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# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 • hometownlife.com

## Council looks at hiring new manager

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

As Wayne City Manager David Murphy moves on to Farmington, the Wayne Council is looking ahead to finding a replacement.

"We've had a lot of discussion, and there are a variety of opinions on what we should do or not do," Wayne Mayor James Hawley said.

The council is expected to accept Murphy's resignation at its meeting Tuesday night.

"We're getting a number of people who want to apply — some are qualified. There are a variety of qualifications and people," Hawley said. "There could be a couple



Murphy

of strong candidates. We need to start quickly."

Once Murphy's resignation is accepted, Hawley said the council will announce the search for a new city manager. He said he expects the council will schedule a meeting to interview city manager candidates within a short time, possibly later that week.

"Most of them (possible candidates) are in the area.

We're not going out for a national search," Hawley said. "We did that twice (previously). We have some strong candidates with city management experience."

### Not a surprise

That Murphy would be moving on from financially strapped Wayne wasn't a surprise after he opted for a six-month contract that coincided

with the start of the fiscal year July 1. Murphy followed a series of interim managers who had filled in since Robert English retired.

"I'm disappointed that he is leaving. I had hoped we would create some stability in city management so we could look longer term," Hawley said. "I thought we had that kind of

See **MANAGER**, Page A2

## TOP STUDENTS HONORED



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In the 30th anniversary of the Observer & Eccentric's Academic All-Stars program, the 2015 All-Star students were honored Friday at a breakfast at Madonna University in Livonia. Members include Sean Carey, Kristen Gallett, Benjamin George, Andrew Gobis, Maxwell Hermelin, Iris Huang, Vineet Jammalamadaka, Anselm Jia, Aniruddha Kappagantu, Grace Milton, Shantam Tavan, Safia Sayed, Arthur Shi, Christopher Szymczak, Natalie Utley, Kathryn Wallace, Victoria Whydell, and Kevin Xu. Students were lauded for academic achievement and community involvement.

## Two men plead guilty for moving body

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Two Westland men have entered guilty pleas to charges of being accessories after the fact in the death of a Westland woman

Michael Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23, were each charged with helping dispose of the body of Dieder Akins, 46.

Dead from blunt force trauma, Akins's body was discovered laying in the street on Powers near John Daly in Dearborn Heights early Jan. 18.

Bashlor has been sentenced to 2-5 years in prison. Hurston-Herron has been sentenced to



Bashlor



Hurston-Herron

one year in the Wayne County Jail with 103 days credit for time served and two years probation.

Two other Westland men, Terrence Johnson, 44, and Randy Batts, 30, are charged with first-degree murder in the death of Akins. Batts is also charged with second-degree murder. Both are being held without bond and scheduled for trial on June 22 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Johnson was Akins' live-in boyfriend. Testimony was that a dispute over drugs escalated at the couple's home on Grand Traverse, where Akins was fatally beaten.

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

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## Identity theft charge dismissed in HalloWayne case

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

A charge of identity theft — the last of six criminal charges originally filed against the operator of a Wayne nonprofit — has been dismissed in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Christopher Sanders, 46, had been charged over the handling of funds donated to the nonprofit he operates, Destination Wayne — specifically the HalloWayne event it sponsored.

There had been a mistrial declared in February after the jury deadlocked on the

identity theft charge against Sanders. Five other charges, including larceny by conversion, embezzlement as an agent or trustee and embezzlement from a nonprofit charitable organization, had been dismissed at the preliminary examination.

"This was another political witch hunt in an attempt to inflict irreparable damage to my reputation," Sanders said. "People who know me stood by me during this entire ordeal, and I will never forget the importance of their support, their belief in me and their

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### Westland resident turns 100

Westland resident Elizabeth Mary Becker recently celebrated her 100th birthday — all 100 years living in Michigan.

A resident of the Village of Westland, Becker was born April 15, 1915, to Francis and Florence Becker. She has a sister, Florence Becker Koschmeder.

A 1933 Anthony High School graduate, Becker was employed at Uniroyal Tire Company as a Data Processing Supervisor until she retired on May 1, 1977, after 40 years of service.

Nicknamed Betty, Becker loves working in her rose garden. She has lived in Westland



Westland resident Elizabeth Becker recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

for the past eight years. Previously she lived in St. Clair Shores.

She loved to travel around the United States and is a devoted Detroit Tigers fan.

## Wayne police chief discusses crime, staffing, service with residents

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

About a dozen people turned out to hear from the Wayne Police Department about crime trends in the city.

Held at the Wayne Activities and Banquet Center, it's the first of monthly meetings established by Chief Alan Maciag. The meetings will be at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month.

"We have a strong relationship with the community, but we can build it stronger," said Maciag, a 17-year member of the police department. "These meetings will provide citizens with knowledge about our operations, our staffing levels and what kind of service they can expect with our staffing levels."

That staffing level is currently 24 officers working 12-hour shifts. At one time, the department had 45 officers. That number declined over recent years due to budget cuts, which Maciag said forced the department to stop having School Resource Offi-

cers, plainclothes surveillance units and other details.

"My job as chief is to provide the best service I can with the resources we have," Maciag said. "What worked with 45 people 20 years ago is not going to work today."

Like other departments, Wayne has hired civilian Police Service Aides to answer non-emergency calls and other duties to free up officers. "It gives them (PSAs) a chance to grow into a law enforcement career," Maciag said.

Some statistics shared by Maciag and Sgt. Matthew Spunar, who heads the Detective Bureau: » In 2014, Wayne police officers responded to 16,671 calls for service. As of April 29, 2015, officers handled 5,186 calls for service.

"It's a small town but busy. It's a lot of calls," Maciag said.

» Wayne officers responded to 423 vehicle crashes in 2014. That number is 156 through April 29 this year.

» The city had 78 residential break-ins in 2014, that's more than

one a week, Spunar noted. So far this year, 12 residential break-ins have been reported.

There were 52 non-residential break-ins reported in 2014, exactly one per week, Spunar said, with 10 reported so far this year. "That number might actually be down for the full year," he said.

» Last year, 193 reports were taken on larceny from vehicles. That number is 49 so far this year.

"They happen all over the city," said Spunar, responding to a question.

» During 2014, 54 vehicles were reported stolen.

"We have 22 stolen vehicle reports this year so far, so that's a little higher," Spunar said.

» There were 28 robberies, armed and unarmed, reported in 2014. That number is 10 for the current year so far.

To clarify terminology, Spunar said, "If you break into a house and take property, it is not a robbery."

» In 2014, 126 vandalism reports were taken by police. That number

is 24 so far this year. "This is a very common crime and costs people money," said Spunar.

» There were five arsons reported in 2014, including a residential structure. So far this year, only one arson, involving a vehicle, has been reported.

Wayne residents can keep track of crimes in the community through the crimedar.com website.

"Call us if you have questions or concerns in your neighborhood. We want to get the right information out there," Maciag said.

The department used to have a Neighborhood Watch program with an officer assigned to the program. Although that is no longer available, Maciag said some areas of the city have continued to maintain their local Neighborhood Watch and he encouraged other residents to organize.

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### Safety vests available in Westland

In the aftermath of several pedestrian deaths in Westland within the last year, safety vests are now being offered to pedestrians and bicyclists through the city of Westland. Vests are free for the asking.

Private citizens donated funds for the 500 safety vests, which are available at the Westland Police Department and Westland City Hall. When the donation came in, Westland Controller Devin Adams did research on the safety vests, finding a good price.

Workers on traffic projects and others often wear the brightly



Showing the safety vests, available for free at Westland City Hall and the Westland Police Department, a city staffers Aubrey Berna, administrative secretary, and Devin Adams, controller.

colored vests to make themselves more visible and safer.

### DISMISSED

Continued from Page A1

trust in me. It meant more than I can say in the face of this ordeal."

After financing the campaign last year to get a ward voting system established in Wayne, Sanders is the only candidate who filed to run for city council in Ward 1. Resi-

dent Alfred Brock is running in Ward 1 as a write-in candidate.

"The moral of the outcome is simple: truth prevails and I live to fight another day," Sanders said. "Now, let us all work together to move our wounded community forward in a new direction."

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## Fake bills, IRS scams lead crimes

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Counterfeit \$20 bills, calls from phony IRS representatives and money flipping are among crimes trending recently in Wayne.

» "People always want to know crime trends. Counterfeit currency — \$20 bills — we had a couple in the last few months. The money has a different feel, the

paper is the hardest part to counterfeit," Wayne Police Sgt. Matthew Spunar said.

» Vehicles thefts are up, Spunar said the incidents commonly happen when people leave their vehicles unlocked and running to warm up outside their homes or while they run inside a gas station.

A simple hindrance to vehicle thefts and items being stolen from vehi-

cles, he said, is to lock the car or truck doors.

"Park in your driveway and a well-lit area," he added.

