

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Friends help maintain Wayne homes

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

It's nearly 20 years since some volunteers decided to help a Wayne resident whose home needed some sprucing up that the homeowner couldn't get done due to inability to do the work themselves or hiring someone or both. The Friends ... People Helping People has become a fall tradition in Wayne; the official day is Saturday, Sept. 10 with a Sept. 17 rain day. Now is the

time of year volunteers and donations are being sought as well as names are being accepted for folks needing a spruce up. "Somebody else gave them my name. I was surprised when they contacted me. I didn't know the group," said the recipient of the 2016 project who asked that her name not be used. "They painted my house and garage. They fixed things that needed to be fixed — the failing on the back porch and front porch."

A longtime Wayne resident, she said that she moved into the home in 2010 after losing another residence following the death of her husband. The resident, 55, said she has had two knee replacements, back surgery and expects an additional surgery on her back and hand. "I've been disabled for years. I can't do any of the work that was needed outside," she said. "They did a

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FILE
Albert Damitio (left) here being honored by State Rep. Robert Kosowski for city council service, is chairman of Friends Helping Friends in Wayne.



April (left) and Lorraine Reed attended the WCCCD Study Abroad program trip to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

COURTESY WCCCD

Mother follows daughter into nursing

Lorraine Reed had some big shoes to fill following her daughter's footsteps into the Nursing program at the Wayne County Community College District's Western Campus. "April is a great student and well known at the school," said Lorraine, 60. "She has been my biggest support, helping me through when I felt overwhelmed. She took time from her own studies to coach me when I needed it. She has had

faith in me that even at my age, I could succeed." April Reed, 33, made a name for herself at WCCCD because she founded and facilitated a medical math review book loaner program, and tutoring program for the pre-nursing and students of all semesters. Before entering the program in January 2012, April worked as a certified nurse assistant (CNA) in home healthcare and in hospice for more than 10 years. "I enjoyed caring for people and decided

to advance my career," said April, who graduated in May 2014. Both Lorraine and April relished the experience of being in school together. "Although we entered the program at different times we had the opportunity to work closely together in the WCCCD Student Nurse Association Chapter, I, as president and my mom as secretary," April said. "It gave me the opportunity to teach my mom something she didn't know. Being in the pro-

gram with someone you know so well gives you the opportunity to pinpoint their strong points and weaknesses and to give them support. It was extremely helpful for my mom when she started the program because she understood from watching me, the stress, moodiness and involvement that is required for nursing school. Many people found it interesting that we were both

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Governor calls special election to fill seat of Plawecki

Gov. Rick Snyder recently announced a special election will be held in the 11th District of the state House of Representatives to fill the vacancy created from the death of state Rep. Julie Plawecki.

"While we are still mourning the passing of Rep. Plawecki, the residents of the 11th House District need representation," Snyder said.



Plawecki

A special primary election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of this term will be held Aug. 30, and the general election for the remainder of Plawecki's term will be held Nov. 8. The winner of that November election will serve through the end of 2016.

The primary candidate, who will run for the next term beginning in January, will be determined by Democratic precinct delegates in the 11th House District. The general election for the next term also will be held on Nov. 8. Plawecki, 54, was serving her first term in the Michigan House of Representatives in the 11th House District, which includes the cities of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, and Westland, when she died on a hiking trip. Candidates wishing to be on the Aug. 30 primary ballot must file by Tuesday, July 12 at 4 p.m., the Snyder press release said. For information about elections in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/elections.

Danger zone: On the front line of I-275 construction with worker



Crews work on replacing a guardrail along I-275.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Jeff Mack is working this summer anywhere from 8-16 hours a day, six or seven days a week, in a dangerous job that affects hundreds of thousands of people. He is joined by a few hundred others, not in an air-conditioned office, but in blistering heat, sometimes rain and with dirt, concrete and impatient,

frustrated motorists in abundance. Mack is a senior transportation technician for the Michigan Department of Transportation and, this summer, his assignment is to inspect work done by contractors on the Interstate 275 rehabilitation project spanning from Five Mile Road to the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange. The project includes 13 miles of distance north and south, some 144 lane

miles, in Novi, Farmington Hills and Livonia, said Diane Cross, MDOT communications representative. "The biggest challenge is to get this opened as quickly as possible. We recognize the inconvenience to everybody," Mack said. "But at the same time, we need to make sure the best quality product is out there."

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Lawn lumbar care: Yoga for adults part of GC summer reading fun

The Garden City Public Library hosted Yoga on the Library Lawn as part of the Adult Summer Reading Program. Tuesday, July 5, was the evening for the fun outdoors.

