour, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, and Saturday, May 2, through the nature preserve, located on Powell Road, just east of Ridge, in Plymouth. Tours are approximately an hour long and the last tour leaves at 3:30 p.m. Strollers and dogs are not allowed in Miller Woods; millerwoods.com.

Plymouth Nursery

» Open house runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 25-26 and will include gift card giveaways, sales, vendor representatives, a Weber Grill demonstration and refreshments. » Learn how to grow fruit trees, 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2. Mark Boland of Eastern Shores Nursery will present the free session. The nursery is located at 9900 Ann Arbor Road, west of Plymouth; 734-453-5500.

Tree, shrub sale

ReLeaf Michigan is taking orders through Friday, April 17, for trees, shrubs and evergreens. Cost is \$15 for evergreens, \$18 for shrubs, \$50 for specialty

GARDEN & NATURE



SUBMITTED

Learn how to raise butterflies at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) in Westland.

trees, and \$36 for trees including honeycrisp apple, sugar maple and American linden. Proceeds from the sale support ReLeaf Michigan's statewide tree education and planting program. For descriptions, photos and online ordering, visit ReLeafMichigan.org. Pickup is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at seven locations, including Handy Park, 26590 Capitol, Redford Township, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, and Goldner Walsh Nursery Inc., 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac.

English Gardens

» Learn to plan, plant and maintain flowers and plants in outdoor containers, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Free. » Plant a fairy garden to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$29.99. Sign up at the store or at EnglishGardens.com.

Classes are held at all stores unless noted. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

Educational conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Tickets \$80. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. Visit mgsoc.org. No registration at the door.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances View Online www.hometownlife.com
How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mldeathnotices.com
Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

ADDISON, ELEANOR

April 1, 2015, age 72, of Westland. Visitation Monday, 6-9pm, at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd, Westland. Mass Tuesday 9:30am at St. Theodore Catholic Church.



HOOVER, JR., PETER BRIAN

Of Auburn Hills, was born in Southfield, MI on April 25, 1975, died suddenly on March 25, 2015. Preceded in death by his parents, Peter B. Hoover Sr., and Carol Ann Hoover; and brother, Jacob Roman Hoover. Peter is survived by his siblings, Andrew Hoover, Amy (Hoover) Geams, Patricia (Hoover) Bartlett, Christine (Hoover) Detary, and Casey (Hoover) Livingston. He is also survived by his grandfather, George Roman; 18 nieces and nephews; many cousins, aunts, and uncles. He was alumni of Walled Lake Western, class of 1993, and previously employed by The Oakland Press and an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and WWE. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested by the family. Monday April 6, 1-3 p.m. at Generations Funeral Home, 29550 Grand River Farmington Hills, MI 48336.



RISNER, FORREST

Age 59, passed away March 18, 2015. Survived by Cecilia Risner, son Hagan, daughter Lauren, sister JoAnn Norris (Michael). Memorial Service will take place Monday April 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City.



SHARKAS, CECILE DIANE

Passed away on March 26, 2015 with her husband Gary at her side. They were in their 50th year of marriage. Born May 29, 1947 to Nick and Irene (Golebiewski) Kotys. She is survived by her sister Barbara (Donald) Neil and her brother Harold Kotys as well as her children Suzanne (Jeff) Engle and Tony and a grandson Anthony. A loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Cecile will be missed by her family. God has called another angel home. She will undoubtedly be doing some reorganizing in Heaven. Share memories at charlesstepfuneralhome.com



SNOOKS, TODD I.