» "The IRS scam is common now. They call and say you owe the IRS \$2,000. You have to pay now or they are sending the police to arrest you," Spunar said. "I have never had the IRS call and ask us to go out to arrest someone. If it doesn't sound right, it

probably isn't."

» Then there is what is called flipping money. "They call and tell you if you send \$250 today, I send you \$500," Spunar said. "A woman sent \$250. They called wanting more. They have you send the money through Western Union. It's hard to track. But it's good that we haven't seen a rash of violent crimes."

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### MANAGER

Continued from Page A1

individual coming in. I was a little concerned when he wanted a six-month contract. On the other hand, I had hopes he'd want to stay."

Being hired by Farmington is a unique opportunity for Murphy personally, Hawley said, adding he is excited about possible new city managers who hopefully sign on long-term with Wayne.

"It's a big disappointment; we thought we had made a decision that would last," Councilman Skip Monit said. "This throws us back to where we were last year. It's really difficult to put my arms around the whole situation. I understand he

has to look out for himself and his family, but this comes at a difficult time. He's leaving the city in a bad way."

The council has two candidates that it can interview to replace Murphy, Monit said, but that can't happen until Murphy has tendered his resignation.

"It's unfortunate for us, but for David Murphy it's a good fit for him and his family," Councilman John Rhaesa said. "We have to find the right person to get Wayne through the challenges it is facing. The number of quality candidates is diminishing as more things don't turn around."

"I think he'll do fine in Farmington, but the challenges we have in Wayne are huge," Monit added.

### City's challenge

The biggest challenge facing the city is financial. Working with auditors Plante Moran, Murphy prepared and recommended a budget that is balanced for the upcoming fiscal year. The council reached a consensus to adopt that budget, which relies on the last of reserve funds and closing the Wayne Community Center, to balance it.

Council members also agreed that if the proposed budget is adopted, work would continue to get city spending within actual revenues and avoid a projected deficit going forward. The city is working to have the community center operated privately.

"We need to find someone with financial experience, someone

with economic knowledge of development," Rhaesa said. "We need someone who can come up with a strategy to bring in new development. We're not bringing in enough money to cover the services we offer. We have to make choices and figure out how to keep things going the best we can."

Finance, budgeting and economic development experience in a new manager are also a priority for Hawley.

"In the administration of the organization, we're fairly small. We're set with police and fire leadership," he said.

Staff Writer Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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## Parents, staff argue for keeping special-education preschool open

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

Years ago somebody thought it was a great idea to combine all of Livonia Public Schools' special-education programs for preschoolers under one roof at Perrinville Center. "It still is. It works," said Deborah Squirewell, program administrator for the Great Start Readiness Program housed there.

Squirewell was among about 130 parents, staff members and other stakeholders who attended a meeting Tuesday night to explain to Livonia school board members why the building should not be closed and razed. Administrators have recommended tearing down the building to save \$150,000 a year and moving all the programs to six other schools, where there is space due to the district's declining enrollment.

Superintendent Randy Liepa told the crowd that the district expects to have just under \$1 million in fund equity at the end of this school year. With a \$140 million general fund budget last year, that figure should be closer to \$11 million, he said. Community members at budget meetings in January told the school board they would prefer to preserve programs over property, Liepa said.

"Every year we have to balance the budget when the state is not giving us very much money," he said.

Perrinville is also slated to have \$800,000 in improvements made under the construction bond approved by voters in 2013 that could be used at other buildings, if Perrinville is closed, school officials said.

The board is expected to make a decision before June 30 when it adopts its budget for the 2015-16 school year.

### 'A school dynamic'

Perrinville PTA President Kristin Noel said parents are more opposed to separating the programs than closing the building. Having all the programs under one roof makes the difference between the preschoolers remaining in special ed for the rest of their school careers; and eventually blossoming, integrating into the general education program and earning



Superintendent Dr. Randy Liepa faces a large crowd of parents and staff.

ing their diplomas, she said.

She said her son, Logan, who has Autism was non-verbal when he started at Perrinville. "Now he's a social butterfly."

"It's a school dynamic," said parent Jennifer Andrzejczak. "It's a new way of teaching children with special needs and if you separate them, you're going to lose it and it's lost forever."

Parent Yolanda Keaton said her son Evan is a Perrinville alum who attended the Autism Spectrum Disorder program and wouldn't be where he is today without the school. "My developmental pediatrician says if you want to have your kid in the best school, sell your house and move to Livonia."

Parents said with all the programs in one building, children can try out a more advanced program for five to 15 minutes at a time. That wouldn't be possible if they had to travel from one building to another, they said.

Parapro Kelly Bouer said it's difficult finding substitute teachers and substitute parapro for special education preschoolers because no one wants to be bitten, spit on or have to help kids with the toilet. But with all the programs under one roof, staff can more easily cover for each other when someone has to take time off.

School board secretary Tammy Bonifield said that could be a potential cost savings for the district that

previously hadn't been considered.

Parents said they are concerned general-education students won't understand their children's behavior and their children will be prone to bullying. How will a general education student react to a special-education preschooler getting naked in the hallway and urinating on the floor, Bouer asked.

Perrinville has special adaptive playground equipment that can more easily be shared by students if they all stay in the same buildings, the parents and staff members said.

Parent Jessica Connolly said she has two children who have been at Perrinville and her third, a non-verbal 3-year-old, is supposed to start this fall. With the way administrators have proposed breaking up the programs, her youngest will have attended three schools before starting kindergarten. "That's unacceptable," she said. "That's not Livonia." If Perrinville remains open, he will stay at Perrinville until he graduates to a general-education kindergarten classroom, she said.

Bonifield said contrary to rumor, closing Perrinville is not a done deal. While the administration may have recommended closing it, it's the board's decision, she said.

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## Westland student wins National Merit Scholarship

Westland resident Kevin Xu has been named a National Merit Scholarship winner for 2015.

A student at Livonia Churchill High School, Xu was among 2,500 Merit Scholar designees who were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. He will receive a \$2,500 scholarship supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The son of Xiaoping Xu and Fend Yu, Xu plans to study business in college.

This year's National Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2015 program. Winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

These scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the finalists and their high schools, the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities, an essay written by the finalist and a recommendation written by a high school official.

This is the second announcement of winners in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. In April 22, some 1,000 recipients of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards were named, and on May 27 and July 13, some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners will be announced.

By the conclusion of this year's competition, about 7,600 academic champions will have won National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$34 million.



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# Olympia boss Tom Wilson to detail arena project at luncheon

Local business leaders are planning to gather Wednesday in Livonia to hear from one of the key people overseeing construction of a new arena for the Detroit Red Wings and other developments coming to Detroit.



**Wilson**  
Tom Wilson, the president and CEO of Olympia Entertainment, will speak at an 11:30 a.m. luncheon at Laurel Manor for members of the

Livonia, Westland, Plymouth and Canton chambers of commerce.

Wilson represents the Ilitch family organization, which is leading this significant redevelopment that will produce a new arena, scheduled to open in 2017, and surround it with a new entertainment and housing district. The overall effort will connect existing and new developments in downtown and midtown Detroit along Woodward Avenue with five walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods.

In all, according to Ilitch organization re-

ports, the entire project is expected to generate at least \$1.8 billion in total economic impact, 8,300 construction and other spin-off jobs and 1,100 permanent jobs. The overall goal is to build a one-of-a-kind venue for hockey, music, entertainment and community events, surrounded by modern housing geared for those who want to live in an urban environment.

Wilson plans to provide pictures and descriptions of all components of the entire development district, and he will directly answer

questions from the audience.

Seats are still available for this luncheon at Laurel Manor, located on Schoolcraft Avenue just west of Newburgh Road. Admission is \$30 for members of either chamber or \$40 for the general public. For more information or to reserve seats, contact your local chamber: The Livonia Chamber at 734-427-2122, the Westland Chamber at 734-326-7222, the Plymouth Community Chamber at 734-453-1540, or the Canton Chamber at 734.453.4040.

# Military retiree heads up county's Veteran's Services

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans appointed a retired military veteran, as Veteran's Services Administrator. John Gardner will begin his duties immediately.

"Mr. Gardner brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Veteran's Services, which will be invaluable as we continue providing services to veterans in Wayne County," Evans said.

In his new role, Gardner will oversee Wayne County Veteran's programs such as the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund and the Michigan Veteran Trust Fund. The programs help veterans who are experiencing financial hardships pay their mortgage, rent or utility bills. Both funds also help veterans with transportation needs.

Gardner will also oversee the county's Veteran Burial Benefit program, which provides qualified veterans or their next of kin with up to \$1,000 to go toward burial fees.

He will serve as the county's representative for the Veteran's Community Action Team (V-CAT), which is made up of a consortium of more than 230 groups in southeast Michigan that provide a wide array of resources to veterans. These resources include, but are not limited to access to employment, housing and education opportunities and health care.