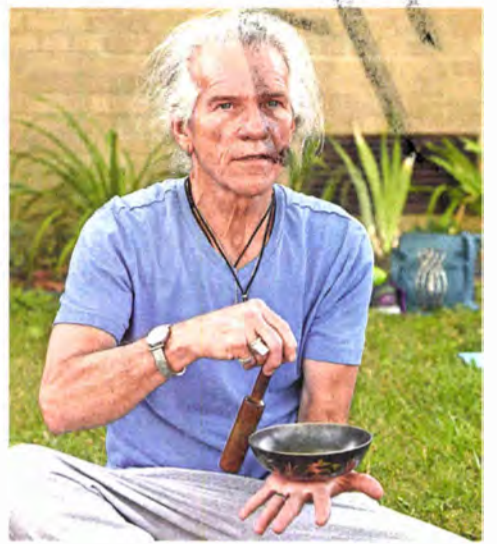
"I thought yoga would be a neat way to bring it in," adult services librarian Lisa Kleinert said of the reading program's exercise/fitness theme this year. "Maplewood Center has a fantastic instructor," Vince Spadacini. "It's just a fun idea," she said.

Kleinert noted his classes are popular at Maplewood and a couple other places where he teaches. She was pleased Tuesday afternoon with the weather forecast.

"I am so happy about that," she agreed, noting the yoga session was open to all in Garden



Garden City residents Adia Ciecierski, mom, Margo Arnoske and Debi Zahor practice their yoga poses during the yoga event held in Garden City this past Tuesday evening.



Yoga instructor Vince Spadacini circles the "Tibetan Meditation Bowl" as the sounds "Balance your energy." The yoga event was held Tuesday evening at the Garden City Library outside on the lawn.

City's Adult Summer Reading Program. The Garden City Library will also offer for adults signed up for the

program this summer:
 » Laser Tag 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 12;
 » Healthy Food Sampling 6 p.m. Tuesday,

July 19;
 » Classic Cars and Hot Dogs!, 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 26.

By Julie Brown

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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WCCCD Study Abroad Program students gather outside of Amsterdam University during their educational trip to the Netherlands.

COURTESY WCCCD

TOLEDO ZOO & AQUARIUM

MEMORIES SHARED DAILY.

NURSING

Continued from Page A1

in the program." Mother and daughter shared a close bond before becoming fellow students. "We shop together, cook together, vacation together and we even study together," April said. "We have experienced great things together in the Study Abroad program, including zip-lining in Belize, gazed at historical architecture in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and, of course, courses taken in the nursing program."

Not only has the degree changed April's financial status, she credits the program for teaching her stress- and time-management and how to prioritize. "I learned valuable skills that launched my nursing career, including how to adapt to every changing situation," April said.

Lorraine, mother of three, graduated in De-

"My dream was to be a nurse but when I was young we didn't have the opportunities that we have now like financial aid."

LORRAINE REED

ember 2015. She believes the program will give her the opportunity to provide a service that she hopes will change lives for the better.

"I love people and being the oldest of seven children, I was always taking care of someone," Lorraine said. "My dream was to be a nurse but when I was young we didn't have the opportunities that we have now like financial aid."

Both mom and daughter speak highly of the WCCCD Nursing program. "The program is intense and you must be really dedicated; it becomes your life while you are in school," Lorraine said. "I really en-

joyed the clinical work, which gave me the opportunity to work hands-on with patients. I will always be grateful to my first clinical instructor (Caroline Peltz) for her expertise and teaching skills, she was a great mentor."

April, too, appreciated the clinical side. "The relationships I developed during the program have become some of my closest friends and I believe we will stay in contact as friends for life."

Today, April is working as a rehab nurse at Superior Woods Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Center. "I would love to become a spinal cord rehab nurse, to further my education and become a nurse educator," April said.

Lorraine is not a nurse yet; she works in the administration office at the Western Campus of WCCCD and is enrolled in the Federal Work Study program.

"This is a midlife career change for me," Lorraine said.

FRIENDS

Continued from Page A1

very good job. They were very nice. I was very impressed. It looked great."

Former Diamond of the Community Ed McMurray originated the program in 1998 after having volunteered for several years helping senior citizens by cutting their lawns.

"He'd be cutting the grass and see a screen door was broken, so he'd fix it. Or a broken window," said Albert Damitio, who took over as chairman of Friends Helping Friends when McMurray stepped down. "A lot of seniors needed their homes painted. It took more effort than they could do. It grew from there."

