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Wayne-Westland to lease new school buses

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Faced with an aging bus fleet and a lack of money to buy new ones, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will again lease new school buses.

The district has been leasing eight school buses: four in 2013 and four in 2014. With one lease set to expire this year, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services Jim Larson-

Shidler asked the school board to increase the number of buses to be leased to 10 this year.

"We have 85 buses, many of them were purchased with the proceeds from the 1998 bond issue," Larson-Shidler said. "With the age of the fleet, it raises a concern about student safety."

Larson-Shidler told the school board that 48 buses are more than 10 years old and have more than 200,000 miles

on them. Currently, three buses are out of service, two with blown engines and one that was totaled in an accident.

He recommended that the board approve renewed leasing of four buses and adding six more because a lower lease cost.

The cost of a new bus is about \$100,000. Wayne-Westland will be able to get the 10 buses from Holland Bus Company in Holland, Mich., for \$14,000 each. Holland's price

is \$3,000 less than Hoekstra Transportation in Grand Rapids. It also carries the flat-front buses Wayne-Westland uses because of narrow subdivision streets, Larson-Shidler said.

More for less

"For the purchase cost of one school bus we're able to 8-10 buses on the road," Larson-Shidler said. "That's why we're going with 10 because of the savings. Ideally, purchas-

ing is best, but we can't do that."

Wayne-Westland has been cutting expenses for several years after losing more than \$900 per student in state school aid. It has been able to avoid a deficit through employee concessions and keeping spending in check.

Trustee Charles Trav Griffin who served on the 1998 bond committee said the dis-

See BUSES, Page A2



Westland Youth Librarian Laura Flaherty flips the last page open of the Big Yellow Sunflower, turning it into a flower during a story time at Willow Creek Preschool.

Preschoolers celebrate reading with 847 books

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

They may only be three and four years old, but youngsters at the Willow Creek Preschool proved they were up to the challenge in reading during March.

The preschool, located in Kirk of Our Savior Church in Westland, hopped on the March Is Reading Month bandwagon by reading 847 books and earning a very special story time provided by the William P. Faust Public Library and an even

more special ice cream treat.

"I think I'm going to be attacked," teacher Darlene Taig said. "It's Superman ice cream."

Youth Librarian Laura Flaherty did story times for both the three-year-old and four-year-old classes, reading books such as *Maisy Grows a Garden* and *Big Yellow Sunflower* with pages that form the petals.

She gave youngsters paper flowers and invited them to stand up and try to plant one.

"Dig a little hole; plant a little seed; pour a little water; pull a little weed;

chase a little bug, and give it a little sunshine," she said, leading the youngsters through the different actions.

They also did counting and a bit of physical fitness as flowers tall and small and blowing in the wind.

They youngsters also did a craft, creating their own flower garden.

This was the first time Taig did something for reading month with her young students, and she was amazed at the response.

See READING, Page A2

Cale Furney: 'Perfect choice' for Westland Police Officer of Year

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Having joined the Westland Police Department 2 1/2 years ago, Officer Cale Furney is already having an impact — so much impact that he has been honored as 2014 Police Officer of the Year.

"He is consistently a leader on his shift and in productivity," Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said. "Cale is a young guy and young in his career here. He makes himself a better officer every day. He was recommended as the overwhelming choice."

A native of Climax in western Michigan, Furney earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University. He worked for the Hamtramck Police Department for two years prior to joining the Westland Police Department.

"Cal, you're a perfect choice as police officer of the year," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "I happened to talk to your former chief (in Hamtramck); he was definitely sad to see you go."

Jedrusik highlighted some examples of Furney's work during 2014.

"In April, Furney apprehended a subject who had just robbed a Taco Bell on South Merriman. The suspect was armed with a handgun which Furney recovered as well. That suspect and his partner in crime both plead guilty to

See OFFICER, Page A2

Help needed for Wayne-Westland veterans parade

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual Wayne-Westland parade honoring veterans.

Sponsored by the Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council, this year the parade will be held Sunday, May 24. The parade alternates its route — one year heading south to Wayne, the next going north to Westland.

"We put flyers (seeking volunteers) up in the library and other establishments," said Dan Stachow, parade council chairman. "We're looking for anyone who wants to participate in the group or any aspects of the parade."

There are only six people on the council, which usually meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at

the Harris Kehrner VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, in Westland.

"It's ongoing, we basically meet year around," said Stachow, adding volunteers can be involved the to extent they want.

On the day of the parade — always the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend to avoid conflicts with area Me-

morial Days parades — help is needed with activities, such as the staging the participants and handing out programs. The staging begins about 10 a.m. with the parade getting underway at 1 p.m.

"You don't need any special skills — just show up and be ready to work," Stachow said.

See PARADE, Page A2



Westland Police Officer of the Year Cale Furney (center) is congratulated by Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik (left) and Westland Mayor William Wild.



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Livonia church hosts service remembering Armenian Genocide victims

Leaders of Metro Detroit's four Armenian churches and those from other faiths are uniting in Livonia Friday for a special Ecumenical Service to honor and remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The worship service will be held at 7:30 at St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Basilica, itself home to a large contingent of oppressed people with Middle Eastern roots. Friday, April 24, is Martyrs Day, the day annually that honors the one and a half million Armenians killed by the Ottoman government in the first mass ethnic cleansing of the 20th century.

"This is an unprecedented event at a critical time in the Armenian Genocide movement," said Manouk Derovakimian, co-chairman of the Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit Genocide Committee, the group responsible for the

service. "One-point-five million Armenians didn't have the chance to live a normal life in this world, and we cannot forget them."

The committee represents St. John Armenian Apostolic Church in Southfield, St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Dearborn, St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church in Detroit, and Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield. The evening's principal homilist will be the Rev. Allen Vigneron, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.

Attendees will also be mesmerized by an outdoor digital art display on the church's buildings and bell tower. Projections of iconic Armenian churches and religious symbols telling the story of the genocide and the Armenian nation's rich religious influence will be produced by well-



An outdoor digital art display on the church's buildings and bell tower will show iconic Armenian churches and religious symbols telling the story of the genocide.

SUBMITTED

known Detroit area photojournalist Michelle Andonian and visual artist Gabriel Hall of

New D Media Arts. St. Mary's is at 18100 Merriman north of Six Mile. A reception with

religious and government leaders will follow. All are welcome to attend. Contact the Rev. Ga-

rabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, at 248-569-3405.

Area College for Creative Studies student to create Grand Prix poster

Mary McLain, a 22-year-old College for Creative Studies student from Livonia, has been selected to create the official 2015 Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix commemorative poster.

McLain competed in a contest hosted by the school in partnership with the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix. The competing students were all part of the design class under instructor Francis Valjejo.

McLain's winning

design incorporates the elements of nature at Belle Isle Park, blended with the Detroit city skyline and a father and son watching race cars zoom around the iconic Scott Fountain on the island.

"It was a really tough decision for the judges this year as all the designs were unique and strong in their own way," said Bud Denker, Chairman of the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, who has served on the judging panel in each of the last three years of

the competition. "The level of talent and design skill is remarkable at CCS and all the students should be proud of the work they produced. At the finish line, Mary's design just seemed to tell a perfect story of the experience at the Grand Prix and it was a unanimous choice as the winning entry."

McLain's design will help Detroit "Start the Summer" at the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, May 29-31, as the official event poster will be produced,

showcased and sold throughout the weeks leading up to the Grand Prix. The poster will be highlighted on race weekend and through the rest of the summer and the design may also be included on merchandise items moving forward.

"It's really an honor to win this competition," McLain said. "There were a lot of great entries and now I'm really excited to attend the Grand Prix and enjoy the experience on race weekend."



Mary McLain, a 22-year-old College for Creative Studies student from Livonia, with her winning poster design.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

<p>MONDAY MADNESS Monday, April 27: 10am - 9pm Buy a book and WIN! Spectacular giveaways while supplies last!</p>	<p>TEACHER APPRECIATION Tuesday, April 28: 3 - 9pm Teachers receive 50% discount with valid ID</p>	<p>BOOKBUSTER SALE AND SPORTS DRAWING Wednesday & Thursday: April 29 & April 30: 3 - 9pm BUY 3, GET 4th FREE* (*Least expensive item) Spend \$25.00 or more and receive a free gift. AND be entered in a special drawing.</p>
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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Break-in

A resident in the 32000 block of Hillsdale Court told police April 17 that she returned home from work around 3:30 a.m. to find the laundry room window open. She said the screen had been removed and there were muddy foot prints on the side of the house under the window.

Inside, she said drawers had been rummaged through and later found \$100 missing from her safe, which was left unlocked sitting on the bed.

Vandalism

An employee of a contracting company working on a foreclosed home in the 34000 block of Bock told police he arrived April 18 to find the water heater and furnace damaged after someone improperly removed them from

their installed positions. The damage was set at \$1,500. The employee said he had last been at the home on April 8.

Larceny from a vehicle

On April 17, a resident of the Landings Apartments, 6688 Lakeview, told police that someone had entered her locked car and stolen an unspecified amount of change out of the ash-tray.

No damage was reported to the vehicle.

Identity theft

A Westland woman told police April 17 that she had been contacted by Harper Woods Police after they found a copy of her driver's license in a vehicle they had stopped. The woman said she had no idea how the information had been obtained.

Larceny from a vehicle

On April 18, a couple living in the 32000 block of Kalamazoo Court told police someone had stolen the wife's wallet from the console of their unlocked vehicle overnight. The couple said both their driver's licenses were inside the missing wallet.

Larceny

A resident of the Colonial Village Apartments, 8181 N. Wayne Road, told police April 20 that she had ordered a pair of Shiekh shoes, valued at \$162, online. UPS reported delivering the shoes to her door step April 10. When she came home a few hours later, she said the package was missing.

Attempted break-in

A resident of an apartment in the 36000 block

of McKinney told police she returned home to find the center of the deadbolt on her door hanging out. She called maintenance and was told no one had tampered with the door. The lock was replaced and it was unclear if had broken or someone damaged it.

Property damage

A resident in the 400 block of Helen reported that someone tampered with his 2002 Dodge Caravan that was parked on the street April 19.

Someone broke in and damaged the ignition. There was no sign of forced entry or any witnesses.

Larceny

A headlight housing assembly was reported stolen from a 2003 Chevrolet Venture parked in the 7700 block of Woodgreen on April 20. The

owner told police the second headlight housing assembly was loosened as if someone had started to remove it.

The resident told police that someone had also stolen the catalytic converter from the same vehicle but she hadn't reported it missing.

Suspicious circumstances

A resident in the 700 block of N. Byfield told police April 7 that he heard noises about 12:20 a.m. He said he looked outside to see about five males walking down the sidewalk away from his home.