Gardner retired from the U.S. Air Force after 24 years of service in logistics management, computer operations and recruitment. He was most recently the

Military Veteran Recruiter and Program Manager at Quicken Loans, where his responsibilities included leading the veteran hiring strategic direction for projects, partnerships and placements to establish new community partnerships.

"Being a retired military serviceman, I bring a personal understanding of veteran's needs and look forward to serving veterans on behalf of Wayne County," Gardner said.

# Seat belt enforcement runs through end of month

By Philip Allmen  
Staff Writer

Police agencies across the state are using federal grant money for increased seat belt enforcement zones this month.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning states that research shows that when seat belts are used properly, the risk of being killed in a crash is reduced by nearly 45 percent. But seat belt usage has been on the decline in recent years. Michael L. Prince, OHSP director, said most motorists in Michigan obey the seat belt law. In 2009, compliance was at 98 percent. By 2014, it dropped to 93 percent. He said every percentage point increase in belt use means 10 fewer traffic deaths and 130 fewer injuries each year.

"Wearing a seat belt is the easiest, most effective way to save your life in the event of a traffic crash," Prince stated in a release.



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Neela Lawes, 6, gives Click It the Cricket a high-five during the Michigan State Police's 98th birthday celebration April 23. Click It the Cricket is used to promote seat belt and car seat safety.

Wearing a seat belt is a no-brainer for Shirley Aubocho, who was out shopping at the New Hudson Walmart earlier this week. While state law requires she wear a seat belt when cruising around town, that's not the driving force behind buckling up.

"There's some danger-

ous people out there driving," the 62-year-old Lyon resident said, adding that several of her friends have been in bad accidents caused by another driver. "I've never been in an accident and I hope I never am. But, you know, better safe than sorry."

Last year, the Michi-

gan State Police reported that 188 people who died in traffic accidents were not using a seat belt. State, county and some local police departments will participate in the seat belt program.


During last year's Click It or Ticket enforcement, 7,767 seat belt and child seat citations were issued. Twenty people were killed in traffic crashes during the 2014 Memorial Day holiday. Of those, seven were motorcyclists and nine were vehicle occupants, one of whom was not wearing a seat belt.

Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger in any seating position to be buckled up.

"Michigan law enforcement will be out strictly enforcing the state's seat belt law over the next couple of weeks," Prince said.

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**TOM BEAUDOIN**  
Paul Pittman of Livonia shows some of the gear that was used during World War II.



**TOM BEAUDOIN**  
Sam Bernhardt, Garrett Anthony and Romen Deron, members of Garden City Boy Scout Troop 744, take part in the flag raising ceremony.



**TOM BEAUDOIN**  
Chris Pratt of Dearborn makes a knife sheaf for his costume from the French-Indian War era.

## Reenactors bring Armed Forces Day to life

History came to life last Saturday as the Westland Historical Commission hosted its annual Armed Forces Day celebration at the Westland Historic Village Park.

Reenactors representing such historical events as the French and Indian War, Revolution, Civil War, World War II and Korean War were stationed around the park to talk about their conflicts with people who stopped by for the celebration.

Also there were members of the Fenian Brotherhood of Detroit. The original brotherhood was founded by John O'Mahony in New York City. Along with the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland, their goal was the creation of an independent democratical-



**TOM BEAUDOIN**  
Westland resident Ron Harris talks with Civil War reenactor Bill Ziemba.

ly liberal republican Ireland free of the British Crown.

Even Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Ron Carley, was there without his stovepipe hat and frock coat. He tried his hand at firing a World War II machine gun while there.

Guests also had the opportunity to tour the park's buildings.

Up next is the rededication of the Chubb Cemetery on Warren Road between Lotz and Hix at 11 a.m. June 14. The guest speaker will be State Rep. Robert Kosowski.



**TOM BEAUDOIN**  
Fenian Brotherhood members JJ O'Wozniak and John Logan get the camp fire ready.

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# Suspects plead in Livonia gas station burglary case

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

The two suspects who police say were involved in the burglary of a Livonia gas station have pleaded in the case, avoiding a jury trial.

Mahmoud Saad, 32, of Dearborn, and Damon Thompson, 32, of Highland Park, both were charged with breaking-and-entering after a March 28 incident where Livonia police pulled the two over during a traffic stop and determined they were suspects in the burglary of a Livonia



FILE PHOTO

Mahmoud Saad, left, and Damon Thompson. Both have pleaded in their breaking-and-entering case out of Livonia earlier this spring. Sentencing is scheduled for later this month.

gas station. Saad pleaded no contest to the charges, while

Thompson pleaded guilty. Both pleas were entered during the first

week of May.

Saad is set for sentencing Thursday before Circuit Judge James Chylinski, while Thompson will be sentenced May 26 in the case before Circuit Judge Shannon Walker in Detroit's Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

The pair were pulled over near Plymouth and Merriman that night after police determined they might be suspects in the burglary of the BP gas station at 17151 Middlebelt in Livonia.

After checking security camera footage,

police determined the two were the primary suspects in the burglary, which resulted in several items being taken, including several cartons of cigarettes.

The two were bound over to circuit court last month after waiving their preliminary examinations in Livonia's 16th District Court.

Both are being held in the Wayne County Jail until sentencing on retainers from the Michigan Department of Corrections, as the two men were on parole at the time of the incident.

Saad was released from prison in April 2014 after being paroled on several breaking-and-entering charges he was sentenced for in Wayne County.

Thompson was released on parole in August 2014 after serving time on several breaking-and-entering charges, among others in Wayne and Oakland counties.

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# Local Madonna students win awards at international math contests

Nine Madonna University students were recognized for their participation in two international math contests, pitting their real-world problem-solving skills against students from all over the globe.

One team — made up of students Stephanie Mackley (Canton), Jonathan Morgan (Northville) and Catherine Sulich (Southfield) — received a "meritorious winner" award in the Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling.

Two teams participated in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling: Catherine Crombez (Livonia), Stephen Lisius (Redford) and Yang Zhang (Plymouth/Urumqi, China) received "honorable mention;" Lauren Finger (Plymouth), Rachel Head (Plymouth) and Caleb Schumake (Belleville) earned "successful participant" status.

Susan Toma, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics at Madonna University, acted as faculty adviser and prepared the students through a series of problem-solving workshops.



Caleb Schumake (from left), a double major in mathematics and computer science, works in the background as Rachel Head, a computer science major and mathematics minor, and Lauren Finger, a mathematics major and chemistry minor, work on a problem for the Mathematical Contest in Modeling.

"The mathematical contest in modeling was a valuable experience for our Madonna students as they applied their analytical, computing and research skills to a real-world problem in a teamwork setting," she said.

"I am truly proud of their motivation, hard work and incredible achievements."

Morgan, a math major, said the contest was "quite the learning experience."

"It gave me the oppor-

tunity to see how we can use math to solve real-world problems," he said. "It was also an eye-opening experience in how difficult solving these problems can be. The challenge my team chose was an actual interna-

tional problem that the world has yet to solve.

"The ICM taught me and my team how to think critically," he added. "We probably tried 100 different approaches and learned 100 different ways how not to go about solving problems, but in the end, our mistakes are what made it such a powerful learning experience for us."

Crombez agreed with the value of the contest: "Participating in the MCM competition gave me a chance to apply the knowledge I have gained at Madonna to a situation outside of the classroom," she said. "I think this is an important opportunity for any student, as it provides a different outlook on education, teamwork and research skills that cannot always be addressed directly in a classroom setting but are still important for career preparation."

The international contests for college undergraduates are given annually by the Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications, an "award-winning nonprofit organization whose

mission is to improve mathematics education for students of all ages" (www.comap.com).

The Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling is designed to develop and advance interdisciplinary problem-solving skills as well as competence in written communication, while the Mathematical Contest in Modeling stimulates and improves problem-solving and writing skills in mathematics.

There were 2,137 teams that participated in the ICM worldwide, 45 of which were from the U.S., and 15 percent were Meritorious Winners, including the team from Madonna. Of the 7,636 teams that participated in the MCM, 418 were U.S. teams, 31 percent received Honorable Mentions and 57 percent were Successful Participants.

The contests took place in February with Madonna students working in classrooms and computer labs on campus. This was the first year Madonna students participated. Winners were announced last month.

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# Pen pals of 70 years have a new tool – Skype

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Seventy years have passed since Maxine Ellis and Helen Burns, then mere schoolgirls, became pen pals separated by the Atlantic Ocean.

They still have the yellowed letters they wrote, the personal diaries they kept, the thoughtful gifts they sent, the shared memories that best friends cherish.

And now they're using Skype, an online tool that allows Ellis, 85, and Burns, 84, to hear one another's voice and see each other's face, even though Ellis lives in Canton and Burns in England.

The second Friday of each month, the two women have a lengthy conversation during their virtual visit, before blowing each other a kiss and counting down from three before they simultaneously log off.

They reflected on their friendship and how they have embraced technology such as Skype. This time, however, they sat side-by-side and held hands after Burns arrived in Michigan for a two-week visit.