There are no city funds involved in Friends Helping Friends

— paint and other materials are donated or purchased with donated funds and all the labor is donated. Employees from the Wayne Department of Public Services are among the volunteers helping with the annual project.

"The volunteers are important. The (Wayne Memorial) high school and ROTC have been very supportive providing people that day," Damitio said.

The work isn't actually completed in a single day — that's when there is a big push with the large group of volunteers.

"We work six weeks before and four weeks after. As an example, two years ago we worked on a wooden house that was built in 1880 at least," Damitio said. "We had to scrape it and do some wood board replacement."

Friends Helping

Friends focuses on the exterior of the homes — painting, fixing screens, doors, boards and minor trim work. Damitio said firefighters provide and install smoke detectors if needed.

"We will do some minor repairs on roofs, too. We have a local contractor who volunteers, like when birds or animals are getting inside," said Damitio. "We will also do some brush work when the yard is overgrown."

People can seek help for themselves or a neighbor, make donations or volunteer, call the Community Development Department at 734-419-0118. The committee reviews homes submitted before making a selection. The homes must be owner occupied and in Wayne.

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Mental health pro finds food business way 'to talk to people'



JULIE BROWN

Marlene Davis of Garden City takes a break from her jam business Saturday, July 2, at the Plymouth Farmers Market. She also does the markets in Redford and Lincoln Park.



JULIE BROWN

Stopping by to try Bear Jam Co. and Detroit Jamz jam on July 2 were Lincoln Park residents Cindy Stevens, grandson Maverick Hutchison, 1, and Cindy's son Andrew Gagne.

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Marlene Davis of Garden City has learned a lot from making jam. "This is just a way for me to be creative, talk to people," she said from her Saturday booth at the Plymouth Farmers Market. She has both the Bear Jam Co., in its third year, and Detroit Jamz, a newcomer. "The Detroit Jamz I'm hoping to market" to a larger company, she explained during a customer lull. For Bear Jam Co., it's "no pressure, no stress. They're both my creations."

She's the supported employment program manager for Development Centers, focused on community mental health in Detroit.

Davis had a career in automotive and quality management, then headed back to school for a rehabilitation counseling degree. Her week-day work is "getting them back in the community. Mental health is so stigmatized."

She's worked with clients having an eighth-grade education on up through a master's degree, "helping them get jobs. I work with people who do want to become independent business people. Having the insight helps me help people with their own ideas of starting business."

It's also fun for her. "This is my hobby business, my business hobby. No reports. No talking to employers," she said.

She added in a later email, "Actually, the two are connected with

three words: quality, dignity, and respect. I left working in an automotive supply based quality field to become a counselor focusing on the quality of people. I very much enjoy the opportunity I have been given to work with those diagnosed with a mental health disability helping them on their journey toward recovery. Both my work in the product quality field and the people quality field are used in my creating and selling great jams."

She also does Redford's and Lincoln Park's Farmers Markets. At Plymouth, Lincoln Park residents Cindy Stevens, grandson Maverick Hutchison, 1, and Cindy's son Andrew Gagne stopped by.

"I love anything cherry," said Cindy Stevens when offered a jam sample. "That was very good."

Davis was quick to tell them, "I've been selling at the Lincoln Park market, too."

She noted, "This whole area is very complex. My friend used the word juxtaposition, the good and the bad. This is my way to bring it together and keep the economy strong."

She's focused on Michigan-made and Michigan-sourced. "It's important for me to support our businesses and our farms," Davis said.

Peaches come from Grand Rapids; she visits there and processes them, noting they freeze just fine. Of her bourbon peach, she said, it "has a really nice flavor with the peach. Cocktail jams

is what I call them." She bagged up several cocktail jams for a customer.

She has a web page at bearjamcompany.com and is on Facebook. "Like me," she urges Facebook users. "I need more likes. I have 98, I'm shooting for 100."

Another customer asked, "Can I try the grape raspberry, too?" with Davis noting it's "kid-friendly."

She picks raspberries in Romulus with the cherries from Traverse City. Citrus fruit won't grow here, but the main emphasis is Michigan, including strawberries from Ypsilanti, as well as peaches and apricots from Garden City.

Garden City's Santeiu Funeral Home has fruit acreage, she noted, on the Santeiu Historic Stringer Farm by the funeral home, "which is wonderful they way they do it." She also uses Santeiu crab apples.