Thinking they might have been tampering with vehicles, the resident said he checked his car. He reported approximately \$5 in change missing.

By LeAnne Rogers

Man charged with sex crimes involving Canton teen

A Troy man has been charged with six counts of criminal sexual conduct involving a Canton girl who police say was about 13-15 years old.

Brett Christopher Lloyd, 42, is accused of befriending the girl through an undisclosed social media website and arranging to meet her in Canton during the latter part of last year and early this year, police Lt. Craig Wilsher said.

"It was over a period of time," he said.

Lloyd was arraigned Saturday on five felony counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and one misdemeanor count of fourth-degree CSC. If convicted, he could face 15 years in prison.

Lloyd has been jailed with a \$150,000/10-percent bond, meaning he would need to post \$15,000 before he could be released.

He is scheduled for a preliminary examination May 1 in 35th District Court to determine whether he should face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

With court proceedings pending, Wilsher declined to divulge certain information, such as where Lloyd and the girl met. An investigation began last year after the alleged victim reported the situation to police.

Wilsher said the incidents should serve as a warning for underage girls and boys to "be very cautious" when striking up a conversation with strangers through social media.

dclm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny from vehicle

A resident of the Chestnut Court Apartments, 31530 Van Born, told police that just before 1:30 a.m. April 11 he heard a noise outside. When he looked out the window, he said he saw

two men at his car — one inside the vehicle, the other attempting to open the trunk.

The resident told police he opened the window and asked what the men were doing. Joined by a third man, he said they ran to a newer model

black Ford Escape and fled.

Reported missing from the car was a laptop computer valued at \$950, four blank personal checks and miscellaneous medical equipment relating to his job as a nurse. The front driver's door

was reported to have been damaged due to the lock being punched.

Attempted break-in

On April 18, a resident at Newberry Square, 35240 W. Michigan Ave., told police that someone had damaged her entry

door attempting to break in while she was in the hospital. The wooden door had damage near the handle locking mechanism but was still able to be locked. The damage was set at \$150.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Theft

A resident in the 30000 block of Rosslyn reported that several items were stolen from an SUV parked in the driveway April 20.

The woman said her husband told her that he locked the vehicle. She added that she regularly leaves her purse on the

floor of the front passenger side area of the vehicle.

When she returned to her vehicle, she found that the glove box was open and her purse was on the back seat. About \$100 in cash, an iPod Touch and a full 30-count bottle of Vicodin was taken from her purse. No credit cards were

taken.

The police found no signs of forced entry.

Vandalism

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, reported damage to its hospital annex April 19. A security guard noticed that there was a hole in a northwest entrance door window. No alarms were

triggered.

Fraud

A Garden City man reported fraud in connection with a PayPal credit card April 20. A collections agency said that he owed \$800 on a PayPal account.

He said that he doesn't have a PayPal credit card as the collections agency cited. The online charges were made between Oct. 20 and Dec. 20.

Property damage

A resident in the 400 block of Helen reported that someone tampered with his 2002 Dodge Caravan that was parked on the street April 19.

Someone broke in and damaged the ignition. There was no sign of forced entry or any witnesses.

By Sue Buck



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Churchill High School presents 'The Addams Family' musical

Churchill High School presents *The Addams Family* musical at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23; Friday, April 24; and Saturday, April 25 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

You're invited to step into the darkly delirious world of Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Grandma, Wednesday, Pugsley and Lurch as they hilariously grapple with the unfamiliar concepts of love and joy, as displayed by 18-year-old Wednesday, who has fallen in love.

Watch two worlds collide in comedic fashion, when Wednesday invites her boyfriend and his family to a "normal" dinner at the Addams Family mansion.

The large cast of this all-school musical includes the following lead roles: Gomez, Ryan Miller; Morticia, Kat O'Donnell; Wednesday, Leah Dixon; Lucas, Jake Jarvis; Uncle Fester, Brandon Bartley; Grandma,



The cast of the Addams Family.

SUBMITTED

Amy Szuba; Pugsley, Christian Schleck; Mal Beineke, Michael Jackman; Alice Beineke, Jess Rushing; Lurch, Ethan Walker; and Cousin Itt, Liam Murphy.

Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$10 for students and senior citizens. Call 734-331-2329 or email churchilltickets@gmail.com to reserve tickets.



SUBMITTED

Morticia, played by Kat O'Donnell, and Gomez, played by Ryan Miller, look on disapprovingly as Wednesday, portrayed by Leah Dixon, enjoys a tender moment with Lucas, portrayed by Jake Jarvis.

Cruise season kicks off at Livonia Best Western

Don Nicholson Enterprises will start off the cruise season with a free cruise at the Livonia Best Western Hotel from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

The event will feature raffles and information on upcoming cruises for the season.

There will be commemorative dash plaques to the first 150 vehicles, and multiple event organizers will be on hand to talk about their cruises. Also get free entry into a raffle for prizes and a chance for a free night at the Livonia Best Western.

There also will be food, music and a tour of the remodeled Best Western.

Best Western General Manager Nader Judeh and Nicholson also will be on hand to answer any questions.

Livonia library hosts photojournalist's Chernobyl exhibit

A photo exhibit of Chernobyl landscapes and victims will be on display Friday through Sunday at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The display coincides with the 29th anniversary of the April 26, 1986, nuclear disaster in Ukraine.

Half-Lives, Half-Truths is the work of photojournalist Gabriela Bulisova, who toured the disaster zone in the years following the 1986 explosion and fire at the world-renowned nuclear power complex located 80 miles from Kiev.

An update of the current situation in and around Chernobyl will be an addendum to Bulisova's photojournalistic efforts.

The display is being presented by Alliance To Halt Fermi-3, a group of citizens and organizations opposed to a third Fermi nuclear reactor near Monroe.

"Twenty-nine years ago, Chernobyl showed the world that nuclear power disasters with a global impact can actually happen," said Keith Gunter, Co-Chair of Alliance To Halt Fermi-3. "Beginning in March

2011, Fukushima demonstrated that Western-designed nuclear reactors can have even more catastrophic results than Chernobyl, underscored by Tokyo Electric Power's recent admission that Fukushima Unit 1

has suffered an out-of-control, 100 percent core meltdown on the coast of the Pacific Ocean," Gunter said. "We're truly in uncharted territory there."

Admission is free. The library is at 32777 Five

Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, contact Keith Gunter, Co-Chair, Alliance To Halt Fermi-3, at 734-838-8084 or email him at keith.gunter9@gmail.com; or call the library at 734-466-2491.

EVERYONE HAS AN IDEA OR MAYBE A FEW...

ACCENT TABLE

Nicolette McKeivitz,

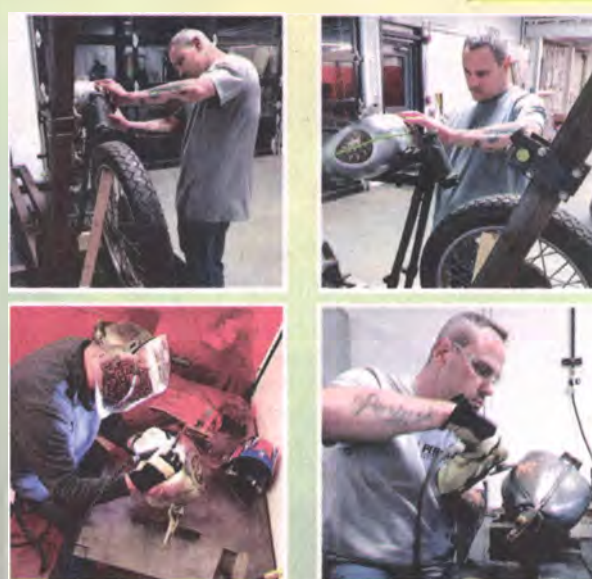
Project: Accent Table with a planter box built in to the table top. Nicolette, a 20-year old Novi resident came to The Village Workshop to pursue her dream of building custom wood furniture. Nicolette enjoys other hobbies such as oil painting, writing poetry and working on retro pickup trucks. You could say Nicolette likes to work with her hands.

Nicolette became interested in art in grade school and continued classes through-out high school. She attended Kendall College of Art and Design where she discovered her love for furniture through 3d art classes. Although she learned about design, Nicolette had the need to design and build furniture with her own hands. Within a week of her first visit to the Village Workshop, Nicolette had completed her Wood Shop Safety Class. Motivated by a design she had been working on, she got right to work on her first furniture project, a wood table with a planter box built in to the tabletop.

Her design will be a combination of modern and eclectic style with a black finish to bring out the texture and grain in the wood. The back legs will feature straight lines while the front legs will be turned spindles. Dream Project: Nicolette's dream is to build custom furniture that is not only functional, but also pieces of art. At the top of her list is a chair design that will combine nature with classic furniture lines featuring natural living edges that bring out the beauty of the grains in the wood. Her vision would be to make it a functional piece of art with a modern twist.



CUSTOM VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE



Mike Brimm works in the automotive industry building global show vehicles.

Project: Custom Vintage Motorcycle. Starting with a 1970 BSA motorcycle, Mike's vision was to bring this vintage machine into the future! He used his metal working skills and artistic background to make the jig to create his masterpiece from the frame to the custom paint he calls "Magic Rootbeer".

Since Mike is a hands on guy he puts hours of labor into his project including the use of an English wheel to fabricate the fuel tank. This labor of love will be custom from the ground up.

A friend urged him to enter his project in a contest called the "Amateur Chop Off". Just the motivation he needed. Although the prize is cash and a feature in a motorcycle magazine, Mike was motivated by the challenge.

Mike's passion for working with metal started in the ninth grade. For over 25 years he has enjoyed restoring old cars. Mike once helped a friend restore an Imperial Speedster to a show car. He recalls living in his friend's guest room for close to a year while working on the nearly three-year project.

Although Mike is a perfectionist he found that his self-taught welding and fabricating skills were also useful in expressing his creativity through creating metal art. He says that the metal art gives him more creative freedom than working on cars.

Mikes passion, enthusiasm and ideas intrigued Brian Donovan, co-owner of The Village Workshop so much, that TWV will be the sponsor for Mike's "One of a Kind" creation.

Dream Project: When asked what his dream project was, Mike laughed and said there was a list of 25! Inspired by other Village Workshop members Mike would like to create an artistic metal gate for the metal shop to enhance the overhead door entrance and let the fresh air in. Another idea, is designing and creating a "Motorized Drift Trike", also known as "A Big Wheel" for adults.

Mike believes that his gift for creative metal work came from not being afraid to "just do it!" He says, "You can create it in your head and then on paper, but the real joy comes from building it with your hands"...

He shares that thought with his new friends at the Village Workshop and adds that being a member gives him the tools and inspiration to bring his dream projects to life!