"I'm a hugger," Ellis said, "so when I see Helen on Skype, I feel like I could put my arms



Maxine Ellis (left) and Helen Burns.

around her."

"It's just lovely to see Maxine's face and her expressions on the screen," Burns said.

They haven't stopped writing letters, though Ellis has started typing hers after it became more difficult for her to put pen to paper.

"Helen has got a beautiful handwriting," Ellis said.

Ellis was 15 when she penned her first letter to Burns, who was 14. They began a pen-pal friendship that started between their schools – and they never stopped. Their special bond has survived the deaths of husbands, the birth of chil-

dren, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and, for Ellis, a great-great-grandchild.

Ellis recalls the time she mailed chewing gum and nylons to Burns because she couldn't get either in England.

"I think the Lord brought us together," Ellis said. "We both have very strong beliefs."

The women say they are as close as sisters.

"We both like people," Burns said. "We care for people – and we are very cared for by people."

As evidence, Burns' daughter Penelope McMillan and Ellis' daughter Claudia Vanderpool joined the pen pals as

they retraced the years while sitting inside Waltonwood at Carriage Park, a senior independent living center in Canton where Ellis lives.

McMillan, inspired by the friendship, decided to check with the *Guinness Book of World Records* to determine if Ellis and Burns might be the longest-lasting pen pals on record. They were not, but McMillan said it makes them no less fascinating.

"I think it's incredible," she said.

Vanderpool agreed, saying 70 years of close friendship is unique.

"You don't see many marriages go that long



Maxine Ellis and Helen Burns hold hands as they talk about a pen pal relationship separated by the Atlantic Ocean.

any more," she said.

Ellis visited Burns in England just one time, in 1977.

"I got to see the queen," she said. Though it was from a distance, Burns stood on a bench and snapped a picture.

Burns has made it to America several times, first in 1969 when the women met for the first time. She has said "it was like I had known Maxine all my life."

As decades passed, their letters documented happy years and sad times, such as the deaths of their husbands. Ellis was there as Burns made a career teaching school, while Burns kept up with Ellis' life as she raised seven children and worked at jobs such as a drugstore clerk and giv-

ing pedicures to senior citizens.

As modern communication has evolved, Ellis and Burns still occasionally send written letters and they correspond by email, but now Skype has become part of their lives. They embrace any tool that helps them stay in touch.

"Love is one thing you cannot buy," Burns said. "You can be a millionaire, but without love, you're not rich. Maxine is very much a part of my life."

It's mutual. "I don't know what I'd do without her," Ellis said. "I can't picture life without her."

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## Portion of Ford Road named for Brian Woehlke

Gov. Rick Snyder made it official Wednesday, naming a portion of Ford Road after a fallen Wayne-Westland firefighter.

Snyder did a ceremonial signing for House Bill 4985, as its sponsor, state Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, watched. The bill, now Public Act 439 of 2014, passed both the House

and Senate and Snyder signed it into law.

PA 439 names a portion of M-153 between Newburgh and Wayne roads as the Firefighter Brian Woehlke Memorial Highway. Woehlke, 29, was killed May 8, 2013, fighting the fire that destroyed Marvaso's Italian Grille/the Electric Stick. Married with a daughter, he had worked

out of the old Fire Station No. 1 on Ford at Carlson. The fire has been ruled an arson and Woehlke's death a homicide.

"I'm proud to be able to honor Brian Woehlke and his sacrifice. The least we can do for someone who gave his life for his community is to honor his memory," Kosowski said. "I'd also like to thank Westland Mayor

Bill Wild, Fire Chief Michael Reddy, IAFF Local 1279 and the Westland City Council for their help on this legislation."

Kosowski was joined by Wayne-Westland Firefighter David Polite and his son Tyler and fellow state Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights, whose district includes a portion of Westland, at the ceremonial signing.



State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, holds a copy of House Bill 4985 with Gov. Rick Snyder at a ceremonial bill signing May 12. Also pictured are Wayne-Westland Firefighter David Polite, his son Tyler and state Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights.

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# MDOT: Ford Road improvements could help ease traffic crashes

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton has three of the top 10 most crash-prone intersections in Wayne County, a new report shows, with Ford and Haggerty once again topping the list.

But road construction crews are arriving in Canton this week for \$3.7 million in Ford Road improvements that officials say should ease traffic congestion until a much larger project — converting Ford into a boulevard — receives funding.

“This is something that is going to help alleviate the problem short term,” said Mike Bellini, Michigan Department of Transportation engineer, though officials say it’s far from a panacea.

Canton, despite being just one of 43 communities in Wayne County, has three of the worst 10 intersections for crashes. Using Michigan State Police statistics, Michigan Auto Law compiled a list for a blog post to urge extra caution.

The Ford-Haggerty intersection topped the list with 89 crashes in 2014, down from 95 the previous year. Rounding out the top 10:

- » Wayne and Warren in Westland, 71 crashes.
- » Ford and Wayne in Westland, 70.
- » Middlebelt and Plymouth in Livonia, 69.
- » Ford and Lilley in Canton, 66.
- » Ford and Beech Daly in Dearborn Heights, 65.
- » Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon in Plymouth, 57.
- » Farmington and Plymouth in Livonia, 56.
- » Ford and Canton Center in Canton, 52.



Officials say Ford Road traffic should be eased after construction work is done.

FILE PHOTO

» Ford and Middlebelt in Garden City, 52.

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton’s traffic-crash problem along Ford Road begs for a major fix, but MDOT has pointed to a lack of money. In the meantime, LaJoy said Canton is trying a seventh time for a new round of federal aid.

“We are going after it with everything we’ve got,” he said, despite six rejections from TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, a federal program aimed at improving roads and creating jobs.

As construction crews roll into Canton for the initial phase of improvements along Ford, officials say motorists can temporarily expect even

worse traffic congestion. MDOT project manager Bill Erben said the first part of the project involves closing a lane on eastbound Ford, west of Haggerty, where work crews plan to extend the right turn lane “by a few hundred feet.”

Erben said a huge part of the traffic problem along Ford Road is that Haggerty is too close to I-275 — a problem that has resulted in a high-crash area.

Todd Berg, a Michigan Auto Law attorney, said the firm’s blog focuses on Ford-Haggerty and other intersections to urge drivers to be safe, especially when approaching areas known to be dangerous.

“If you’re being vigilant about being safe, put your phone down, hands on the wheel, observe the

speed limit, take your time and no distracted driving,” Berg said.

Erben, meanwhile, said the work starting in Canton will complement the larger fix — the Ford Road boulevard plan — whenever it occurs.

LaJoy said a separate project involving the \$5 million paving of Lotz

Road between Ford and Cherry Hill — another project this construction season — also should alleviate some Ford Road traffic.

MDOT officials have warned motorists to expect detours and sporadic, staggered closings of the I-275/Ford ramps, likely on weekends.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the work, once completed, also should make the Ford Road corridor safer for pedestrians.

During the Ford Road project, slated for completion later this summer, workers plan to complete the following:

- » Build a continuous, third westbound lane from Lotz to Lilley.
- » Resurface the stretch of Ford between Lotz Road and Marlowe Street, which is west of Morton Taylor near the Rusty Nail Lounge.
- » Convert right-turn-only lanes for eastbound and westbound Ford at the Haggerty intersection into a shared turn/through lane by modifying pavement markings,

signs and traffic signals.

» Extend the right-turn lane for eastbound Ford at Haggerty.

» Extend the left-turn lane from westbound Ford onto southbound Haggerty.

» Add pavement markings to improve turn lanes from the northbound and southbound I-275 exit ramps onto Ford.

» While having three through lanes on westbound Ford, also maintain a dedicated lane for westbound Ford motorists to enter the loop ramp onto southbound I-275.

» Add sidewalks along eastbound and westbound Ford Road to connect those already there, improving access to places such as the I-275 Metro Trail that runs alongside the interstate.

» Provide an optional second exit lane at the southbound I-275 exit ramp to Ford Road, allowing motorists to more easily exit the interstate.

dclem@hometownlife.com  
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- Skin cancer screening
- Memory screening
- Nutrition screening
- Wellness Center tour

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Speakers**

**10 - 10:45 a.m. Preparing Now, Preventing Injury**  
Learn to prepare your home to prevent injury  
Speakers: Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC, Injury Prevention Specialist; and Michelle Moccia, DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN, Program Director, Senior ER

**11 - 11:45 a.m. Being Legally and Financially Prepared**  
Learn to prepare your legal and financial affairs  
Speaker: Alisa Kwang, Attorney, Law Offices of Alisa Kwang, PLLC

**12 - 12:30 p.m. Eating for a Healthy Colon**  
Food demonstration. Box lunch provided.  
Speaker: Allison Spitzley, CDM

**12:45 - 1:30 p.m. Preparing a Healthy Mind**  
Learn to prepare your mind for aging  
Speaker: Mary Jane Favot, MSN, GNP-BC, Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

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- Colon health
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- Physical rehabilitation
- Home health care
- Estate planning

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Federal, State, and/or County funding has been provided through OCCMHA or DWMHA to support the project costs.