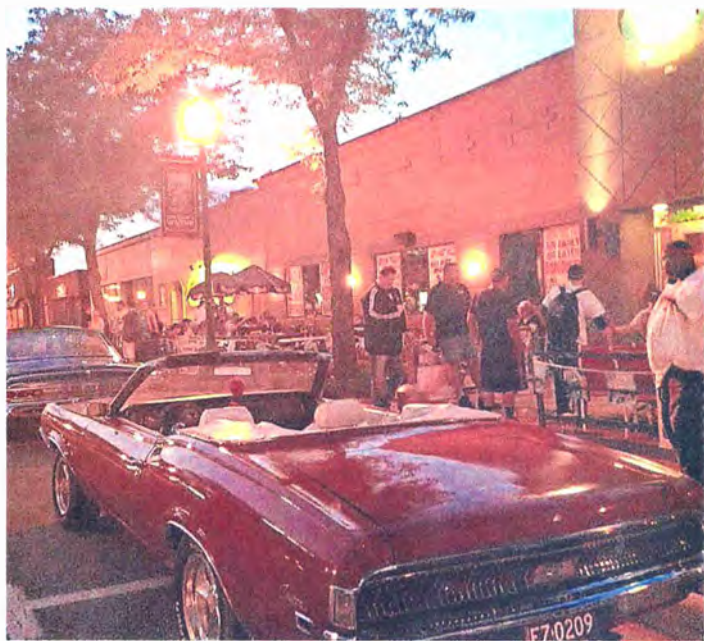
Davis gets her own raspberries, grapes and strawberries. For peaches, she visits the farm to process "and make them in the wintertime when I have the time."

Michigan cranberries and rhubarb are also used. Between Bear Jam Company and Detroit Jamz, she has about 15 varieties.

"It really goes by the season," she said of the top seller. "Last year, bourbon peach was a big seller." Apple rum raisin does well in the December holidays.

"I dress the jars up for holidays, sell them at craft shows," Davis said.

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SUBMITTED

The Cruisin' US12 car cruise takes place from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9.

Downtown Wayne hosts classic car cruise

For the 10th year in a row classic and custom cars will fill Michigan Avenue in Downtown Wayne as part of the Cruisin' US12 event on Saturday, July 9. The cruise route is on Michigan Avenue starting at Merriman Road to Newburgh Road. The heart of the cruise is always Downtown Wayne. The event runs 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

U.S. 12 will be hosting live acoustic music all day on the patio as well as inside in the evening by Rocky Fortune Classic Rock Band. Harry J. Will Funeral Home will be hosting Hot Cars and Hot Cakes from 8:30-11 a.m.; they will also host a car show and give out prizes. The hot cakes come with

sausage and a drink for \$5, all proceeds to benefit Donate Life kids under 5 free.

Mark Chevrolet will have a remote location set up in Downtown Wayne at the corner of Second St. and Michigan Ave West, they will have live entertainment by TC and the KATZ.

McDonald's with have a live broadcast from WCSX The Classic Rock Station, with a special appearance by Ronald McDonald as well as free face painting for the kids.

"This is the most popular single-day event in Wayne. Last year we had over 23,000 people come to downtown," said Scott Gocaj, a volunteer for the event. "The streets are lined with spectators starting at breakfast time and once the cars

start cruising through, the festivities won't die down until 10 p.m."

Mark Chevrolet owner Casey Kabana said he's "excited to be part of this years Cruise."

"We have made plans to set up a temporary location to move closer to downtown and hired a great local band for entertainment," Kabana said. "We will have classic Chevy Cars on display as well as some of our newer models."

This year's Cruisin' U.S. 12 is being organized by John Goci, owner of the US12 Bar & Grill in downtown Wayne, and real estate agent with Keller Williams.

For more information about the event and volunteer opportunities, visit www.cruisinus12.com or call 734-637-1430.

All American Cruise set for July 9 return

The fourth annual All American Wayne Road Cruise is set for Saturday, July 9.

This year, organizer Don Nicholson said, "We are happy to not only be a Pure Michigan event, but also part of Autopaloosa. In order to be part of either event we have to have reached a level of attendance, event insurance, community involvement and tourism advertising."

Being part of Autopaloosa puts this event in partnership with events like the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, Concours d'Elegance, Woodward Dream Cruise and other events in southeast Michigan.

Don Nicholson Enterprises, LLC, organizes the All American Wayne Road Cruise, as well as the Hines Cruise, and is the director of Cruisin' Downriver, working for the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce. These events are all organized in a manner to give the community a fun, free family event and to bring business to the business community, Nicholson said.

"We are open to consulting with any business in the area of our cruises to help them gain the most from our events," Nicholson said. "Some businesses set up shop outside their business to



SUBMITTED

The fourth annual All American Cruise is scheduled for Saturday, July 9.

great potential new customers, others host a VIP area to have their customers join them for a day of BBQing and conversation while watching the classics drive by."