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PVM, Homestead form limited liability company

Carl Simcox, owner of Homestead Home Health Care, and Roger Myers, president and CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, have announced the formation of a new joint venture. The new entity has been structured as a Michigan limited liability company (LLC) on a 50/50 percentage ownership basis. A formal name is in the process of being selected. The purposes of the joint venture are identifying, assessing and implementing selective business opportunities to leverage the individual and shared capabilities of

Homestead and PVM to enhance services and programs for seniors, their families, caregivers, payors, healthcare systems and broader communities across Michigan utilizing a personalized approach aimed at assisting seniors to live in the most independent setting possible. Services that may be provided include, but are not limited to:



Myers

- » Private duty home health and personal care services, including medication assistance and a broad array of supports (market rate and Medicaid Waiver funded).
- » Enhanced living (care and services in a congregate setting).
- » Coordination of ancillary services, including skilled care, end of life care, physician services, pharmacy services, and care transition programs.
- » Meal preparation and nutritional/dietary monitoring.
- » Transportation and concierge services, in-

cluding personal shopping and errands, house-keeping, laundry and chore services, home repairs, maintenance, lawn care and snow removal

- » Relocation services and support (staging, packing, moving, etc.).
- » Outings, wellness and other enrichment/engagement program.
- » Telehealth and other home based technologies.

Homestead will serve as the general manager of the LLC and a PVM representative will serve as the chair of the LLC's governing board. Headquartered in

Southfield, PVM is a faith-based, nonprofit, multi-site system that has served seniors of all faiths since 1945. PVM serves more than 4,300 seniors and currently has 25 senior living communities, including the Village of Westland, and offers continuing care retirement communities (apartments, assisted living, and skilled nursing all on one campus), subsidized senior housing, and market rate senior housing. For more information on Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, visit www.pvm.org.

Homestead Home Health Care is headquartered in Northville and is a for-profit organization engaged in multiple service/programs caring for seniors since 1989. Homestead and its affiliates service more than 2,000 clients throughout Michigan. It provides home care, facility management of independent and assisted living communities, care coordination and client advocacy. For more information on Homestead Home Health Care, visit www.homesteadhomehealthcare.com.

Deciphering Internet jargon – FWIW

The social web is a wasteland of inside jokes, acronyms and obscure references that the majority of users don't understand. Internet power users attach themselves to these jokes and phrases to differentiate themselves from the masses. You no longer have to feel excluded. Below is a helpful list that explains some of the most commonly used acronyms and web phrases, which will help you surf the web without so much bewilderment.

Meme: A meme (pronounced meem) is an online joke that is most commonly shared in the form of a picture with an overlay of words. Memes are common on large message boards like Reddit, where a group of users can adopt an inside joke quickly. One of the more mainstream memes is a series of jokes involving the Dos Equis spokesman. Social media users will take a picture of the "Most Interesting Man in the World" and place it with interesting or absurd phrases.

GIF: Is an image sequence that when spliced together, creates a looping animated image or a short video. GIF is pronounced like the popular brand of peanut butter, although both pronunciations are widely understood.

TL;DR: This acronym is used by writers who are acknowledging their own



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

wordiness. It stands for "too long; didn't read" and is usually accompanied by a synopsis of the author's very wordy forum post or blog entry.

IMHO: Stands for "in my humble opinion." Often used on message boards where users are debating sports or other topics.

MRT: If you've used Twitter you know that RT is short for "re-tweet" and that re-tweet means to share something on Twitter. MRT stands for "modified re-tweet," when the person sharing the information has slightly modified the original message. This is done as to attribute something incorrectly to the original author.

SMH: Stands for "shaking my head." Not to be confused with SMS, which stands for Short Messaging Service, another term for text messaging.

GTFO: This R-rated acronym stands for "get the heck out," but substitute the word heck for something a little less friendly.

OT: "Off-topic." Mostly used on message boards where the post is off-topic from the rest of the site's typical subject matter.

FWIW: "For what it's

worth."

FTW: "For the win." But please don't confuse this with WTF, which you may already know as the unclean version of "what the heck."

Easter egg: A hidden surprise built in to a website or program that can only be accessed by pressing a certain code or looking in a specific place. Easter eggs get their name because they are hidden and users must hunt for them. The more well-hidden Easter eggs are considered to be better.

Meta: A joke that refers to itself. For example, a popular meta joke came about last year when a photo of Ryan Gosling was circulated. In the photo, Gosling wore a shirt with Macaulay Culkin's face on it. Days later, Culkin was seen wearing a shirt that showed Gosling wearing a shirt with his own face on it. This meta joke continued for two more rounds – which is way too difficult to explain in text. My suggestion is to Google the image for more clarity.

Google can also be helpful in determining the meaning for other acronyms or phrases that aren't explained here. GTG, TTYL.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.

When is a prenuptial agreement appropriate, necessary?

I received a call from one of my clients that his son had just become engaged. He asked me whether his 30-year-old son needed a prenuptial agreement. My client was in favor of the agreement, because his son owns a business. My client's wife, on the other hand, is totally opposed to it. Her view is that since this is a first marriage, a prenuptial agreement is not appropriate. My advice is that their son should execute a prenuptial agreement. Many people mistakenly believe that prenuptial agreements are only for the very wealthy and second marriages. In fact, more people are doing a prenuptial agreement for a first marriage. People do prenuptial agreements not because they're don't love the other person or think the marriage won't last. They do a prenuptial agreement because they recognize the reality and complications of life. We have all seen statistics which show that more than half of marriages end up in divorce. Unfortunately, that number is growing. We all know how messy divorces can be. In fact, it's not unusual to hear about divorces that are in court longer than the



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

marriage lasted. The purpose of a prenuptial agreement is to make sure that doesn't happen. A prenup is nothing more than an agreement between the parties setting forth what happens if the marriage does not work. I recommended the prenuptial agreement in this case because of the son's business. As a business owner, there are a number of different issues one needs to consider in order to run a successful business. First is flexibility. If a business owner gets divorced, that business could be subject to the divorce proceedings and, as a result, the business owner could lose all flexibility. A prenuptial agreement can exclude the business from any of the divorce proceedings, giving the owner the flexibility needed to run the business. Another issue is the time and effort it took to get the business going. Every business owner who has started his/her own business will tell you that it is not easy.

Why would anyone want to put that at risk in a divorce situation? A prenuptial agreement could prevent this. As people get married later in life, they tend to have more assets and complexities. A prenuptial agreement can make sure that if the marriage doesn't work out, there is an orderly mechanism to dissolve it and to let each party move on with their life. Anyone getting married needs to consider what would happen if the marriage does not work. For people who are getting married at a young age and who do not have any substantial assets or unusual complexities, a prenuptial is probably not necessary. However, if someone is getting married later in life or has substantial assets or is a business owner or has professional licenses, then a prenuptial agreement would be appropriate. A prenuptial agreement makes sure if the marriage ends, both parties can go their separate ways without judges, courts and lawyers determining their fate. *Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.*

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New dental partner

Dental Centers Great Expressions Dental Centers (GEDC), a leading dental service organization, has announced it is supporting a practice at 30260 Cherry Hill Road, Suite B, in Garden City. The office, led by Dr. Basam Shamo, will offer quality general dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, and Invisalign® to the surrounding community. This expands GEDC's commitment to patients in the metro Detroit area with the already more than 60 existing offices. "We're thrilled about our first office in Garden City," said Richard Beckman, CEO of Great Expressions Dental Centers. "This enables us to strengthen our presence across the state. But more importantly we're providing the community with an affordable and convenient option with unmatched patient care for existing and future patients with this location." For those without insurance looking to live a healthy lifestyle while saving, the new office will offer the GEDC

Smile Protection Plan, a discount dental plan solution. To schedule an appointment at the new location, call 734-525-6500 or visit www.greatexpressions.com.

Airport building named

The Wayne County Airport Authority recently passed a resolution to name a new WCAA headquarters building in honor of former Wayne County Road Commission Chairman Michael Berry. The facility, currently under design, will be constructed adjacent to the North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and is anticipated to open in 2017. Michael Berry is a respected and distinguished attorney, philanthropist and community member who was elected to the Wayne County Road Commission in 1967 and served as Chairman for 10 years. "Michael Berry saw the importance of expanding Detroit Metropolitan Airport, and with his vision, was instrumental in facilitating development that al-

lowed our airport to grow and prosper," Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton said. The former Berry International Terminal, which still bears his name, was decommissioned in 2008, when the airport's North Terminal opened. "Naming our new administration offices in honor of Mr. Berry allows his legacy and vision to continue on," Naughton said. Construction on the Michael Berry Building – Wayne County Airport Authority Headquarters is anticipated to begin toward the end of this year. The new headquarters will incorporate sustainable design elements that complement the architecture of the adjacent North Terminal and will realize dramatic operating efficiencies, from the airport's current office space in the former Smith Terminal. The new facility will be approximately 84,000 square feet as opposed to the nearly 305,000-square-foot Smith Building, which was constructed in 1957.

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The 2015 Lincoln MKX is on sale now at Jack Demmer Lincoln.

LINCOLN

Purchase a 2015 Lincoln MKX and enjoy the Demmer Difference

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

The 2015 Lincoln MKX is on sale now at Jack Demmer Lincoln, where customers benefit from the Demmer Difference.

Sales Manager Chris Conley said that this midsize luxury crossover vehicle is ideally balanced, and noted its 305 horsepower and 26 miles per gallon highway on regular unleaded.

"Most of the competition requires premium fuel," he said.

A main feature, Conley said, is the optional Intelligent All-Wheel Drive that helps give the Lincoln MKX en-

hanced traction while providing impressive performance along with tighter handling and control. The system responds actively by redirecting power to the appropriate wheel for best traction. It also helps enhance the vehicle's performance and handling in driving conditions such as rain, sleet, snow, gravel or sand.

The MKX's voice-activated technology helps drivers keep their eyes on the road and stay connected; its features include:

- » Hands-free calling
- » A compatible digital music player
- » Bluetooth audio
- » Incoming texts read with audible

text messaging.

- » Voice/touch climate control
- » 911 Assist using your connected mobile phone.

Conley said that MKX owner loyalty is very high.

"Most MKX clients buy or lease another MKX," he said.

And many return to Jack Demmer Lincoln because of the Demmer Difference, which includes:

- » Complimentary maintenance for a new Lincoln
- » Complimentary service loaner
- » Complimentary valet service
- » Complimentary car wash
- » Multilingual sales consultants

» A great selection of certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles

» Being part of the Jack Demmer Automotive Group family

» And attentive, knowledgeable professionals

"Great lease and purchase offers are going on now," Conley said.

Jack Demmer Lincoln is located at 21531 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn. The dealership is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

For more information, call 800-306-8674 or visit demmerlincoln.net.