**CITY OF GARDEN CITY  
Garden City Library  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on **Monday, June 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the budget for fiscal year 2014-15.

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY  
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. A15-xxx**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2015, AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2016.**

**THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1: MILLAGE LEVIES AUTHORIZED.**

In order to defray expenditures and meet the liabilities for the City of Garden City for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, the following millage levies are hereby adopted: 13.8403 mills for general operating purposes; 0.8200 mills for garbage and rubbish collection and disposal; 3.3614 mills for judgment debt; 1.0000 mills for Library; and 3.5000 mills for Police and Fire. The total millage levy shall be 22.5217 mills per \$1,000 of taxable valuation within the city.

**SECTION 2: BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS ADOPTED.**

The following appropriations, representing the various budgetary centers of the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget as defined by Public Act 621 of 1978, as amended, are hereby adopted for the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan, for the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 as shown below in the estimated revenue and expenditures summaries of the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget document:

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
General Property Taxes	7,458,726	Mayor & Council	45,083
Business Licenses/Permits	26,000	21st District Court	979,427
Non-Business Licenses/Permits	12,000	City Admin/Personnel	302,922
State Shared Revenues	3,774,923	Clerk-Treasurer	968,535
Grants - Local Units	1,167,485	General Services	1,360,867
Charges for Services	744,000	Transfers to Other Funds	7,914,821
Fines and Forfeits	894,500	Dept. of Public Services	1,898,653
Miscellaneous Revenue	888,600	Parks and Recreation	976,437
Contributions/Public Enterprises	325,000	Community Resources	1,182,529
Contributions/Other Funds	924,885	Boards & Commissions	13,596
		Debt Service	573,249
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>16,216,119</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>16,216,119</b>

MAJOR STREETS FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Gas & Weight Tax	1,127,200	Expenditures	1,189,000
Interest on Investments	1,000		
Federal Grants	60,800		
State Grants			
Use of Fund Balance			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>1,189,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>1,189,000</b>

LOCAL STREETS FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Gas & Weight Tax	469,700	Expenditures	1,595,200
Transfer in from Major Streets	668,000		
METRO Act Revenue	75,000		
Interest on Investments	300		
Grant Revenue	36,981		
Use of Fund Balance	345,219		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>1,595,200</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>1,595,200</b>

PUBLIC SAFETY FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Tfr from Gen'l Fund	6,706,544		
Trf from 911 Fund	140,100	Police	5,809,597
PS Millage - Real	1,592,510	Fire	3,330,940
PS Millage - Personal	94,343		
Charges, Interest, Penalties	5,000		
Police Revenues	27,140		
Fire Revenues	420,400		
Grants	154,500		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>9,140,537</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>9,140,537</b>

STREET LIGHTING FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Revenues	405,000	Expenditures	505,000
Gen'l Fund Contribution	100,000		
Use of Fund Balance			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>505,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>505,000</b>

911 FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Revenues	140,000	Expenditures	
Interest on Investments	100	Increase Fund Balance	
Use of Fund Balance		Transfer to Pub. Saf. Fund	140,100
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>140,100</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>140,100</b>

CABLE FRANCHISE P.E.G. FEE FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
CATV PEG Fees	80,000	Personnel	109,254
Grants	10,000	Expenditures	28,000
Transfer from Gen'l Fund	47,234		
Interest	20		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>137,254</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>137,254</b>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
CDBG Grant	158,729	Expenditures	22,309
		Housing Rehabilitation	99,238
		ADA Compliance	
		Public Service Activities	22,309
		Administration	12,000
		Planning	2,873
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>158,729</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>158,729</b>

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Building	482,363	Building	482,862
Planning	94,635	Planning	94,136
Trf from Other Funds			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>576,998</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>576,998</b>

POLICE DRUG FORFEITURE FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Confiscations	25,000	Expenditures	25,050
Interest on Investments	50		
Use of Fund Balance			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>25,050</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>25,050</b>

HOUSING REHABILITATION REVOLVING FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Repayments of Loans	10,000	Housing Rehabilitation	10,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>10,000</b>

# Livonia youth coalition gets new leadership team

For three years, Karen Bonanno watched and learned as Katie Olex steered the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition as the group's executive director.

Now Bonanno, formerly the coalition's program director, has replaced Olex as executive director and is applying the lessons she learned and praising Olex for the success of her stint leading the coalition.

"Katie took on the job when we received (funding) from SEMCA," Bonanno said. "She legitimized the coalition and understood what the mission meant within the community."

One of Bonanno's first orders of business: replacing herself. She's done that, hiring Martha Kaczala as the coalition's new program director.

Kaczala came to the coalition as community outreach specialist for the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, where she was "well aware of the reputation" of the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition.

When Kaczala, a Plymouth Township resident, got the chance to work for the LSOY, she took it.



Executive director Karen Bonanno (left) and program director Martha Kaczala form the new leadership team of the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition.

"I believe strongly in what the (LSOY) coalition does," Kaczala said. "If I can support their mission in any way, I'm happy to do so."

The coalition's mission is to educate and empower the community regarding the health and safety of young people, with a focus on substance use disorder prevention.

As program director, Kaczala will coordinate events such as the coalition's biggest fundraiser, the Livonia Run to Save Our Youth, which is coming up in June. She will also provide technical

assistance and perform a variety of "behind the scenes" tasks essential to running the coalition.

Bonanno believes Kaczala fits right in. "Martha brings a commitment to the community, with a founda-

tion of knowledge that fills a gap within the coalition," Bonanno said of Kaczala, who is a certified prevention specialist. "(Kaczala's certification) gives weight and meaning to our mission. It gives us credibility."

Bonanno recognized the coalition has a core of strong partners - The Livonia Police Department, Livonia schools and a variety of civic organizations - and hopes to expand the group's reach outside Livonia's boundaries.

"We've been expanding that partnership to the greater area," she said. "We share the same mission with those communities. Substance abuse issues are everywhere. By partnering with these communities, we can strengthen the message. I'm excited."

The Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition is led by its 2015 Board of Directors, including Jerry Kwas, Robert Douville, Mark Menestrina, John Tait, Jason Schwartz, Susan Nicholas, Diane Montes, Mary Olex and Caryn Epps.

Livonia Save Our Youth's general meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month and are open to the community. Check the website [www.livoniasaveouryouth.org](http://www.livoniasaveouryouth.org), for meeting dates and times.

## Cox appointed to national budget committee

State Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, has been appointed to serve on the Budgets and Revenue Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures for the 2015-16 term.

Cox, who is chair of

the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and vice chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary, has served on the House Appropriations Committee since she began her

tenure with the Legislature in January.

"I'm confident that Rep. Cox will represent Michigan extremely well amongst other legislators in the NCSL," said House Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant. "Rep. Cox has a proven track record when it comes to responsible budgeting and listening to concerns from all of her fellow Michiganders."

Cox expressed her excitement to begin work with the NCSL.




Cox

"It's extremely humbling to be given the opportunity to serve with legislators from across the country who support state sovereignty and the fight against unwarranted federal preemption," Cox said. "I look forward to meeting all of my new colleagues and working with them to ensure that the federal budget does not impede Michigan's best interest."

The Budgets and Revenue Committee is one of nine standing committees in the NCSL. It is responsible for protecting state interests in regards to federal decisions involving fiscal matters.

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#### EXERCISE AND FIBROMYALGIA

The treatment of Fibromyalgia continues to vex physicians. Drugs crowd pharmacy shelves including Cymbalta, Lyrica, Savella, Flexeril, Elavil, Paxel, Prozac, Valium, Xanax, etc.

To date, these medications alone and in combination have failed to give sustained relief from the pain and fatigue of Fibromyalgia. The only therapy known to work over time is exercise.

The exercise must have certain features. First, it must be constant, that is involve movement. The movement needs to be walking, biking, or swimming. Stretching and Yoga like exercises are good, they promote coordination and good gait. But these exercises are not a corrective to Fibromyalgia because only persistent movement as in walking promotes the body to generate its own painkillers called endorphins.

Second, the individual needs to undertake the activity seven days a week. The rationale is that if a person is on a medication for Fibromyalgia, such as Lyrica, then he or she would expect to take the medicine daily; most medicines are taken that way. In Fibromyalgia, the medicine is exercise and it needs to be taken every day.

Third, more exercise is better than less exercise is a useful rule up to a point. In Fibromyalgia, the exercise goal is 30 minutes. Walking longer may help build up muscles or be to the liking of your dog, but studies have shown that maximum benefit for relieving the pain and fatigue of Fibromyalgia comes with a half hour of continuous exercise. Keep in mind one does not have to go far or fast, but just keeping moving. Also, a person should start by exercising to comfort and build up from there.