Age 48 April 1, 2015. Beloved husband of Tammy. Dear father of Alexander James "AJ". Cherished son of Ken and Kathleen Snooks. Brother of Christopher (Kristin) Snooks and Jason (Jessica) Snooks. Nephew of Christine and David Cornell. Uncle of Sophia Snooks. His beloved dog Willy preceded him in death. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Monday 2-8pm. Funeral Mass at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, Tuesday 10am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30am. Memorials may be made to Cullen Haffey Memorial Fund c/o Brother Rice High School. Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com



PEDERSON, SUZANNE "SUZIE" HUBER

April 4, 1931 - March 30, 2015 Suzanne "Suzie" Huber Pederson passed on Monday March 30, 2015 after a courageous 12 month battle with pancreatic cancer. Suzie is preceded in death by her husband of 53 years Dr. Bernhard L. Pederson and her son Thomas William Pederson. Suzie was born in Louisville, KY on April 4, 1931 but was raised in Dayton, OH. She attended the University of Michigan and earned a BS degree in dental hygiene in 1953. While in Ann Arbor, Suzie met the love of her life Bernhard "Ben" Pederson from Marquette, MI. Suzie and Ben were married on January 31, 1953. The early years of their marriage were spent in Ann Arbor while Ben attended Michigan's medical school; and Lexington, KY where Dr. Pederson was a member of the University of Kentucky medical school faculty. In 1967 Suzie and Ben moved to Bay City, MI where they resided for over 40 years. Together they raised their four children, established and ran a successful medical practice and actively contributed to the Bay City community. Suzie, in addition to being a loving mother and devoted wife, was very active in local politics, community fundraising and her church Trinity Episcopal. She served as President of the Bay City Public School Board; Board Member of the Bay Area YMCA; President of the Bay City Medical Auxiliary; Chairwomen of the Bay Medical Center Charity Ball; and President of the Bay City Rotary Club. Suzie was also a member of the Trinity Episcopal Vestry and served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. In addition to her local community involvement, Suzie was active in many state and national organizations. Suzie was a member of the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians, the National Association of Parliamentarians, the American Medical Association Political Action Committee and International Society for the Advancement of Fertility and Gynecology. In 2008, two years after Ben's passing, Suzie moved to Plymouth, MI to be closer to family. She wasted little time and made many new friends and immediately became an active member of St John's Episcopal Church where she was a member of the Vestry, served as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector and was an active member of the Women's Bible Study Group. Over the last eight years Suzie enjoyed travelling the country to visit her children and grandchildren, as well as spending her summers with family and friends on Torch Lake. While cancer may have taken Suzie's life, it never took her passion and enthusiasm for life, her love for family and friends, her strong faith or our memories of Suzie. Suzie is survived by her daughter Elise Pederson Morrison (Gary); son Bernhardt LaFald "Chip" Pederson II (Katherine Ley); daughter Suzanne Pederson Kowalkoski (Steve); grandchildren Suzanne Marguerite Morrison, Elise Grace Morrison, Morgan Lillian Morrison, Bernhardt LaFald "Beau" Pederson III, Lauren Marie Pederson, Andrew McKnight Pederson, Bernhardt Pederson Kowalkoski and Thomas William Kowalkoski. A Memorial Service celebrating Suzie's life will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth, MI on Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service at St John's. In lieu of flowers, the Pederson Family asks that donations be made in Suzie's name to The Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of America (DebRA). BLPI, SWPK and SAK. www.howepeterson.com

May you find comfort in family and friends

REUNIONS

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. **DEARBORN FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL**

CLASS OF 1965

50th reunion is set for Aug. 7 at the Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile, east of Haggerty, Livonia. Tickets are \$60 each. Deadline is April 11, 2015.

Contact Virginia (Mariani) Koch at 734-981-4763, ginny6491@att.net; Rochell May-Bridge at 734-675-2680, wild-child48138@aol.com. **DETROIT COOLEY**

CLASS OF 1965

Looking for classmates from January and June for 50th reunion on Oct. 3, 2015, at Livonia Marriott Hotel. For information, email reunion-

cooley65@aol.com or call 734-397-3308. **NOVI HIGH SCHOOL**

CLASS OF 1995

Seeking classmates for a 20-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Embassy Sites in Livonia. For more information, email melissa-cohn8@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/groups/Noviclassof95/ **OAK PARK HIGH**

SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1975

Save the date, Saturday, July 25, at Embassy Suites Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia. Classmates may send their contact information to oakpark1975reunion@gmail.com, and to join the Reunion Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/events/810805715636204/.