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These complimentary events are hosted by Thrivent Financial and your local representatives Jeff Long, CFP®, Jay Kempf, CFP®, Jeff Myers, FIC, and Matthew Crenshaw.

EVENT DETAILS:

Monday April 27 • 5:00pm or 7:00pm
Westland City Hall
36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185

Tuesday April 28 • 5:00pm or 7:00pm
Westland City Hall
36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185

Please call **734-455-9272** or email huronvalleygroup@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Light refreshments will be served.

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2015 Lincoln MKZ



\$246/mo.

Vin #3LN6L2G96FR617747

24 Mo./21,000 Miles Lease

\$0 Down with \$246 Due At Signing

*All payments are based on A/Z plan, plus tax, title, and plates. 24 month/21,000 mile lease. Lease Renewal Included. Residency restrictions apply. Security deposit is waived with approved credit through Lincoln AFS. Taxes, title, license and document fees are in addition to the amounts shown in this offer. Non A/Z plan payments slightly higher. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Price is subject to change. This offer ends 4/30/15.

2015 Lincoln MKC



\$218/mo.

Vin #5LMCJ1A96FUJ41551

24 Mo./21,000 Miles Lease

\$1951 Due At Signing

*All payments are based on A/Z plan, plus tax, title, and plates. 24 month/21,000 mile lease. Lease Renewal Included. Residency restrictions apply. Security deposit is waived with approved credit through Lincoln AFS. Taxes, title, license and document fees are in addition to the amounts shown in this offer. Non A/Z plan payments slightly higher. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Price is subject to change. This offer ends 4/30/15.

2015 Lincoln MKX



\$233/mo.

Vin # 2LMDJ6JK5FBL20794

24 Mo./21,000 Miles Lease

\$1999 Due At Signing

*All payments are based on A/Z plan, plus tax, title, and plates. 24 month/21,000 mile lease. Lincoln MKX Owner Loyalty and Lease Renewal included. Residency restrictions apply. Security deposit is waived with approved credit through Lincoln AFS. Taxes, title, license and document fees are in addition to the amounts shown in this offer. Non A/Z plan payments slightly higher. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Price is subject to change. This offer ends 4/30/15.

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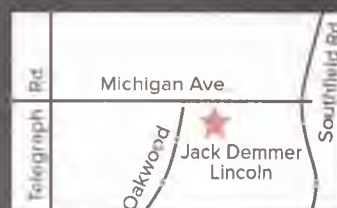
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Purina ONE recognizes Humane Society volunteers for making a difference

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Called the "gold standard" for animal welfare, Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center was at the epicenter of a celebration Saturday recognizing the organization's volunteers and staff as part of National Volunteer Week.

Staged by Purina ONE, the event served as a kick-off to the Purina ONE Difference campaign which shines the light on shelters and volunteers dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of dogs. Volunteers from the MHS facilities in Rochester Hills, Detroit and Westland were treated to food, music and yard games like Corn Hole and giant Jenga.

They also were given a month's supply of Purina ONE dry dog food as part of the Purina ONE 28-Day Challenge to see the difference great nutrition can make for their own dog.

"It's really an honor to be chosen for this," said MHS spokesman Ryan McTigue of Royal Oak. "It's a tough job, it's often a thankless job and to be recognized for the hard work is great."

"We can't thank our volunteers enough every day," said Michael Robbins, vice-president and chief marketing officer. "To have Purina ONE come in, chose our volunteers and the Westland community is extraordinary."

Volunteer network



Humane Society volunteer Michelle Janulis of Waterford plays Jenga as part of the Purina ONE celebration at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center Saturday.



Volunteering at the Berman Center in Westland are Dale and Chris Baunoch of Livonia (back row, from left), Angie Mueller of Westland (front row, from left), Donna Dowling of Canton and Robert Keysmith Farmington Hills.

The staff and volunteers at the Michigan Humane Society care for as many as 500 animals every day and adopt out more than 9,000 pets annually. More than 1,000

people also volunteer their time. The Michigan Humane Society is one of the oldest and largest animal welfare organizations in the country and is known for having built a

large network of volunteers who logged more than 50,000 hours last year.

"Purina ONE has an excellent partnership with the Michigan Humane Society," said Pam Hill of Purina who labeled MHS as the gold standard in acknowledging the organization's work. "I want to thank the volunteers. Those thousands and thousands of hours of volunteer help the animals."

Introduce to the familiar beat of *Wild Thing*, Westland Mayor William Wild thanked Purina ONE for recognizing MHS and the Berman Center.

"I'm so proud of you and so proud of the Berman Center," he said. "It's hard to believe it's been 11 years since you opened these doors. Thanks for the great



CJ Bentley, senior director of operations for the Michigan Humane Society, thanks volunteers at the Purina ONE.

work you do."

Among volunteers at the event were dog trainers Angie Mueller of Westland and Donna Dowling of Canton who shared their table with Robert Keysmit of Farmington Hills and Dale and Chris Baunoch of Livonia.

Of the group, Keysmit is the longest serving volunteer, having started walking dogs in the summer of 1993. He's now an adoption assistant.

"I also do maintenance and cleanup, I try to get here early to help," Keysmit said. "I considered that part of being an adoption assistant is litter patrol."

Mueller has been volunteering since 2011 and is a dog trainer, giving her furry friends Pawsitive Start behavior modifications to get them adopted and remain adopted.

"This is my happy place," she said. "If I have a bad day at work, I walk in here and know life is good."

Dowling has been a volunteer for more than a year and admits she "loves dogs."

"I can never own enough," she said. "There's not enough time on earth to have that many dogs. I get so much dog love here."

They agree that the best part of volunteering is seeing the faces of people as they leave with their new family member.

"And seeing a long time resident leave," added Keysmit.

'Love it'

Dawn Stevens of Dearborn Heights works at the Berman Center. She

got involved through friend and has been at the Berman Center for two years.

"I love it; the animals are great, the people are great," she said. "I could bring home a dog a week. I love the volunteers. They're always needed."

Sally Baker of Canton works in the call-in center at the Westland facility. She handles appointments for the three facilities for euthanasia, the surrendering of animals, taking in strays and adoptions. She had been a manager at a call-in center for a company in Novi and was looking for something to do. She had fostered for an animal rescue and had an interest in them.

"I thought it was a perfect fit and it has been," she said. "A lot of time you end up counseling people. You give them the options of programs we have available. You do the counseling most with euthanasia. It's a hard decision."

"Now that I've worked her a year, I'm in awe of what they do. I totally believe in their cause," she added.

As part of the event, guests received a free month's supply of Purina ONE dry dog food so that they can take the Purina ONE 28-Day Challenge to see the difference great nutrition can make for their own dog.

MHS hopes to continue to enhance its life-saving work with the new state-of-the-art Detroit Animal Care Campus. Grown was broken for the new facility in October 2014. Located on four acres in Detroit, it will include a 35,000-square-foot facility that will provide a safer environment for the animals with updated living spaces, rehabilitation rooms and construction materials that provide improved sanitation.

As part of the program, Purina presented MHS with a "Thanks for Making ONE Difference" sign to hang in the center. Beneath the glass was 1,700 dog tags representing MHS employees and volunteers.

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

**CITY OF WAYNE
PUBLIC NOTICE**
**ELECTION NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS
OF THE CITY OF WAYNE, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN**

Absent voter ballots for the City of Wayne Special Election of May 5, 2015, are available through the Wayne City Clerk's Office, at the Temporary City Hall (former Vandenberg Elementary School), 32101 Stellwagen St., Wayne, Michigan for those persons who are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for a ballot.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the Wayne City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2015.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: April 23, 2015

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD
WAYNE COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held in the Charter Township of Redford, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern time, at which time:

The following proposal shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Township of Redford at the special election to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015:

STATE PROPOSAL 15-1: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Eliminate sales / use taxes on gasoline / diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career / technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges / universities.
- Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales / use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment.
 - Increase gasoline / diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.
 - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted? Yes No

Each person voting in the special election must be a citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age; and a registered elector of the city or township in which he or she resides.

The place of voting for the special election to be held on May 5, 2015, will be as follows:

Precinct 1	Stuckey School, 26000 Fargo, Redford, MI 48240
Precincts 2, 3 & 4	Beech Elementary School, 19900 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48240
Precincts 5 & 6	John MacGowan School, 18255 Kinloch, Redford, MI 48240
Precincts 7 & 8	Our Lady of Loretto Ctr., 25700 Six Mile Road, Redford, MI 48240
Precincts 9 & 11	Hilbert Middle School, 26440 Puritan, Redford, MI 48240
Precinct 10	New Beginnings, 16175 Delaware, Redford, MI 48240
Precincts 12 & 14	Covenant Community Church, 25800 Student, Redford, MI 48239
Precincts 13 & 15	St. Valentine School, 25875 Hope, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 16	Addams School, 14025 Berwyn, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 17	Christ Church, 14350 Wormer, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 18	Shear School, 26109 Schoolcraft Road, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 19	Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 20	St. Robert Bellarmine School, 27101 West Chicago, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 21	Pierce Middle School, 25605 Orangelawn, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 22	Fisher School, 10000 Crosley, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 23	Michigan Technical Academy, 23750 Elmira, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 24	Jefferson School, 26555 Westfield, Redford, MI 48239
Precinct 25	Vandenberg School, 24901 Cathedral, Redford, MI 48239

Absentee ballot applications are available by contacting the Clerk's Office at (313) 387-2750 or online at <http://www.redfordtwp.com/clerk-election>.

All locations are handicapped accessible and are equipped with handicapped voting machines with the availability of voting instructions in alternative formats (Audio and Braille).

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Redford

Publish: April 23, 2015

**CITY OF WESTLAND
SPECIAL ELECTION
May 5, 2015**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time a state-wide ballot initiative will be presented stating - PROPOSAL 15-1 - A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees. The proposed constitutional amendment would: eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads; increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF); expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities; give effect to laws, including those that: increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment, increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes, expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects, increase earned income tax credit. Should this proposal be adopted? YES or NO

The places of voting for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1, 13, 18 & 19	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
2, 11, 23 & 32	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4 & 8	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
5, 24 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6, 9 & 10	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
12, 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
14	Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct
16	Holiday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27 & 36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the City of Westland City Clerk's Office or on the internet at Michigan.gov/vote

Registrations to vote will be accepted in the following locations:

- City or County Clerk's offices during normal business hours
- Secretary of State Offices located throughout the state during normal business hours

Eileen DeHart, CMC, CMMC
Westland City Clerk

Publish: April 16, 2015



From left, Dorothy, played by Erin Steele; the Scarecrow, played by Colin Tetrault; Glinda, played by Abby Schnell; the Tin Man, played by Joe Gaskill; the Cowardly Lion, played by Brendan King; and Uncle Henry, played by Mason Steele.