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Legal notice continued from page A11.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Trf in from General Fund	622,000	Parking Lot Paving	422,000
Grant Revenue		Patrol Cars	75,000
Use of Fund Balance		Financial IT	65,000
Interest on Investments		Other Expenditures	60,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>622,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>622,000</b>

WATER/SEWER FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Water/Sewer Revenue	7,768,051	Water Distribution	2,988,495
Other Revenue	1,233,279	Sewage Disposal	5,251,959
Decrease Retained Earnings	2,586,198	Personnel/Administration	3,347,074
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>11,587,528</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>11,587,528</b>

RUBBISH COLLECTION FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Revenues	1,300,000	Expenditures	1,617,000
General Fund Transfer	247,200		
Use of Fund Balance	69,000		
Interest on Investments	800		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>1,617,000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>1,617,000</b>

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Tax Revenue	454,271	Projects	228,000
Use of Fund Balance	121,984	Administration	153,217
Interest on Investments		Debt Service	237,038
Misc Revenue	42,000		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>618,255</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>618,255</b>

LIBRARY FUND SUMMARY			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Millage	483,315	Personnel	264,372
Other Revenues	39,300	Operating/Services	19,500
Use of Fund Balance		Professional/Tech Services	187,743
		Capital Outlay	51,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>522,615</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>522,615</b>

ALL FUNDS SUMMARY	
<b>REVENUES - ALL FUNDS: \$44,661,385</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS: \$44,661,385</b>

Note: Total of all funds includes transfers between funds.

Allyson M. Bettis, Clerk/Treasurer Randy Walker, Mayor

Publish: May 17, 2015 LO-0000243292 6XB.5

### 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](mailto:ksmith@hometownlife.com).

**FARMERS MARKET**  
**Time/date:** 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, now through Oct. 8 (no market July 2 or Aug. 13).  
**Location:** 1901 N. Carlson, south of Ford in Central City Park, Westland  
**Details:** A variety of food, craft vendors, special events and music is featured at the Westland Farmers and Artisans Market. EBT accepted.  
**Contact:** 734-326-7222; [westlandchamber@gmail.com](mailto:westlandchamber@gmail.com).

**SPRING FESTIVAL**  
**Time/date:** Sunday, May 17.  
**Location:** St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 27101 Chicago W., Redford.  
**Details:** The Parish community of St Robert Bellarmine Church is hosting their 2015 Spring Festival featuring carnival rides, game tent, food, beer tent, bingo, live entertainment and grand prize raffle drawing.  
**Contact:** 313-937-1520, ext. 142.

**REDFORD SYMPHONY CONCERT**  
**Time/date:** 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17.  
**Location:** Grace Lutheran Church 25630 Grand River Ave., Redford.

**Details:** The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a free concert, "Heroic Concert," for patrons of all ages to enjoy.  
**Contact:** <http://www.redford-symphony.org>.

**LIVONIA KIDS AND FAMILIES GOLF CLASSIC**  
**Time/date:** 7:30 a.m. Sunday, May 17.  
**Location:** St. John's Golf Course, Plymouth.  
**Details:** Enjoy fun golf challenges, food and friends. Prizes and trophies going to the best and worst golfers. All proceeds benefit the Emerson Food Pantry and Livonia Kids and Families, which assists Livonia residents in need of assistance.  
**Contact:** 734-788-4373.

**LIVONIA KIDS AND FAMILIES GOLF CLASSIC 2015**  
**Time/date:** 7:30 a.m. Sunday, May 17.  
**Location:** The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth.  
**Details:** All proceeds from the Livonia Kids and Families Golf Classic 2015 benefit Livonia Kids and Families and the Emerson Food Pantry. Registration fee of \$65 includes 18 holes, cart and lunch. The deadline to register is May 7. The game is comprised of an 18 hole, stroke-play, net-score tournament (per Mulligan Tour rules). Amateurs (guests) compete for low amateur honors. There will be

longest drive and closest to pin contests. Players will also have an opportunity to enter the toilet shoot and the marsh-mallow shoot for a chance to win an HDTV.  
**Contact:** 734-788-4373.  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Time/date:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, May 18.  
**Location:** St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** In partnership with the American Red Cross, St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium of the hospital. The public is invited to join hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

**SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON**  
**Time/date:** 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.  
**Location:** New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, Redford.  
**Details:** All-you-can-eat cold and hot salads, plus rolls and beverage. Cost is \$7, \$5 for teachers and educators who can go to the front of the line if on their lunch hour. Boutique and bake sale, too.  
**Contact:** 313-255-6330.

**WIDOWED FRIENDS**  
**Time/date:** 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.  
**Location:** G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Widowed Friends is a peer support group. Family style meal is \$20; includes tax and tip. Must RSVP by May 14.  
**Contact:** 313-562-3080; 313-565-5749.

**LIVONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET**  
**Time/date:** 6 p.m. Thursday, May 21.  
**Location:** Alexander Blue House, Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia.  
**Details:** Joe Grimm, author of *Coney Detroit*, will speak on why Michigan is the coney capital of the world. Enjoy coney dogs, broasted chicken, cole slaw, roasted potatoes, fruit cups and cheese cake. Tickets are \$16.  
**Contact:** Greenmead office, 248-477-7375; or Barbara Mansfield, 734-464-0450.

**GOD'S DIAMONDS**  
**Time/date:** 2-5 p.m. Saturday, May 23.  
**Location:** Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Angel House is holding a free luncheon for women who have survived domestic violence or who are presently going through domestic violence. Free gifts, free lunch, free workshop. To RSVP, call 734-524-0380.  
**Contact:** [karenlewis@angel-house.org](mailto:karenlewis@angel-house.org).

**SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY**  
**Time/date:** 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 28.  
**Location:** Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Discounted tickets are \$60 until March 7 for the Class of 2015 All-Night Party. For more information and to obtain a ticket order form, visit <http://stevenson.livoniapublicschools.org> then click on the PARENTS tab and select "Senior All Night Party."  
**FOREVER FAMILIES 5K WALK/RUN**  
**Time/date:** Saturday, May 30.  
**Location:** Hines Park, North Merriman Road, Westland.  
**Details:** Forever Families is a nonprofit licensed foster care and adoption agency in Livonia. Funds raised will go toward meeting the needs of foster children in Michigan including clothing, hygiene items, Christmas and birthday gifts for the children, school supplies, backpacks, cribs, strollers, etc. Various sponsorship levels are available. The goal is to raise \$15,000.  
**Contact:** Amber Ogden, 734-762-0909, ext. 103; [aogden@forever-families.org](mailto:aogden@forever-families.org).

**LEAH'S HAPPY HEARTS FAMILY FUN WALK 2015**  
**Time/date:** 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30.  
**Location:** Maybury State Park, Northville.  
**Details:** Leah's Happy Hearts is a nonprofit organization created to preserve the memory of Leah Elisabeth James whose life was cut short due to an operable brain tumor. All of the proceeds will help fund much-needed research for pediatric brain tumor treatments and will help provide wish baskets to children facing life threatening illnesses in the community. Event registration includes lunch, entertainment, raffles, butterfly release and more. Cost of \$20 includes food and a T-shirt.  
**Contact:** Kristen Collins, 313-720-2192.

**SERVSAFE TRAINING**  
**Time/date:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 5.  
**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Michigan State University Extension Macomb County is offering the "ServSafe@Training" program developed by the National Restaurant Association. The fee of \$70 includes review and test. The book is not included. The review will cover the updated changes to the 2009 FDA Food Code; plus: purchasing and receiving from approved services; storage; preventing food borne illnesses; employee personal hygiene; and HACCP. To register for the class, visit [www.msue.anr.msu.edu/events](http://www.msue.anr.msu.edu/events) and search by date for the event you wish to attend.  
**Contact:** 810-667-0341.

## St. Michael Quiz Bowl teams compete in Middle School Championship

St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia joined 126 of the top middle school quiz bowl teams in Dallas last weekend for the 2015 Middle School National Championship Tournament.

St. Michael had two teams competing: St. Michael A, which finished the preliminary rounds with a 4-4 record; and St. Michael B, which finished the preliminary rounds with a 3-5 record.

There were some tense moments. The B team defeated University School from Hunting Valley, Ohio, by the narrow margin of 180-170 during round 11.

St. Michael A was on the brink of elimination when they defeated Stratford-San Jose from California in round 9 to stay alive. They lost to Midtown Classical from Tallahassee, Fla., ending their shot at the playoffs.

St. Michael B's shot at the playoffs ended when they lost to Alphonsus Arts B from Chicago in round 6.

The tournament champion was the A team from Kealing Middle School of Austin, Texas.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, inter-scholastic activity for teams of four students.

Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture.

The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, because no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas.

Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

St. Michael's A team was captained by


Charles Hilu, who was joined by Kevin Burke, Luke Duncan, Jenna McCann and Ben Rojewski. The B team was captained by Annie Treharne, who was joined by Charlotte Bridges, Josh Cole, Max Orosz, Julia Skubik and Chad Wnuk. The teams were coached by Edward Faunt and Louise Hopping.