RELIGION CALENDAR

APRIL EASTER SERVICES

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Easter Sunday Masses, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Contact: 734-464-4433; stcolette.net

EASTER SERVICES

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Pancake breakfast, 9 a.m. April 5; Easter egg hunt, 10 a.m. April 5; Easter service, 10:30 a.m., April 5
Contact: 734-427-3660

EASTER SERVICES

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Easter Sunday service, 9:30 a.m., with free breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD "Come Follow Me."
Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

GENEROSITY SEMINAR

Time/Date: 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Ron Chewning of Stewardship Advisors presents Experiencing the Joy of Generosity
Contact: 734-459-3333

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, April 10
Location: Crossroads Church, at Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: The theme is "Cute Crafty Cupcakes." \$5 paid in advance by April 8 or \$6 at the door
Contact: crossroadsnow.org or 248-890-5718

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Tracee Swank presents "Leading From the Center of God's Will." Fee is \$25 and includes refreshments, lunch, workbook, and resource listing. Fee is \$75 for three or more. Register at 734-464-0211 or email register@holylivonia-

nia.org
Contact: holytrinitylivonia.org
LUNCHEON
Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18
Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Details: The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary annual "Swing into Spring" luncheon will feature a brief presentation about The Salvation Army's after-school programs, a silent auction and a performance by the Detroit Temple Corps youth dance team. \$45 per person. Reservations by April 10
Contact: 248-443-5500, Ext. 231

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 17
Location: Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Rent a table or space and sell your own stuff; tables are \$20. Proceeds to Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group
Contact: 734-453-5464, Ext. 22

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 25 and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26
Location: Holy Cross Lutheran

Church, 3065 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Furniture, home and kitchen items, clothing, books, toys, antiques, dishes, collectibles, along with a bake sale. Proceeds of sale and donations benefit Vista Maria
Contact: 734-427-1414

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 2

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Admission for Thursday's preview sale is \$2. Bag sale (\$3) and half-price sale are on Saturday. Bags will be provided
Contact: 734-464-0211

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Thursday, April 16
Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia
Details: Preschool 3- and 4-year-olds; kindergarten through grade 8
Contact: 734-425-4420

Vignettes designed to spark end-of-life medical plans

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Michelle Moccia and her colleagues in the ER want to know how you plan to die.

They hope your family members know your wishes, too.

"In talking about how you want your end of the life to be, it's tough," said Moccia, a nurse practitioner and program manager in the Senior ER at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. "No one wants to die, but as you get older you need to talk about that. At any age, you need to articulate your wishes in case something unexpected happens.

"We want to encourage everybody, no matter how old you are, you need to inform people what kind of medical treatment you want or don't want. If you don't articulate your wishes and something unanticipated occurs, you burden your family because now they've got to figure out what you want. It's tough on families and we deal with it in the emergency room all the time."

Moccia has dealt with families who don't know their loved one's end-of-life medical plan. Some family members may not want any extraordinary mea-



SUBMITTED

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia converts tennis ball cans into storage receptacles for important health papers, including a living will or advance health directive.

asures taken to keep their loved one alive; others may want resuscitation, a ventilator, whatever it takes to extend life. Without a plan, ER staff "must err on the side of doing everything."

Moccia wants to make it easier for families to talk about advance health care decision-making by showing them a series of one-act vignettes, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the South Auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia. Nurses, social workers and members of the public

will act out the scenes that convey the importance end-of-life planning. The program is presented by St. Mary's Senior ER, the Great Lakes Chapter of Gerontological Advanced Practice, Palliative Care, Spiritual Care and STARForUM.

The event recognizes National Health Care Decisions Day, April 16, a national initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes on end-of-life health care.

Scenes spark talk

"This came about because of what we were constantly seeing in the emergency center," Moccia said. "We decided to do one-act vignettes because they are instrumental in getting people to talk. You're watching a show. It's a non-threatening environment. We're really trying to cue people on the importance of having that talk and having documents readily available."