Stevenson High School presents 'The Wizard of Oz'

Follow the yellow brick road with Dorothy and friends, in Stevenson High School's production of *The Wizard of Oz* at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23; Friday, April 24; and Saturday, April 25 at SHS, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia.

Directed by Michael Corliss, this spring musical production features nearly 100 students on and off the stage and also includes many special effects.

Playing the major roles in the musical are: Erin Steele, as Dorothy; Colin Tetrault, as the Scarecrow; Joe Gaskill, as Tin Man; Brennan King as the Cowardly Lion; Billy Cosmo as the Wizard; Abby Schnell as the Wicked Witch; and Jillian Tosolt as Glinda, the good witch.

Tickets are \$8 at the door.



Tin Man, played by Joe Gaskill and the Cowardly Lion, played by Brendan King, rehearse a scene in the SHS production of 'The Wizard of Oz.'



The trees and Tin Man, from left: Kerry Ronan, Elizabeth Eighmy, Joe Gaskill, as Tin Man, Taressa Schultz and Emma Farquharson.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL CITY OF LIVONIA
33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
FOR
THE PRINTING OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA NEWSLETTER

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia, Michigan, as owner, until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at the City Clerk's Office at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

The City of Livonia seeks proposals for the following:

REQUEST FOR BIDS TO TYPESET, PRINT AND DELIVER THE CITY OF LIVONIA NEWSLETTER

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

All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the service bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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

Jack E. Kirksey
Mayor
City of Livonia

Publish: April 23, 2015

**CITY OF LIVONIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

WHEREAS, the City of Livonia has received a request from Paul F. Bohn, Fausone Bohn, LLP, on behalf of Livonia Lodge, Inc., dated April 2, 2015, proposing the establishment of a Commercial Rehabilitation District at 27403 Schoolcraft and 27451 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 210 of the Public Acts of 2005, and Act 82 of the Public Acts of 2011, as amended, the Council has the authority to establish Commercial Rehabilitation Districts within the boundaries of the City of Livonia; and

WHEREAS, there is located within the boundaries of the City of Livonia an area of approximately 2.13 acres lying in the Northeast ¼ of Section 25 as more particularly described in the attachment to the application which is hereby incorporated by reference and which is hereinafter referred to as "Proposed City of Livonia Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 3";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LIVONIA, as follows:

- The City Clerk is directed to give written notice by certified mail of this action to all owners of real property within the boundaries of Proposed City of Livonia Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 3.
- This City Council sets **Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, as the date and time for the holding of a public hearing on the question of whether this City Council should establish the Commercial Rehabilitation District described above.
- This City Council directs the City Clerk to provide notice, as required by law, of the public hearing fixed above, so that all residents or taxpayers of the City of Livonia shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the question of establishing the Commercial Rehabilitation District described above.

SUSAN A. HOFF, CITY CLERK

Publish: April 23, 2015

St. Raphael holds annual auction fundraiser

There's excitement in the air on the campus at St. Raphael Catholic School in Garden City as they prepare for their ninth annual Auction Fundraiser this weekend.

The God Bless America-themed School Auction will take place from 5:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, in the school on Beechwood at Merriman, north of Ford, in Garden City.

A full buffet meal will be provided along with two drink tickets, cash bar, a dessert bar, coffee bar sponsored by Garden City Tim Horton's, candy bar, silent and live auctions with more than 300 items,

tuition raffle, heads/tails raffle for an iPad mini, lottery tree, a raffle for a big screen TV and the popular classroom projects made by the school children.

The emcee and auctioneer for the evening is Susie McGraw, an alumna who also has a son who graduated from the school.

Guests who attend are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one, living or deceased, who is or was in the military.

"There will be a special dedication before dinner commemorating their fight for our freedom," parishioner Mike Choi said. "Get your patriotic attire ready for

a wonderful evening of fun."

Childcare will be provided by the Youth Group in the Parish Resurrection Room attached to the church for \$5 per child. Children must be potty trained.

All proceeds go toward the school's operating budget and technology enhancements for the students.

St. Raphael School will celebrate its 80th anniversary next year. It has been a Michigan Non-Public Schools Accrediting Association school since 1994.

Tickets are \$35 and \$40 at the door. Call the school office for tickets at 734-425-9771.

**CITY OF WAYNE
ELECTION NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED
ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WAYNE,
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election will be held in the City of Wayne, County of Wayne, Michigan, on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of a proposal to change the State Sales Tax from 6% to 7% for the purpose of roads and two City proposals. The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, May 2, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., for the purpose of receiving applications for absentee ballots.

**PROPOSAL:
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposed by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- * Eliminate sales/use taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.
- * Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).
- * Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.
- * Give effect to laws, including those that:
 - Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment.
 - Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.
 - Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.
 - Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes _____ No _____

The following Charter Amendments shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Wayne, at the election to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015:

PROPOSAL NO. 1

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 19.1 AND 19.3 OF CHAPTER 19 OF THE
WAYNE CITY CHARTER**

Shall Chapter 19 of the Charter of the City of Wayne be amended so that police officers and firefighters are excluded from the retirement system established by the City Charter, effective with the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and instead become members of a separate retirement system under 1937 PA 345, as amended, and that accumulated contributions to the current employee's retirement system made by or on behalf of such officers be transferred to the Act 345 retirement system? This charter amendment shall not be effective unless the electors approve the establishment of a separate retirement system under said Act 345.

Yes _____ No _____

PROPOSAL NO. 2

**PROPOSAL TO ADOPT AN ACT 345 RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR POLICE OFFICERS
AND FIREFIGHTERS**

Shall the City of Wayne, Wayne County, Michigan, be authorized to establish a separate retirement system pursuant to Act 345 of 1937, as amended, for the benefit of police officers and firefighters employed by the City, create a board of trustees to manage and operate the system, and be authorized to levy a new tax annually in an amount sufficient to fund the system in an actuarially sound manner, but not to exceed 3.00 mills in any year on each dollar (\$3.00 per \$1,000) of the taxable value of all property in the City, for a 5 year period to fund the system, all contingent upon the approval by the electors of a City Charter amendment authorizing the transfer of police officer and firefighter members from the current employee's retirement system to the new system created under Act 345?

It is expected that approximately 3 mills will be levied in 2015 and will raise the sum of approximately \$1,068,000.00.

Yes _____ No _____

Statement as required by Act 278 of Public Acts of 1964
Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, **RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ**, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of February 25, 2015 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY
Wayne County, Michigan
Wayne-Westland School District
City of Wayne

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increase Effective
County of Wayne	November 3, 2009	1 mill	2019
Wayne County Jail	August 7, 2012	1 mill	2021
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Comm. College	November 6, 2008 November 6, 2012	1.25 mills 1 mills	2020 2022
Wayne-Westland Comm. Schools	May 2010 February 2012	18 mills 1 mill	2025 (non-homestead) 2022

Dated: February 25, 2015

Raymond Wojtowicz /s/
Treasurer

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the City of Wayne City Clerk's Office or on the City website at <http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us/>.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

- In Person:**
- At the City Clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
 - At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
 - At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
 - At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

My Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

CITY OF WAYNE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 3355 S. WAYNE RD. WAYNE, MI 48184	CITY OF WAYNE-TEMPORARY CITY HALL CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 32101 STELLWAGEN ST. WAYNE, MI 48184
Telephone number: _____	734.722.2204

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) year of age;
- (b) A registered elector of the city or township in which he or she resides.

The places of voting are as follows:

Precinct 1 and 2	Hoover Elementary School, 5400 Fourth St.
Precinct 3 and 6	Wayne Senior Activity Center, 35000 Sims Ave.
Precinct 4 and 5	Taft-Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria St.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

OUR VIEW

Say yes May 5 to Proposal 1

Michigan roads and bridges need fixing — now. Proposal 1, although not perfect, offers a path for that to happen. On Tuesday, May 5, voters can raise taxes to ensure that roads and bridges will be repaired or say no and deal with the deteriorating, often unsafe, road conditions for several years to come.

For too many years, state leaders have settled for short-term fixes for roads instead of long-term solutions. Michigan roads are worse than other Great Lakes states. It's not surprising that Michigan roads and bridges are crumbling.

» Michigan spends 70 percent less per mile or \$2 billion less than the Great Lakes average.

» One in three roads are in poor condition and one in nine bridges is considered "structurally deficient" by the Federal Highway Administration.

No one likes a tax increase, but current road and bridge conditions are dangerous. Proposal 1 guarantees that state taxes collected at the pump will go to

transportation.

Proposal 1, if approved, will raise the state sales and use taxes from 6 percent to 7 percent (a 17-percent increase) and institute a new tax on gasoline and diesel. It will also remove fuel from sales tax collection.

The new fuel tax will pay for roads and replace the revenue — and more — that will be lost by removing fuel from the sales tax base.

Proposal 1 also extends pavement warranties to projects more than \$1 million and most local road projects. If the roads are not built right, the road builders — not taxpayers — will pay for the repairs.

Some opponents of Proposal 1 claim to have a Plan B. Really? Plans C, D and E are also out there, according to some opponents. The problem is none has seen the light of day and none has the legislative or public support needed to solve the road problem. And the state can't wait another two or three years to fix roads and bridges.

Potholes that are more like sinkholes, crumbling bridges and buckling pavement are dangerous. Proposal 1 is the best available solution to a problem that has been ignored for years.

The time is past to argue. Without more money — an increase in taxes — our state roads and bridges will continue to crumble.

Voters should be aware that they are being asked to approve a proposal that raises money beyond what's needed for roads. Money will go to restore education revenue levels and another portion of funds will improve revenue sharing to local communities. It isn't ideal to lump all of these complicated issues into a single vote but, in doing so, legislators gave voters an opportunity to shore up three areas of need at the same time.

Safe roads and a sound transportation infrastructure are important to moving Michigan forward.

Vote **yes** May 5 on Proposal 1.

GUEST COLUMN

Arbor Day: Planting trees, rebuilding communities, restoring hope

As the nation celebrates Arbor Day (April 24), let's reflect on the value of trees and highlight the important ability of trees to restore hope, bring healing and lift spirits following natural disasters. Trees are vital to successful, long-term recovery efforts — from a critical conservation recovery perspective and also when considering the emotional healing and recovery of people and the fabric of a community.

Trees bring hope and healing, raising the spirits of residents who suffered the loss of their cherished trees. Many shared a similar sentiment as that of the good people of Mississippi. When asked why he came for the trees, one resident responded, "So I can bring life back."