Ernie Gazdag of Man-cave Accessories is the official T-shirt vendor and will be set up at Westland Bowl, Wayne Ford Civic League and the Historic Westland Village. Event shirts are top of the line, quality event shirts. The John Glenn Music Boosters will sell water at the Wayne Ford Civic League.

The Historic Westland Village will be hosting an open house and giving away limited edition dash plaques to the first 100 vehicles that stop at the village and take a

tour or just visit with the other car owners.

Howe Collision will be giving out 300 hot dogs, drinks and chips, My Lady's Florist will be passing out water and a special discount on roses for the Cruisers sweetheart.

As always, the event will feature plenty of classic cars, hot rods and TV and movie cars — watch for the Munsters Coach, Speed Racer's car, The Batmobile or even the Monkeemobile may make an appearance. The Ghostbusters car or Herbie may even cruise into Westland for the 50th anniversary celebration.

For more information, call Nicholson at 734-658-5296 or visit www.AllAmericanCruise.com

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Westland man charged in assault on flight attendant

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A 44-year-old Westland man was arrested Saturday and charged in connection with the sexual assault of an 18-year-old female flight attendant.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's office confirmed Tuesday that Dwan Parkman was taken into custody Saturday and arraigned in 34th District Court on charges of criminal sexual conduct (first degree), criminal sexual conduct (third

degree) and home invasion.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the victim was in her hotel room, in the 9500 block of Middlebelt, the evening of June 20, when she discovered a man in her room attacking her.

Parkman is alleged to have broken into the victim's room and sexually assaulted her.



Parkman

Parkman was charged July 1 and taken into custody the following day.

Parkman received a \$500,000 cash/surety bond. He's been scheduled for a probable cause conference July 13 at 9 a.m.; his preliminary examination is set for 10 a.m. July 20, according to Worthy's office.

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Man reports being beaten by intruder

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

A Garden City man said he was beaten by an intruder after he tried to investigate a noise in his house at 8:20 p.m. July 3.

The 42-year-old victim, who lives in the 33000 block of Donnelly Avenue, said he was sitting in his living room when he heard loud crashing noises in his kitchen. He said he got up and was walking toward the kitchen when he was confronted by an unknown white male, a police report said.

He said the intruder punched him at least 30 times. The victim said he was standing when the assault began, but fell to the ground and balled himself up for protection. He said the man ran away from the house.

The suspect was described as being bald, between 30 and 35 years old, 5-foot-11 inches to 6 feet tall, weighing about 180 pounds, covered in tattoos and had large gauge piercings in his ears. He was wearing camouflaged shorts and combat boots, a police report said.

A neighbor who lives behind the victim said he was outside when he heard what he

thought was glass breaking. He started heading toward his neighbor's house when he was confronted by an unknown white male exiting the dwelling. He told police the suspect was holding a large mallet.

The neighbor followed the man across Radcliff and watched the suspect get into a Ford F-150 pickup. He fled eastbound on Donnelly. The neighbor said he swung and broke the left mirror of the truck as the suspect drove by.

The neighbor also reported seeing an unidentified man and woman sitting in a Taurus parked next to the F-150. He said they appeared to know the suspect and he believed they were the suspect's lookouts.

As the suspect fled in the F150, the man and woman in the Taurus also drove away, but they headed westbound on Donnelly, a police report said.

The victim said he doesn't have any suspects in mind, but he believes the attack may have to do with the fact that he evicted his roommate last week. The victim was transported to Garden City Hospital in relation to injuries from the punches. Nothing was reported stolen.

Woman reports being sound asleep during apartment break-in

A 54-year-old Garden City woman told police she had recently taken sleeping pills and didn't notice when a thief or thieves apparently broke into her apartment in the 31000 block of Block Avenue on July 3.

She reported the following items stolen: TVs, radios, stereos, a digital camera, \$240 cash and a \$659 money order that wasn't endorsed.

The woman said she woke up at 10 a.m. the following day and discovered her wallet and other items stolen. She said she has prescribed sleeping medication and took it about 11 p.m. She also discovered her apartment door was partially open, but her dog was still inside, a police report said.

There were no signs of forced entry.

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Police track man, make arrest in a Garden City fatal accident

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

A 44-year-old Lincoln Park man, who reportedly had more than three times the legal blood alcohol level at the time of a fatal accident Oct. 14, 2015, in Garden City, was arrested July 1.

Ronald William Wilkie, formerly a Garden City resident, was taken into custody by the Special Operations Team of the Wyandotte Police Department.