St. Michael was one of six Michigan teams competing at the national championship.

The 2015 MSNCT field featured 128 teams from 24 states.



St. Michael School in Livonia was one of six Michigan teams competing at the national Quiz bowl championship. From left are, front row, Josh Cole, Julia Skubik, Annie Treharne; middle row, Max Orosz, Luke Duncan, Charlotte Bridges; and back row, Coach Louise Hopping, Kevin Burke, Chad Wnuk, Ben Rojewski, Charles Hilu, Jenna McCann, Coach Ed Faunt.



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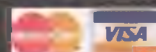
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INSIDE: COMMUNITY LIFE, B5-6 • OBITUARIES, B7 • HEALTH, B8

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DISTINGUISHED HONOR

## Churchill's Hage earns prestigious MHSAA award

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Just a few years into what promised to be a successful career in advertising, Marc Hage experienced a change of heart regarding his future employment.



Hage

And scores of student-athletes at Livonia Churchill have reaped the benefits of the longtime Charger athletic director's decision. Earlier this week Hage — an educator in the Livonia Public Schools since 1990 and his alma mater's AD since 1996 — was notified that he was a recipient of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Allen W. Bush Award, which is awarded to a handful of honorees annually.

### Bush award presented to high-achieving contributors to high school athletics

According to the MHSAA website, the award — which was established in 1992 — is presented to administrators, coaches, officials, trainers, doctors or members of the media with at least 15 years of experience who have "made frequent and significant contributions to the MHSAA."

Hage will officially accept the award from MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts at the June 8 Livonia Board of Education meeting.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this award," Hage said Friday afternoon. "It is the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. I have

been fortunate to have been able to work with a group of people who realize the benefits of athletics and people who are extremely supportive."

Hage said he is especially thankful for the support of his family: wife Anne, sons Joe and Jake, and daughter Meredith.

"The day I accepted this job, my second son was born," Hage revealed. "With a one-and-a-half-year-old son already and knowing the unique hours an athletic director's job demanded, I initially told my wife that I'd pass on it and remain a teacher. But she insisted that I take the job and that we'd make it

work. I wouldn't have been able to do it without her support."

Hage said his decision to change careers from the business world to one that centered around education was an easy one.

"It's not that I didn't like my advertising jobs; I did," he said. "But I had coached and worked with young athletes a lot, and I really enjoyed it, and I ultimately decided I wanted to be an educator."

When it comes to his job, Hage takes the most pride in the relationships he develops with coaches, athletes and athletes' parents.

"I really try to get to as many games and practices as I can because I enjoy the interaction with the athletes, the coaches," he said. "Obviously, there is a

See HAGE, Page B3

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION FUND-RAISER

## Chargers victorious in rivalry showdown

Game played in memory of Domenic Gentilia

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

An emotional Friday for Livonia Churchill head softball coach Steve Gentilia was capped by the Chargers' 7-2 victory over cross-town rival Livonia Stevenson in a game that doubled as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association.

The contest was a fitting tribute to Gentilia's father Domenic, who passed away unexpectedly in February at the age of 72 after suffering a heart attack. Domenic Gentilia was a well-known fixture in softball and baseball circles in Garden City, where he owned and operated the Put Me In Coach Batting Cages at Garden City Park.

"I thought about my dad pretty much all day today," said Steve Gentilia, moments after Friday's game.

See RIVALRY, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Churchill's Cassie Campbell slides safely into third base before Stevenson third baseman Cori Wilson can apply a tag.

ALS FUNDRAISER SOFTBALL GAME



ED WRIGHT

Garden City junior shortstop Kaylen Glenfield is greeted at home plate after bashing the first of her two home runs Thursday night against Livonia Churchill.

## WELCOME HOME, KAYLEN! GC junior slugger puts on fireworks show with bat

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Moments after Thursday night's under-the-lights softball game against Livonia Churchill, Garden City shortstop Kaylen Glenfield diligently smoothed out the "Lighted Field" infield with a rake.

It was an appropriate job for Glenfield given that her cleat marks were all over the dirt as a result of her pair of over-the-fence home runs that powered the Cougars to a 7-3 victory.

Glenfield's first opposite-field blast over the right-center field fence came with one out in the bottom of the first and knotted the game at 1-1 after Churchill struck first when lead-off batter Victoria Luper singled and scored following Erin Carpenter's sacrifice bunt and Madison Christianson's RBI single.

Garden City grabbed the lead for good in

the bottom of the third when Natalie Billings led off with a single, moved to second on Alea Montgomery's sacrifice bunt and scored on lead-off batter Mikey Smolar's single.

Glenfield then launched Melanie Richardson's second pitch on a clothes-line over the same section of chain link that she sent her first one to up the hosts' lead to 4-1.

Glenfield, who was walked intentionally her final two at-bats, now has a team-high seven home runs.

"I knew the first one was gone when I hit it because I couldn't even feel the ball hit the bat," she said. "When you can't feel it, you know you hit it good. I wasn't sure about the second one until it went over."

"I wasn't surprised they pitched to me my second time up. I've hit home runs before

See KAYLEN, Page B4

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

## Walk-off HR ends MU's year

Dickinson State steals game in seventh

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

It felt like a kick in the teeth and a punch in the gut — all in one swoop — for the Madonna University women's softball team Wednesday afternoon in the NAIA tournament's opening round held in Irvine, Calif.

Just three outs away from advancing to the NAIA National Championship, the fourth-seeded Crusaders carried a 3-0 lead into the bottom of seventh inning only to be stunned by third-seed Dickinson State (N.D.), 7-3, on a no-out, walk-off grand slam by senior Janell LaRont.

MU finishes its season at 37-14-1 overall, while the Blue Hawks will take a 43-11 overall record to the Sioux City, Ia. for the NAIA National tourney, which starts May 22.

The Crusaders scored all three of their runs in the top of the fifth inning thanks to a 3-run homer by Emma Cook. The rally started when Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) drew her first walk of the season and Morgan Kaiser (2-for-3) singled.

Madonna senior right-hander Bree Crampton, who earlier in the day blanked Dickinson State, 8-0, averted trouble for the most part by blanking the Blue Hawks through the first six innings in the winner-take-all game of the double-elimination tournament.

But in the bottom of the seventh, Brianna Grayson led off the inning reaching first base via an error by the MU shortstop Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill). Monique Yslas followed with an infield single and pinch-hitter Tiffany Morgan worked her way on via a walk to load the bases.

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# NEW ORGANIZATION FOSTERS COLLABORATION IN THE ARTS

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

PAPA Weeze is bringing creative individuals together for mentoring, collaborative events, career opportunities and new projects.

Think of it as a matchmaker for the arts.

"The part of art that always intrigued me is that it can't happen without so many forms of art working in collaboration, with everyone coming together to make one solid piece," said Barbie Weisserman, founder of PAPA Weeze, a new organization dedicated to helping artists produce their works for "public consumption, enjoyment, education and personal expansion." That includes artists involved in theater, film, fashion, writing, composing, musicians, directors, dancers, choreographers, photographers, sculptors, painters, performance artists and more.

Weisserman of Farmington Hills is a longtime theater professional, with numerous credits in acting, costume design, and producing. She co-founded Two Muses Theatre in West Bloomfield, teaches makeup, costume design and an acting class at Oakland Community College and makes costumes for Mosaic Youth Theatre.

Weisserman, who is married and a mom, quit Two Muses last fall after four seasons with the nonprofit theater.

"Running a theater, doing set dressing and costumes and everything else, got overwhelming, time-consuming. It stopped being fun," Weisserman said. She had toyed with the idea of leaving for a year, thinking the situation might improve. "Then I got an opportunity to fund a movie. That's when I decided this is the direction I needed to go in. I started thinking about what I'd do if I wanted to seriously fund a short film."

## Making connections

The idea for PAPA Weeze took shape. The organization, named after Weisserman's late father-in-law, Harold Weisserman, sponsors a few smaller collaborative projects annually, to help fund one larger project every 12-18 months. This year the major project is the short film that Weisserman promised to help fund. The film, *Getting Ed Laid*, is written and will be directed by Deborah Pearl, who wrote and



Barbie Weisserman of Farmington Hills created PAPA Weeze, a new arts organization.

## BENEFIT FOR THE ARTS ESTATE SALE

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 20-25

**Where:** 28960 Willow Creek, Farmington Hills

**What:** Vintage clothing, jewelry, hats, accessories, antiques, items of curiosity, theatrical makeup and costumes, furniture, designer clothing, retro, ugly, "what is this" will be for sale. Proceeds from the sale of items will benefit PAPA Weeze and support and fund all forms of art. PAPA Weeze will take donated items for the sale through 5 p.m. May 24.

**Contact:** papaweeze.org

produced the television sitcom, *Designing Women*, and will star veteran actor Ed Asner. Weisserman and Pearl met when Two Muses produced Pearl's musical last year.