Trees serve many purposes. They are very much a part of the fabric of life and of the community. Trees provide both physical and emotional landmarks — marking childhood adventures, romantic walks and lazy Saturday afternoon picnics, among others. Trees evoke memories and help to establish a sense of place, meaning and belonging. Putting trees into people's hands following loss serves to lift spirits, restore hope and help to begin the healing process. This Arbor Day, it is important that we recognize that trees are vital infrastructure just like our roads and our bridges.

Disasters, such as wildfires, tornadoes, windstorms and floods, wreak havoc upon both our physical and emotional landscapes. The comfort and security — the sense of place provided by our trees — is dramatically altered and sometimes even erased. New trees bring hope and are part of the holistic recovery of a community following a natural disaster.

After Superstorm Sandy, residents of New Jersey experienced first-hand the hope and healing brought forth by new trees. One said, "More and more communities are engaged. We are on the road to recovering our precious tree canopy, one tree at a time."

The need for an orchestrated disaster response that includes providing new trees to communities in need is today more important than ever due to increased threats of severe storms and wildfires. When natural disasters strike, our partners on the ground, including state foresters across the nation, are poised to respond and ready to provide new trees through the generous support of our caring members and partners. The 2015 Community Tree Recovery campaigns are visible across the country in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington. Trees are part of the recovery process. Together, we can continue to bring life back through trees.

In Texas, a local official helped plant new trees to replace trees lost in the devastating 2011 wildfires. He said, "As we plant these trees, we're helping people to know that life goes on and things can be restored."

Arbor Day reminds us all to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

Let's continue to plant trees whose benefits will be enjoyed not only by us, but also by our nation's children and grandchildren.

This Arbor Day, let's appreciate the trees for their important role in helping to establish a sense of place, meaning and belonging; for serving as both physical and emotional landmarks that define important milestones along life's journey; and for being so seamlessly, intricately woven deeply into the rich fabric of our life and our community.

Please join me and thousands of others as we continue to work directly with our state forestry leaders on the ground to put trees into people's hands following the loss caused by natural disasters, so that we may lift spirits, restore hope and help to begin the healing process.

Dan Lambe is the president of the Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit conservation and education organization founded in 1972, the centennial of the first Arbor Day observance. For more information, go to www.arborday.org.



By Dan Lambe

GUEST COLUMNIST

LETTERS

Support coffee house

Karma Coffee is an independent, family-run coffee house in the process of reopening their store in Wayne, a city that badly needs grass roots businesses like Karma. People who live in small towns like Wayne know each other, a situation quickly disappearing in a less personal, more anonymous society.

Businesses like Karma are necessary to this city, reminiscent of when Wayne had many family-owned shops and a walkable downtown where people could gather to meet and the owner was on site and knew his customers. Karma is not a quick stop place. People are encouraged to sit and visit.

And they have a following. Through the social network many people have been encouraging them to return. At their previous location, independent musicians and poets would often come to perform for the customers. Without serving alcohol, it was hardly a club atmosphere, but a place where people of all ages could go for entertainment and camaraderie.

The owners of Karma could go elsewhere, but they are taking a chance on Wayne, and we should give them a chance as well by patronizing and supporting them. I am willing to stand by Karma Coffee and what it represents to small towns and the people who want to just slow down and sip the coffee.

Mary Lindsay
Wayne

Garden City's Griffin

Former U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin died last week at the age of 91. A long-time U.S. representative and senator, he was eulogized in the *Detroit Free Press* and *New York Times*. They covered his legislative accomplishments in the House and Senate during his career of about 25 years. The newspapers noted he was born in Detroit and later the family moved to northwest Michigan.

What was omitted that Mr. Griffin and his family lived in Garden City when he was an infant and stayed until 1941 when the future congressman was 17.

When campaigning for his first full term in the Senate in the fall of 1966, I received a phone call from Griffin's press secretary. At the time I was the *Garden City Observer* community

editor. The press secretary called to say that the senator was coming back to his hometown to say hello to his former neighbors and visit his childhood haunts. One stop was Wolf's Pharmacy when Griffin worked as a teenager. The business was on the southeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt. It was later the City Hall and is now known as Orin Jewellers.

Following that stop, the senator visited his former neighbors and recalled his childhood in the late 1920s and the 1930s.

Later that fall, Griffin returned to Garden City, accompanied by Gov. George Romney, who was also campaigning for a new term. The two, followed by a gaggle of reporters and TV camera crews, drove through several local neighborhoods, stopping several times to knock on doors of voters and ask for their support in the upcoming election.

In the early 1970s, Griffin made another stop in Garden City as the keynote speaker at the Chamber of Commerce's annual membership dinner. At the time, I was a chamber board member.

Shortly after arriving at the banquet hall on Cherry Hill near Venoy, a campaign staffer pulled me aside and asked if I could introduce the senator to chamber members as the senator begins "working the crowd." In his talk, Griffin made a big deal that he was opposed to the administration's proposal of building a state of the art air force bomber, the B-1, then a big deal in Washington.

In the lengthy obituaries in the *Free Press* and *Times*, Griffin was praised for his role in persuading then President Nixon, who was fighting congressional impeachment at the height of the Watergate scandal, to resign.

I mostly remember him as a Garden City kid who came back to visit his hometown.

Leonard Poger
Westland

The Wayne way

Well, the taxpayers have former Mayors Warfield and Haidous to thank for the current mess that the City of Wayne is facing! The old mentality of "spend, spend, spend" didn't work out after all!

Both of these people have vacant buildings in our community, which isn't helping to attract

new business to Wayne. During the Haidous administration, council created a new position for a former council member, which the main objective was to entice new business to our city. We all know how that scenario played out, don't we?

And it was totally irresponsible to merge our fire department with Westland to create an "association." Now the fire chief wants a raise. If the City of Wayne would put a stop to all these high salaries, maybe, just maybe, we could still salvage our community.

Just remember this: If Mr. Loren "Skip" Monit decides to run for elective office in Wayne; "Don't keep Monit on it."

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

American way

I work with American citizens and visitors from around Detroit, Brazil, Syria and now China.

Yesterday, a reader, who is from China, looked over my shoulder and pointed out the window. I looked to where the reader was pointing and saw a bunch of people walking by. I did not think much of it. The student was very curious, however, so I offered to walk to the window with her to look.

It turned out to be a demonstration. I said that and turned to go. The reader remained at the window. Mesmerized. I returned to the window. The reader asked me what they were doing. I told her they were having a demonstration. I looked at the signs and saw the number "15" and told the reader they were seeking to raise the minimum wage.

There were some police cars attending and three police officers walking along. To me it was peaceful and uneventful.

The reader asked if the police were going to do anything. I said they would follow along to make sure the demonstrators didn't break anything and that no one tries to hurt or stop them. If anything like that happened then the police would intervene.

The reader told me in China that would not happen. I asked what would happen. The reader said the police would arrest everyone and they would not be seen again.

Do you feel the United States is bad?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

GUEST COLUMN

Assistance can be simply a phone call away for those in need

Although the calendar says spring has arrived, cold weather continues to plague Michigan residents. We know many people may be worried about having enough money to pay their energy bills and want you to know help is available.

First, we encourage people to call 2-1-1, so callers can explain their situation and learn where to find help. Michigan 2-1-1 is a free, confidential service that connects you with local community-based organizations across the state offering thousands of different programs and services for people seeking help. It is the single best phone call you can make to find assistance, whether it is for energy bills, medical assistance, veterans/military affairs, free tax preparation, transportation and other needs.

Help from 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week,



Whitney Skeans

GUEST COLUMNIST



Tom Page

GUEST COLUMNIST

365 days a year and online at www.mi211.org.

Because we care for the Michigan communities and customers we serve, Consumers Energy provides long-term financial support to agencies and organizations associated with Michigan's 2-1-1 system, helping to ensure there's a strong lifeline to everyone in need.

We also encourage Consum-

ers Energy customers who think they will have problems paying their energy bills to call 800-477-5050 so they can make payment arrangements.

Customers are urged to call before they fall behind on payments. Getting help early is the best way to stay safe and in control of your energy costs.

More information about other programs and services can be found on the Consumers Energy website, www.consumersenergy.com/assistance.

Again, we want to encourage those who need assistance with energy bills or other needs to reach out and contact 2-1-1, Consumers Energy or your local utility. Help is available and we're here to help.

Tom Page is the executive director of Michigan 2-1-1. Whitney Skeans is Consumers Energy's customer assistance manager.

Bookstock begins Sunday at Laurel Park Place mall

Bookstock, the area's biggest used book and media sale, returns to Livonia's Laurel Park Place on Sunday, kicking off at 8:15 a.m. with a pre-sale and a performance by an ensemble from the DSO Youth Orchestra.

There is a \$20 admission charge for the pre-sale only, which runs through 11 a.m. and offers shoppers and col-

lectors first crack at Bookstock's more than 100,000 donated used books, DVDs, CDs, books on tape, magazines and records for sale at rock-bottom prices.

Bookstock, which benefits literacy and education projects in metropolitan Detroit, features five days of special sales and giveaways.

» Monday Madness –

Monday, April 27. The first 1,000 shoppers will receive giveaways and one lucky shopper will receive a \$500 Visa gift card.

» Teacher Appreciation Day – Tuesday, April 28. Bookstock will give 50 percent off to all teachers with a valid ID, from 3–9 p.m. At 5 p.m., the Bookstock B.E.S.T. Awards, (Bookstock Extraordinary Student/

School/Teacher) will be presented to fourth-grade students from Detroit Public Schools who write the best essays titled "My Favorite Book Character ... and Why."

» Bookbuster Sports Nights – Wednesday, April 29, and Thursday, April 30. Buy three books and get the fourth book (the least expensive item) free from 3-9 p.m.

Spend \$25 or more either night and get a free copy of *Century of Champions* by Nick Costanika and the *Detroit Free Press* sports staff, and also be entered in a special drawing for one of three prizes.

Bookstock concludes on Sunday, May 3. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Bookstock is brought to the community by the Jewish Community Relations Council, and a consortium of communal nonprofit organizations.

For more information, call the Bookstock hotline, 248-645-7840, Ext. 365, or visit bookstock.info.

Laurel Park Place is on Six Mile east of I-275.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Time/date: 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 24-25.

Location: Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Details: Presented by the Livonia Family YMCA, featuring 30 children from the community. Tickets available at the door. Adults are \$5, kids under 3 are free.

FREE HEARING, VISION SCREENING

Time/date: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia.

Details: The Lions Clubs of District 11A1 of Lions Club International will offer free hearing and vision screening tests to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. Free hearing screening for all ages will take place in Room 150. Free kids vision screening will take place in Room 151.

Contact: 313-279-1494.

HEALTHY KIDS DAY

Time/date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, Livonia.

Details: Free games, crafts, bounce house, snacks and other fun activities for kids.

Contact: 734-261-2161; ymca-detroit.org/livonia.