Wilkie was arraigned in Garden City's 21st District Court immediately after his arrest on charges stemming from the crash that killed Louis Corey, a 95-year-old Garden City man who died the day after the crash. Judge Richard L. Hammer Jr. set Wilkie's bond at \$250,000 cash.

A plea of not guilty was entered on Wilkie's behalf to charges of operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol content causing death with a prior conviction and failure to stop at the scene of an accident causing death.

He was previously convicted of operating while impaired by liquor in Dearborn Heights in 2010.

Wilkie, who was unable to post bond, is in the custody of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office awaiting his next court appearance at 9 a.m. July 11 in Garden City District Court.

Fatal crash

The charges stem from a crash in the northbound lanes of Middlebelt just south of Beechwood at 8:20 p.m. Louis Corey was a passenger in a 2004 Volkswagen Jetta that stopped for a traffic light. The vehicle was driven by Corey's caregiver, a 58-year-old Dearborn Heights woman. The car was rear ended by a 2006 GMC Envoy reportedly driven by Wilkie.

A witness followed the fleeing vehicle and contacted police. Officers arrived in the area and found the man identified by the witness as the driv-

er, explained Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery. Wilkie allegedly parked the Envoy in the driveway of a home not belonging to him, and began walking away.

He was taken into custody at that time. Two blood tests reportedly showed he had a .27 and .28 blood alcohol content; .08 BAC is considered legally drunk in Michigan.

"Police were forced to release Wilkie the following day," Muery said. "The severity of Mr. Corey's injuries were not known to police at the time that decision was made. There has been some criticism in social media of the handling of this case by the police department prompted by what some feel was an unduly lengthy delay between the crash and arrest of Wilkie."

"In a crash like this, where the cause of death is not immediately evident, the prosecutor requires a report from the medical examiner before charging," Muery said adding that "they must eliminate the possibility that the deceased did not have a coincidental medical event unrelated to the crash."

Police investigators received the medical examiner's report Dec. 2, 2015. Later that month, police submitted a report to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. The charges were approved June 21.

Search continued

"We have been aggressively looking for Wilkie since that time," Muery said. "The delay from the date of the incident to the date of arrest was not caused by any indifference to the case."

Muery said officers from Garden City, Canton, Lincoln Park and Wyandotte were involved in the search for Wilkie.

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“Almost every day, a driver crashes in a work zone area — hitting a barrel, a sign, or truck.”

DIANE CROSS, MDOT communications representative

WORKER

Continued from Page A1

Lots of traffic

I-275 is among the busiest stretches of road in Michigan because it is the only major north-south route for that area and as such carries 200,000 vehicles per day on average, Cross said. Detours to local roads that take north-south routes are not designed for the same quantity of freeway traffic, leading to frustration from drivers in an already hazardous situation for construction workers.

“Thousands of pounds of metal, steel and glass are driving right near you at high speeds, which is why when we can close and contain it, it’s much safer for workers so they don’t have to worry about drivers,” Cross said. “Almost every day, a driver crashes in a work zone area — hitting a barrel, a sign, or truck. ... People send me pics on Twitter that they take while driving, and they say, ‘Why am I in a slowdown?’ They feel protected in their safe bubble of a vehicle, with air bags and brakes while driving at a high speed next to someone who only has a construction barrel. Then there are the stories of vehicles hitting construction workers. Fortunately, we haven’t had one of those in a long time.”

Helping to prevent such a tragedy was closure of the southbound lanes of I-275, which reopened Friday, while northbound lanes are closing as the project is 50-percent completed.

Still dangerous

Even with closed lanes, construction zones remain dangerous for Mack as well as other workers as they walk back and forth in a zone filled with heavy equipment and materials.

“Toebe, the prime contractor, has an excellent safety program in place and we’ve had zero injuries so far,” Mack said. “Our No. 1 goal is to go home safe.”

Toward that end, all the workers on the I-275 project wear personal protection equipment, including hard hats, protective vests, safety glasses, work boots and ear plugs.

Mack, 37, has worn the gear for his entire career with MDOT, which spans 15 years. He earned his degree in engineering technology from Eastern Michigan University and chose this career path after spending a summer in a co-op program and “falling in love with it.”

Many duties

As a senior technician, his primary focus is to inspect the contractors’ work in the field, document their activities, do testing and ensure the best quality products are being placed on the job, including 13 inches of concrete on a correctly pitched base.

Everything you see, he explained, has a design elevation. Once concrete is in place, the next step is curing the concrete, which includes a time frame where no one is driving or touching it as it strengthens. Curing can take anywhere from two to seven days after being placed and there are no workers out during that time. There must also be relief cuts to the pavement, as concrete will always crack, and those are deliberately placed.