Moccia said individuals who have prepared an end-of-life medical plan, called an advance directive, living will or five wishes, need to tell family members about their intentions and make sure the information is accessible to EMS.

"When EMS walks through your door, you may not be able to speak and articulate what you want. We tell people to keep a medication list handy, an advance directive handy. Put it in the kitchen. Most of us take our medication in the kitchen, so EMS always goes into the kitchen."

For the past two years, St. Mary Mercy has made document storage and visibility easy with its "Plan in a Can" program. Moccia, an avid tennis fan, suggested using an empty, plastic tennis ball container for keeping important health documents. The idea was a "big hit." The hospital created a new label for the containers, which it gives out at various events.

Moccia also encourages individuals with medical illnesses and allergies to check the medical alert box on the back of their driver's licenses. It cues EMS workers to check for medical alert information in the patient's purse or wallet, she said.

To register for the program on advanced medical planning, visit stmymr-mercy.org and click on classes and events, or call 734-655-8950.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Arthritic hips

Homer Linard III, an orthopedic surgeon, will give a free educational seminar on hip pain, total hip replacement and new treatment options, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Botsford Hospital Zieger Administration & Education Building Colen Auditorium, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. To register, call 877-477-3621, option #1.

Breathers Club

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free meeting for anyone touched by COPD, 6-7:30 p.m. April 7 in the Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center, 22060 Beech, Dearborn. Group members share ideas and learn coping techniques from health professionals. For more information, contact Darlene Lingenfelter, 313-562-4132.

Dementia

» Tailor your communication style to build trust and develop rapport with individuals who have dementia, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, in the Clinical Services Building at Botsford Commons Senior Community, 21440 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills. An Alzheimer's support group meeting follows in the Botsford Commons chapel. To register, call Diane Zide at 248-426-6902.

» Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free program about managing symptoms, treatment and physical therapy of dementia from 6-8 p.m. April 15 at Oakwood Hospital - Wayne, 33155 Annapolis St., Wayne. Two Oakwood physicians will lead the free program. Valet parking will be available at no charge at the West Entrance and a complimentary light dinner will be

served. Early registration is recommended. Call 800-543-9355 or visit Oakwood.org.

Health discussion

Talk with Lila Lazarus, health reporter, Rob Casalou, St. Joseph Mercy Health System president and CEO, hospital officials and local leaders about issues that are important to you at an "open-ended" lunch discussion, noon April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. Other "Join Me" Lunch & Learn sessions will be held April 20 at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston, 620 Byron, Howell; April 24 at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, 5301 McAuley, Ypsilanti; and April 27 at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, 4465 Woodward, Pontiac.

Hearing loss

The Hearing Loss Association of America will focus on the topic, "What is aural reha-

bilitation and how will it help with my hearing loss?" 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297, af-rack@comcast.net.

Insurance enrollment

Oakwood Healthcare sponsors this free health insurance enrollment open house, noon to 5 p.m. April 11 in the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. Eligible consumers who paid the fee for not having health coverage last year have until April 30 to enroll in coverage for this year. Visit Oakwood.org/health-insurance-enrollment for more information.

Medical Bills

Botsford Hospital's free seminar, "Understand Your Medical Bills: Know the Terminology to Read Your State-

ments," runs 9-11 a.m. April 18 in classroom A/B in the Zieger Building at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Get answers to common questions about hospital bills, receive take-home guides and meet one-on-one with a member of Botsford's billing team to review your medical bills. For more information, call Alonda Malvo-Beard at 248-888-6448.

Walk with a Doc

Annette Carron, D.O., will lead a walk and will talk about Delirium: Conquering Confusion, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the nature center in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Register at 877-477-3621, option 1.

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Lunch & Learn

Downsizing Made Easy



Saturday, April 11th, at 12:00 p.m.

At Waltonwood at Cherry Hill

Downsizing can help reduce stress and create a happier lifestyle as we focus on the things that really matter. Join us for useful information on how you can downsize, rightsize and declutter, to help your home sell quickly and for top dollar.



A complimentary lunch will be served.

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