BODY & SPIRIT AEROBICS MARATHON

Time/date: 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: Civic Center Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: Fundraiser for Angel House to help raise awareness of domestic violence. There is no charge to attend, but refreshments will be sold. Bring floor/yoga mat and hand weights (optional). Registration starts at 1 p.m. and the marathon at 2 p.m. For all fitness levels.

Contact: 313-443-7256.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: St. Simon and Jude Catholic, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m. Preregister for \$20 per team (maximum of four persons). At the door the cost is \$30, if space available. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, and one food choice for each team. Food choices are four hot dogs and four chips or one pepperoni or cheese pizza from Marina's. Additional food items and beverages (beer, coolers, pop, water, coffee) available for purchase. There will be a 50/50 raffle (tickets are \$1 each, three for \$2, 10 for \$5 and 25 for \$10) and prizes — mystery prizes, \$100 for first place, \$80 for second place, \$60 for third place and \$20 for last place.

Contact: Kathy Hansen, 734-716-4436.

JAMMIN' TO END FAMINE

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Details: The Birchler Family is holding its eighth annual concert to end hunger. Tax-deductible tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students and include free pizza, salad bar and a cash bar. All proceeds will go to Kids Against Hunger (www.kidsgainsthungercoalition.com). Tickets are available at the door or by calling 248-722-1820 or emailing tombirchler1@gmail.com.

SENIOR MEN'S GOLF

Time/date: 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: Civic Center Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will hold its annual registration and business meeting. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the annual meeting begins at 9 a.m.

Contact: Roger Pattee, 313-737-1422.



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COLLEGE BASEBALL

Haeger hits 600-win mark

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It was a banner weekend across the board for the Madonna University baseball team as the Crusaders swept their four-game series against host Lourdes University (Ohio) at Mercy Field in Sylvania. Coach Greg Haeger, now in his 19th season, also notched his 600th and 601st career victories Saturday as Madonna beat the Gray Wolves twice, 7-0 and 2-1, to improve to 33-11 overall and pull within a half-game of first place Davenport

St. Pierre also ties Madonna save mark with nine as MU sweeps four from Lourdes

in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference race with a 23-4 record.

Haeger now ranks second all-time on in the WHAC career wins coaching list with 433.

MU starter Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson) went all nine innings in the opener to raise his season rec-



Haeger

ord to 6-1. The junior right-hander scattered six hits, struck out 10 and walked only two.

Offensively, Taylor Grzelakowski led the way going 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Rob Matigian (Livonia Churchill) also went 2-for-2 with an RBI, while John Lauro added two hits.

In game two, left-hander

Alex DeYonker (5-2) pitched six strong innings allowing just one run on three hits. The sophomore from Livonia Franklin struck out five and did not allow a walk before giving way to reliever Bobby St. Pierre, who pitched a scoreless seventh striking out two batters.

With his ninth save of the season, St. Pierre now shares the Madonna single-season record with both John Fedorka (2004) and John McCracken (2008).

Lauro had two hits and two

See MADONNA, Page B3

WWAC golf

Garden City defeated Redford Thurston, 170-201, Monday afternoon at Westland Municipal Golf Course.

The Cougars were led by juniors Connor Johnson and David Rush, both of whom carded nine-hole rounds of 41. Seniors Joe Pummill and Justin Bastion shot identical 44's. Kyle Koch fired a 45 while Austin New tallied a 46.

Alex Williams led the Eagles with a 45, four shots better than teammate Emmanuel Scott. Alec Odayko carded with a 51 and Logan Charlton contributed a 56.

"It was a very tough day for a high school golf match," said GC head coach Ron Pummill, whose team improved to 2-0 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference and 2-1 overall. "There were wind gusts as high as 23 miles per hour, plus there was rain and sun mixed in, which made for a very challenging round."

On April 15, Westland John Glenn defeated Redford Union, 212-219. Luke Hebner led the Panthers with a 47. Evan Albright and Ben Hawn both shot 55 for RU.

LIVONIA CITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT

A LOT TO 'LOVE'

Host Stevenson nets emphatic championship

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Mother Nature served up a perfect day (sunny and 70 degrees) for Saturday's Livonia City Girls Tennis Tournament, and host Stevenson returned the favor with a near-perfect performance.

Playing in a four-team, round-robin format, the Spartans earned 25 of a possible 27 points to ace the tournament by 15 points over runner-up Walled Lake Western, which was invited to even the field of teams at four.

Churchill and Franklin both netted eight points.

A point was awarded to a team for winning a match - which the Spartans did early and often.

The only non-Stevenson player to go undefeated in her flight was Charger freshman Kaitlyn Rogosch, who lost just four of the 40 games she played.

Stevenson's Jill Weiand captured the No. 2 singles title, however, it was anything but a breeze as Churchill's Haley Rangdone took her to three sets before Weiand won the marathon, 4-6, 6-4, 10-5.

Senior Danielle Marzec looked strong while sweeping her No. 3 singles matches, defeating Franklin's Carla Yanaez and Churchill's Madison White by identical 6-2, 6-2 counts.

The No. 4 singles bracket was owned by Stevenson's Molly Cormier, who rolled to three consecutive straight-set victories.

Stevenson's No. 1 doubles duo of Arryn Dochenetz and Sam DiGiovanni didn't lose a set on the way to its crown. The match of the day in that flight pitted Churchill's Maggie Trinka and Lexi Fata against Franklin's Kelly Swanon and Ashley Mahoney. The Chargers' pair earned the point with a 12-10 triumph in set three.

The Spartans' twosome of Maddie Chimento and Natalie

See CITY TOURNEY, Page B4



Livonia Stevenson's No. 1 singles player Samantha Cyrus returns a shot during Saturday's Livonia City Tennis Tournament.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS GUDECK



Stevenson's Danielle Marzec won the No. 3 singles title at Saturday's tournament.



Livonia Churchill freshman Kaitlyn Rogosch went 3-0 during Saturday's Livonia City Tennis Tournament.

Blazers stop N.D. in lacrosse

Livonia Ladywood used a balanced scoring attack Monday to earn an 8-7 Catholic League girls lacrosse victory over host Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

The Blazers, who improved to 3-3 overall and 3-0 in the league, got three goals from junior Shannon Mulcahy and two from Jaclyn Mullen.

Nicole Reece, Jillian Jacobs and Colleen Barnes added one apiece.

Ladywood freshman goalie Grace Canty made eight saves.

"We had a good first half, but we were not able to capitalize on our shots or maintain ball possession in the second half," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said. "We pulled ahead by a goal with about three minutes left."

Madonna hoops camp

The Madonna University Summer Boys Basketball Camp will be held June 22-26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, which is located at 15100 Hubbard in Livonia.

The fee is \$205 for Livonia residents and \$215 for non-residents. Boys between the ages of 8 and 15 are eligible to participate.

Registration can be completed at the Livonia Community Recreation Center or you can register online at www.ci.livonia-mu.us.

Each camper will receive a T-shirt. There are also daily contests, trophies and prizes for champions.

The camp is highlighted by guest speakers, demonstrations and personal instruction. Individual testing will be completed on each camper's jumping, passing, dribbling and shooting. There will also be 5-on-5, 3-on-3 and 1-on-1 tournaments.

PREP PROFILE

Versatile Mattison shines on diamond

Churchill standout can play (and hit) anywhere

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Thanks to softball, Livonia Churchill senior Rachel Mattison has traveled extensively - both throughout the country and around the diamond.

Since her love-at-first-at-bat attraction to the sport in a recreation T-ball league close to 14 years ago, Mattison's softball experience has been wide-ranging and rewarding. Thanks to a diligent year-

round commitment to improvement, she went from a defense-only flex player her sophomore year on the Chargers' varsity, to the team's No. 3 hitter this season.

And of the nine positions on the field, there's only one she hasn't played.

"I'm pretty versatile, I guess you could say," Mattison said. "I haven't played catcher yet, but I've played the middle infield, the corners, I've pitched and I've played the

outfield.

"When I got called up to play on varsity my sophomore year, they put me at first base, which was a position I had never played before then. I actually did pretty well over there, so that's probably one of the highlights of my high school career so far."

A travel-level player since the age of 10 when she first made the Livonia Storm, Matti-

See MATTISON, Page B3



Senior Rachel Mattison has been a key player for Livonia Churchill's softball team the past three seasons.

ED WRIGHT

COLLEGE SIGNING

Radford digs Ernat's volleyball skills

John Glenn senior set for next-level career in Virginia

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn senior Val Ernat does some of her best work on a volleyball court just inches from the floor, but the Rocket libero's talent is through the roof.

A specialist at breaking opposing hitters' spirit with diving, point-extending digs, the athletic and instinctive Ernat has been sharpening her defensive skills ever since she started playing the sport at the club level in middle school.

A multiple-time all-conference volleyball standout and all-world student (she carries a 4.2 grade-point average), Ernat signed a letter of intent



Westland John Glenn volleyball standout Val Ernat signs the letter of intent to play for Radford University in Virginia as her parents Steve and Mary look on.

last week to play for Radford University beginning later this summer.

"I actually started playing volleyball on the beach up north," revealed Ernat, who was joined at Thursday's sign-

ing ceremony by her parents, Steve and Mary, along with teachers and friends. "I've loved playing it ever since then. Every year, I've played at a higher level and I've enjoyed the challenge."

Preventing kills – not collecting them – has a special appeal to Ernat.

"I like defense because there's always a new and different challenge, no matter who you're playing against," she said. "I like being active out there and trying to keep my team in every point."

Like all soon-to-be collegiate athletes, Ernat was attracted to Radford by its academic and athletic programs, as well as its scenic campus in Radford, Va.

But there was something else that made her realize it was the school for her.

"I liked that they came after me, not the other way around," she said. "I felt they wanted me and liked me right away, which was appealing."

"Once I visited their campus, I loved it, and I always wanted to attend college out of state, somewhere warmer than Michigan. They finished

first in their conference last year. It's the Big South – not a huge conference, but it's Division 1 and it's very competitive."

Knowing that assists are vital in volleyball – both on the court and off – Ernat said her next-level experience wouldn't be possible without her parents.

"Club volleyball takes such a dedicated commitment, both from the players and their families, both with amount of money it costs and with all the travel, the every-night practices, the weekend tournaments," she said. "My parents gave me the chance to play and I'm extremely thankful for that."