The inspectors are on-site as long as the contracted construction workers are on-site and they are out there rain or shine, he added. If weather prevents one job, such as laying concrete, they do another, such as removing it.

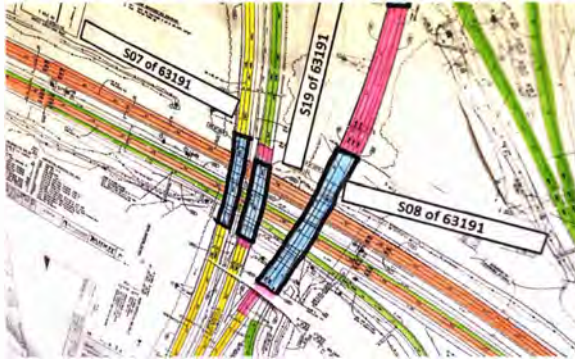
After 15 years and more than a hundred projects, Mack still likes all aspects of his work, including the variability, the challenges, his colleagues and meeting new people. He takes pride in a job well done.

“As a taxpaying citizen myself, it brings me a lot of joy that when I leave a project, I know it was built with the highest quality and effort I could put into it,” Mack said.

He knows construction is frustrating for drivers and the married father of two wants motorists to know he shares that frustration, but he also hopes they will be patient, be aware, be safe and slow down.

“My end goal is to get home each day,” Mack said. “Help me get there.”

sbromley@hometownlife.com



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A color-coded blueprint of the I-275 reconstruction project near the Grand River overpass shows how many different road surfaces and gradings MDOT has to keep in mind as it rebuilds the busy highway.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A construction worker with Action Traffic pounds in posts for guardrails on southbound I-275.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With a large front end loader in the distance for scale, a huge pile of crushed gravel awaits being turned into concrete at one of the two manufacturing facilities at the I-275 project. This plant is just south of Five Mile in the median.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A recently poured section of concrete shows its one-foot depth on I-275’s southbound lanes. Crews subcontracted by MDOT have been working on the highway since early May.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction workers toil in the 90-degree plus temperatures June 20 to properly set and smooth recently poured concrete on I-275 near the 10 Mile overpass. The site has somewhere between 100 and 200 workers on the project seven days a week.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Mack, senior transportation technician for MDOT and a project leader of the I-275 reconstruction, takes an air pressure entrainment near one of the site’s two concrete making facilities. Mack and other engineers have to test the air pressure in the concrete mixture several times a day to make sure that air trapped in it is within a certain limit so it can cure properly. Like most workers on the project, Mack works seven days a week and has only had one full day off in the last 50, leading up to the July 4 holiday weekend.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn Demorris of Action Traffic works on attaching a guardrail to a post recently set on the shoulder of I-275.

Zeal supports Guinness World Record attempt

For the second year in a row, Zeal Credit Union will support chain reaction builders in their attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest domino circle field and the U.S. record for the longest chain reaction.

Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine: World Edition will take place at Westland Shopping Center July 23 in Westland.

Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine: World Edition will feature more than half a million objects, including 250,000 dominoes and thousands of other common items. The chain reaction will cover an area of more than 5,000 square feet.

Throughout the week beginning July 18, 18 builders from around the world will create the



Young builders from around the world helped to set up Zeal Credit Union's first Incredible Science Machine at the 2015 record-breaking event. COURTESY ZEAL CREDIT UNION

Incredible Science Machine with Steve Price, a Canton native and recent Michigan State University graduate, who is leading the project. Price and his chain

reaction machines have been featured on national television shows such as "The Rachael Ray Show" and "America's Got Talent." "We are so excited to

work with Steve and his team of builders again this year. It was very inspiring last year to watch this team come together from around the world, and work to

create something that they were truly passionate about," said Lisa Fawcett, vice president of marketing for Zeal Credit Union. "As the credit union for hard-

working Americans, Zeal understands the hard work and passion required to pursue a dream of this magnitude. We are happy to again be part of it."

For more information about the event, visit www.IncredibleScienceMachine.com.

Zeal Credit Union is a full-service, nonprofit financial institution with more than 61,000 members, assets exceeding \$513 million and 11 full-service branch offices in metro Detroit. Members also have access to more than 5,000 shared branches and nearly 30,000 ATMs nationwide. Member deposits are insured to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a U.S. government agency. For more information, visit www.ZealCreditUnion.org.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Funk to Recovery Project

The Recovery Project, a leading provider of high-intensity physical and occupational therapy, announced Jordyn Funk has joined the team as an occupational therapist at the company's Livonia clinic. The Recovery Project Co-CEO, Polly Swingle, made the announcement.