"Deborah needed a place to stay," said Weisserman, who welcomed the playwright into her home. "She was at our house six weeks. We are like soul mates. We have so much in common. She respected me as a producer and I respected her as a playwright."

"One opportunity led to another. We were just having a conversation and she said I'd

like to make a short film while he (Asner) is still around."

Weisserman is executive producer on the project and will take local wardrobe, makeup and continuity professionals with her to California for the shoot in August. A Kickstarter funding campaign has surpassed its \$18,000 goal by more than \$2,000 and as of May 15 had nine days remaining for donations.

## Fashion and funny

A series of smaller PAPA Weeze events will give local artists a chance to collaborate



Autumn Hauer, a Michigan State University student, created this award-winning fashion design. Hauer is director of the Stand-Up Fashion event for PAPA Weeze, a new Farmington Hills-based arts organization that brings creative individuals together for projects and events.

and also will help fund the film. The first, an evening of short plays, was held in March at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale. The next event, 6 p.m. June 13, 31440 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, will combine fashion and stand-up comedy. Stand-Up Fashion Show will give aspiring and established Michigan designers a chance to show their work. Allie Shapiro of Farmington Hills will supply the comedic commentary. Fine artists also will sell their work in the lobby. The deadline to submit an application for the fashion portion of the event is May 25. Applications for both artist and fashion designers are online at papaweeze.org. Tickets for the fashion show and comedy are \$20, also available online.

In addition to sponsoring

the events, PAPA Weeze through its Jumpstart program helps connect new and aspiring artists with successful professionals. Newcomers get the encouragement and guidance they need to get an artistic career or project up and running.

"I have a high school student who is quite good at playwriting and needs impetus and counseling. I'm having Deborah help," Weisserman said. "I have a friend who always wanted to write a book. Now it's time for her to put her money where her mouth is." She paired her with a professional and plans to help with the editing.

For more about PAPA Weeze visit papaweeze.org. Find information about the film, *Getting Ed Laid*, at Kickstarter.com.

# Teen job hunt a combination of common sense, luck

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Aylin Lopez, 18, and Kyra Dickinson, 14, are off to a good start on their summer job search.

"I'm actually looking for anything to do with computers or engineering," said Lopez, who'll graduate this June from Plymouth Canton High School. She's tutored in the past and is headed to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor this fall to study chemical engineering.

She found a May 13 job search for teens workshop at the Plymouth District Library a good place to start. "I thought it was very helpful," Lopez said. "I'm really excited I got a job lead" from Mary Kelly, the presenting librarian and a staffer at the Lyon Township Public Library.

Dickinson is a ninth-grader at Canton High School who wants to baby-sit. "It was very informational," she said of the program. She learned about filling out job applications and "not what to do and what to do."

"We happen to live in one of the most depressed areas of the country," said Kelly, a South Lyon resident who also works as a substitute librarian at the Plymouth library. In addition, she said, teens must overcome negative perceptions among employers, such as that they're lazy.

"I wouldn't let this stop you. You just have to persevere," Kelly said.

She had practical tips for the more than 20 teens at the evening session, including



Librarian Mary Kelly gave job search advice to local teens, including Plymouth Canton High School students Kyra Dickinson, 14, (center) and Aylin Lopez, 18.

organizing their personal information to make it easy to access. "If there are pictures of you being stupid on the Internet, you want to take them down," Kelly said.

You'll need a unique and professional email for your job hunt, she added, as well as a Social Security number.

Kelly and Barb Dinan, PDL teen librarian, urged the teens to create a list of contacts and references, "anybody that can vouch for your character," Kelly said. "You also want to

let these people know you're looking for work."

Family members generally shouldn't be references, they said, although one teen had worked for his grandfather in a "real" job. Teachers are good references, Kelly said, provided they think well of you.

## Teens know technology

"One of the things young people can bring to the table is technology," Kelly said. Teens may know Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher; they may

have been baby-sitters, "managing horrible children."

She had the teens go through a printed schedule of their availability, blocking off school time. You need travel time to get to a job, Kelly said, reminding them of Plymouth's frequent trains and delays.

"My kid once had a car accident on the way to work," Kelly added.

She emphasized hard work, along with such "soft skills" as team spirit, communication, empathy and trustworthiness.

How you handle people is key on the job, Kelly said.

"They want reliable and showing up on time," Kelly said of employers. "You want to market those skills that you can handle crazy people."

She covered good manners, professional dress (it's good to dress one level up from the current staff, even when picking up applications) as well as the need for common sense. You should "conform before you deviate," in terms of your appearance when approaching an employer, Kelly said.

"Then let out your pink hair slowly," she added. With time and reading of an employer, teens learn "where can you bend the rules and where can you not."

Other basics include:

- » Don't complain.
- » Don't use your cell phone at work (parents can reach the business phone in an emergency).

- » Don't have your friends stop by at work.

- » Delay asking for "favors," such as a night off, until you're more of a known commodity at work.

- » Don't involve parents directly in your job search, such as having a mother pick up job applications. Parents can give counsel at home, but teens should appear to be "orphans" to the employer, Kelly said.

- » "So many people are horrible at this," she said of job hunting, adding applicants should always carry a pen, never asking to borrow one.





## Don't Fry Friday raises awareness of sun overexposure, cancer risk

Don't Fry Friday is set for May 22.

It's the day the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention encourage everyone to protect their skin outdoors while enjoying the Memorial Day weekend.

The sun safety awareness day aims to reduce rising rates of skin cancer from overexposure to the ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun.

The American Cancer Society estimates that one American dies every hour from skin cancer. Skin cancer is highly curable if found early and can be prevented. The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention says everyone should "Slip! Slop! Slap!... and Wrap" — slip on a shirt, slop on broad spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher, slap on a wide-brimmed hat, and wrap on sunglasses before going outdoors into the sun. The best way to detect skin cancer early is to examine your skin regularly and recognize changes in moles and skin growths.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia will offer free skin cancer screening at its annual Healthy Aging Conference, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6,

at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan. Register by calling 734-655-2929 or visit [stmarymercy.org/healthyagingconference](http://stmarymercy.org/healthyagingconference).

"Overexposure to the sun can lead to sunburn, premature aging of the skin, wrinkling or skin cancer," said Ramesh Mohindra, M.D., FACP, oncology and hematology physician, St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "It is important for people of all ages and all skin types to protect themselves from the sun. Skin cancer is preventable."

The hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. are the most hazardous for exposure to ultraviolet rays. The sun's rays can be harmful to everyone, but individuals with pale skin, multiple or unusual moles, weakened immune system or who have experienced severe sunburn in the past have an increased risk for skin cancer. St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these protection tips:

» Always use sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 35 or higher. Wear sunscreen even when you are under an umbrella or sitting in the shade.

» Sunscreen wears off. Ap-

ply sunscreen again if you are in the sun for more than two hours, after you swim or sweat.

» Check your sunscreen's expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of three years. However, if your sunscreen bottle has been exposed to high temperatures, the shelf life is even less.

» Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants made from tightly woven fabric for the best protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Wet clothing offers much less protection from ultraviolet rays than dry clothes.

» Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears and neck.

» Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from ultraviolet rays and reduce the risk of cataracts.

» Seek shade under a tree or umbrella as much as possible.

» Be vigilant of changes to your skin, such as a new growth, a sore that does not heal or a change in a mole. These could be signs of skin cancer, and you should consult your physician.



### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### Blood drive

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, May 18, in the North Auditorium at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins also are accepted.

#### Celiac support

The Tri-County Celiac Support Group sponsors a 5K Walk/Run Sunday, May 17, at

the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe. Registration at 8 a.m. Runners start at 9 a.m. and walkers at 9:30 a.m. Gluten-free food samples, raffle prizes, trophies for top runners and more. Proceeds go to the Center for Celiac Research. For more information, contact April Kretchman at [kretchmanaj@gmail.com](mailto:kretchmanaj@gmail.com) or call 586-202-5586

#### Cerebral aneurysm/stroke

Cerebral Aneurysm and Stroke Club meets 7:30 p.m. May 19 at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Mary Rini, OTR/L, PYT-C senior occupational therapist will present meditation for stress management and modified chair yoga for stroke survivors. The group meets in the dining room at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit; 734-458-3381.

#### Diabetes management

The St. Mary Mercy Livonia Diabetes Support Group offers a free educational seminar, "Managing Diabetes: The Next Step," 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10 in the North Auditorium of St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. JoAnn Henderson-Collins will share information about diabetes self-management and insulin based on formal training and her experiences. For more information, call 734-655-8950.

#### Heart symposium

Hadassah Greater Detroit presents Heart Throbbing Woman's Heart Health Symposium, 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Attendees will learn about the warning signs of heart disease for women, new CPR techniques, defibrillator use and mindful thinking. Cost is \$45. Register at [Hadasah.org/events/whh](http://Hadasah.org/events/whh). 248-683-5030.

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