Ernat's initial plans are to pursue a degree in criminal justice, although she's undecided about which path she'll take in the field.

ewright@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL

Thursday, April 23
S. Lyon at Stevenson (conclusion of April 15 suspended game), 4 p.m.
HVL at Oakland Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 24
Crestwood at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Clarenceville at Luth. NW, 4:30 p.m.
Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Hamtramck at Garden City, 4 p.m.
Calvary at HVL, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 25
Harrison at Stevenson (2), 11 a.m.
Clarenceville at Huskies Classic, 9 a.m.
John Glenn at Lincoln (2), noon

Franklin at Edsel Ford (2), 11 a.m.
Luth. Westland at Thurston (2), 11 a.m.
Churchill at W.L. Western (2), 11 a.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 23
Luth. Westland at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Marian at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
Luth. NW at HVL (2), 4 p.m.
Friday, April 24
Wayne at Skyline (2), 4 p.m.
Cabrini at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Edsel Ford at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Stevenson at Garden City (2), 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 25

Garden City at Airport, 10 a.m.
Churchill at Chelsea Invite, 10 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, April 23
Ladywood at Gabriel Richard, 6 p.m.
Southfield Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 24
Salem at Stevenson, 6 p.m.
Churchill at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Garden City, 6 p.m.
Thurston at RU, 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 25

Ladywood Invite, 8 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, April 23
Belleville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Hariland at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 24
Stevenson at Salem, 4 p.m.
Garden City at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 25
John Glenn at Crestwood, 9 a.m.
Wayne Invite, TBA
Plymouth Invite, 8:30 a.m.
TRACK & FIELD
Thursday, April 23
Livonia Boys City Meet at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24
Livonia Girls City Meet at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 25
Crestwood Invite, 9 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Thursday, April 23
Wayne at Canton, 3 p.m.
Franklin at John Glenn, 3 p.m.
Carlson at Garden City, 3:15 p.m.
Plymouth at Churchill, 3 p.m.
S. Lyon at Stevenson, 3 p.m.
Friday, April 24
Livonia City Meet at Fox Creek, 3 p.m.
Thurston at Edsel Ford, 3 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Saturday, April 25
Ladywood at Saline Invite, TBA



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Bake Real Estate in prime Plymouth office spot

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Bake Real Estate is now at the corner of Penniman and Harvey, 908 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. "Carrie Bake is opening her own brokerage. Carrie's been growing her business," said Patrick Wong, Carrie Bake's husband and Realtor colleague at Bake Real Estate. "It's taken off."
Realtor Bob Bake began working in the area in 1967, with his daughter, Carrie Bake, and her husband, Patrick Wong, carrying on the tradition. Carrie Bake is broker/owner of Bake Real Estate, which concentrates on Plymouth and Northville and areas nearby.
"This opened Dec. 1st last year," said Wong, who lives in Northville. Bob Bake lives in Plymouth. They have five Realtors on staff, including the three family members.
"Great," Wong said of the location. "We've just had a lot of positive feedback about the sign," which was made in Petoskey, Mich.
Bake Real Estate is online at bakerealestate.com, and



Bake Real Estate is at the corner of Penniman and Harvey in downtown Plymouth.

Carrie Bake is at 734-788-2398. The Bake Real Estate phone is 734-453-8080.
"We're just seeing a good seasonal uptick," Wong said of

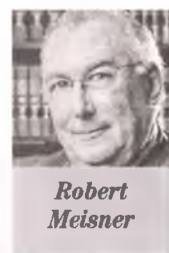
spring real estate sales. He sees no sign of the market slowing down.
Bake Real Estate is on Facebook, and Carrie Bake

and her husband have a local blog on both real estate and community living.
jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Appeals court upholds tree height standard

Q: Our Declaration in our subdivision says that all trees in a residential community may not exceed six feet. Is that a reasonable restriction?

A: Yes. In a similar case out of Wisconsin, where some of the community's lots have sweeping views of the surrounding terrain and community amenities, including its golf course, marina, and lakes. The first owner purchased his lot in 1987. At that time, the view from his lot was largely unobstructed. The adjacent lot owner, located downhill from the first owner, always either trimmed his trees or gave the uphill owner permission to do so to protect the views. In 1999, a new owner purchased the downhill lot. He stopped trimming the existing trees, and also planted new trees, all of which grew to over six feet and blocked the view of the uphill landowner.
The community's governing declaration stated no trees in excess of a height of six feet could be planted, and that no tree could be allowed to exceed six feet without written permission of the association's architectural control and maintenance committee. The declaration also stated that no trees or shrubbery could be removed unless approved in writing by the committee.



Robert Meisner

The downhill lot owner refused to either trim his trees or remove them. The association took no follow-up action, so the uphill lot owner sued the downhill lot owner. The trial court ruled that only human-planted trees must be trimmed back to six feet, because it found the declaration's restriction showed clear intent to preserve the naturally-occurring trees.
The uphill lot owner appealed. The Court of Appeals found the height restriction to be absolute and applicable to all of the trees because the language in the declaration contained no exception for natural growth. The Court of Appeals sent the case back to the trial court to consider appropriate treatment for the naturally occurring trees, however, because of the restriction that they not be removed unless approved in writing by the architectural control and maintenance committee.

Q. If the delay of a homeowner's association in providing corporate records to a member is found to be reasonable and in good faith, can that finding prevent an award of costs and attorney fees?
A: Yes, according to a Wyoming court, and the same result might apply in Michigan. In this case, homeowners sued the association, claiming it had denied repeated requests for inspection and copying of corporate records. The association argued, prior to hearing, that it had already provided the records. The homeowners continued to press for an order from the court, stating they had not received all of the records and further arguing for an award of attorney's fees and costs.
After the hearing, the court ordered production of records but denied the request for attorney's fees and costs, because it found the association had made reasonable efforts to meet the demands of the homeowners, and it further found the association had a reasonable basis for doubting the homeowner's rights to inspect documents which dealt with the privacy interests of individual members. The appellate court agreed with the result reached by the trial court, but Michigan's new changes to the Nonprofit Corporation should be reviewed and explained to you by competent counsel. But seek advice from your attorney regarding recent changes to the Michigan Nonprofit Act.

RichRealty in 'better location' in city of Plymouth

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

RichRealty is now at 281 N. Main St. in Charlestowne Square and can be reached at 734-459-5100 or www.RichEteam.com. A Customer Appreciation Day was held Monday, April 6.
Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner of RichRealty, was eager to show his new location. "I just moved across the street for better location," explained Canton resident Eisiminger.
They held their fourth annual Customer Appreciation Day April 6. "It's done on Tigers' opening day," Eisiminger said. "It's getting a little bigger every year."
He has 22 agents ("Every agent does their own territo-

ry.) who concentrate on a five- to 10-mile radius of properties. "The brand name," he said of being an independent firm. "It's honesty, it's being truthful." He began in real estate in 1991, and has been in Plymouth six years.
"This was all self-done," Eisiminger said in looking around the RichRealty office. "I started Jan. 15." The landlord handled some duties like HVAC and the ceiling, but Eisiminger really rolled up his sleeves.
He's a carpenter by trade who upon graduation from Westland John Glenn High's program went into the Detroit Carpentry Apprenticeship School.
RichRealty is on Facebook.
jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner of RichRealty, is proud of his new office and his staff. The office on Main on Plymouth features a modern Main Street scene as well as an historical scene.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.
Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third

Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.
RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 15-19, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing real estate transactions in Wayne County, including addresses and prices.

Table listing real estate transactions in Wayne County, including addresses and prices.

Table listing real estate transactions in Wayne County, including addresses and prices.

Table listing real estate transactions in Wayne County, including addresses and prices.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 24-28, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing real estate transactions in Oakland County, including addresses and prices.

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Table listing real estate transactions in Oakland County, including addresses and prices.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

DRINK UP

Natural, refreshing beverages



RED HOT BLOOD CLEANSER

Servings: 2 (1-cup servings)

2 cups watermelon chunks
1 small to medium beet, washed
1 apple, seeded and cut into cubes
1 tablespoon apple juice concentrate
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (depending on taste)
1/4 teaspoon turmeric

Place all ingredients in blender with watermelon on bottom. Turn blender on slow speed until watermelon has liquefied, then increase speed and blend 1 minute or until liquefied.

VEGGIE DE-BLOAT COCKTAIL

Servings: 2 (or 2 1/2 cups total)

1/2 medium cucumber, peeled
3 medium carrots, washed
2 celery stalks
1/2 red pepper, washed and seeded
1/4 cup fresh parsley
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro
2 cups watermelon
Dash of horseradish

In juicer, extract juice from all ingredients. Serve plain or over ice.

WATERMELON ZAPPER

Servings: 2 (2 1/4 cups total in blender, or 1 1/4 cups total in juicer)

2 cups watermelon cubes
1/2 large lemon, peeled
1 1/2 tablespoons peeled fresh ginger
2 medium carrots

Juice all ingredients in conventional juicer. In blender, place watermelon first then remaining ingredients. Turn blender on low until watermelon is liquefied then gradually increase speed. Blend 2 minutes.

Whether you're trying to achieve wellness goals or just looking for simple ways to add more nutrient-rich food sources into your family's diet, now is the time to dust off that blender or juicer. Naturally sweet and nutritious, watermelon is a great addition to drinks that nourish and replenish the body.

For years, health professionals have touted the many benefits found in nature, especially in fruits such as watermelon. Whether you need to flush out toxins or reduce bloating, healthy and hydrating watermelon is the all-natural solution conveniently found at your local grocer's produce section.

Packed with arginine and citrulline, watermelon may help improve blood flow. The watermelon's high water and potassium level may also help the body flush out unwanted fluids. Plus, watermelon is said to have a diuretic effect, which helps the body beat bloating. The following cocktail recipes feature this star ingredient, which along with other healthful ingredients, offer natural solutions for common conditions.

When incorporating these drinks into your family's diet, use a strong blender when you can. This will help retain essential phytonutrients and antioxidants within the blended mixture. Many conventional juicers require you to throw away the pulp, which means throwing out these bonus health benefits.

For more refreshing ways to add nutrients to your diet, visit www.watermelon.org.

Courtesy of Family Features



SUPER GREEN DETOX SMOOTHIE

Servings: Makes 3 cups

3 cups watermelon cubes
1/2 cup parsley
2 cups packed kale
2 teaspoons green tea powder
2 teaspoons gochujang paste
3 tablespoons pineapple juice concentrate
6 limes (juice from the fresh squeezed limes)
1/2 peeled and pitted avocado

Place all ingredients in a blender, such as a Vitamix, with watermelon on the bottom. Start blending slowly until watermelon is liquified, then increase speed. Blend for 1 to 2 minutes.

Tip: Gochujang is a Korean hot chili paste made from red chili powder, glutinous rice powder, powdered fermented soybeans and salt.



WATERMELON GINGER CELERY SHOOTERS

Servings: Makes 4 drinks

1 cup diced celery
1 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
1 cup diced seedless watermelon

Place the celery, ginger and vinegar in a blender and puree. Add the watermelon and blend until smooth. Serve immediately.