In her role as an occupational therapist, Funk will provide intensive evaluation and treatment to The Recovery Project's clients and will create customized programs that utilize the latest research-proven best practices and state-of-the-art equipment for clients, including those with neurological dis-

orders. Funk will also leverage her certifications in VitalStim and Neuro-Developmental Treatment.

Prior to joining The Recovery Project, Funk was an occupational therapist with Crawl Walk Run Jump Therapy in Clinton Township, and served in various occupational therapy roles with skilled nursing facilities and inpatient hospitals. Funk earned a master's degree in occupational therapy and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary health services from Western Michigan University.



Funk

Twin Peaks opens

Twin Peaks opened its second Detroit-area location recently at 20120 Haggerty Road in Livonia. The new sports lodge offers fans made-from-scratch food, ice-cold beer and spirits in a friendly, high-energy atmosphere. The 7,100-square-foot restaurant also brings about 150 new jobs to the area.

The restaurant features 51 ultra-high-definition 4K TVs.

The menu features hearty American favorites and tasty shareables.

For more information, call 734-293-3430, or visit facebook.com/TwinPeaksLivonia.

Marketplace Navigator program available to answer insurance questions

Health insurance can be difficult to understand, residents no longer have to feel that they are alone in the challenge. If you have questions about health insurance or need to enroll, Health Insurance Navigators are available to help year-round.

Last year the City of Garden City was awarded funding to make this service available to the Wayne County community. The Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator program's mission is to assist residents with enrolling in a health plan that fits their budget and best meets their family's needs.

The City of Garden City, the City of Dearborn Heights and Westland have joined together to help the residents of their communities get the health insurance coverage they need. The services are housed in a variety of municipal buildings in the three communities; in Garden City at the Maplewood Community Center, in Dearborn Heights at the Eton Senior Center and the City Hall, and in Westland at the City Hall and the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center.

Navigators are available to assist residents on a walk-in or by appointment basis. Navigators



Robert Cox
GUEST COLUMNIST

LOCATIONS

- » Westland City Hall, 734-679-7827
- » Westland Jefferson Barns Vitality Center, 734-679-7788
- » Dearborn Heights City Hall, 734-679-7645
- » Dearborn Heights Eton Senior Community Center, 734-679-7833
- » Garden City Maplewood Community Center, 734-793-1849

are trained specialists who provide residents with in-person help, answering their questions about health insurance and financial assistance options, as well as assisting them as they complete the application.

Navigators are knowledgeable about the range of health plans available on HealthCare.gov, as well as other public health insurance programs offered in their state, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Navigators are also qualified to assist small businesses in selecting affordable, qualified health plans they can

offer to their employees. Most small businesses are eligible for a tax credit when they purchase a portion of their employees' health insurance through healthcare.gov. After the employer decides chooses a plan, our trained Navigators will work each employee to enroll them and their family.

Navigators help make the process simple by guiding residents to make educated health-care decisions. Residents can compare plans side-by-side based on price, benefits, quality, and other features important to them, which is helpful if they have specific health care needs. Every health plan in the Marketplace offers the same set of essential health benefits, including doctor visits, preventive care, hospitalization, prescriptions, and more. Plans can offer other benefits like vision, dental or medical management programs for a specific disease or condition.

Navigators will work alongside the resident from coverage to care, in effort to make sure that they are not just covered but have found a doctor and have begun to access services.

Robert Cox, MSW
Marketplace Navigator
Coordinator



SPECIAL EVENT
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Waltonwood at Cherry Hill

Thursday, July 21st
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Speculation rules the day, but patience wins in the end

For the past 10 days or so, the talk in the financial world has been about the British people's decision to leave the European Union (Brexit). There has been an incredible amount of speculation as to what is coming next. If you listen to 25 of the so-called experts, they'll have 30 different opinions. In addition, their opinions in the morning may be totally different than at four in the afternoon. The bottom line - we are entering uncharted waters and, despite all the expert opinions, no one knows how this will play out.

Although we are in uncharted waters, it's not like we haven't been here before. An example is a few years ago, when the United States lost its AAA credit rating. There were all sorts of wild speculations as to what would happen to interest rates and the economy as a whole. In these types of situations, generally the doom and gloomers dominate the conversation. The doom and gloomers speculated that the loss of the U.S. credit rating



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

would cause a recession, a crash in our markets and soaring interest rates. Not surprisingly, none of this came true.

A few years ago, when the children in Washington couldn't play together, our elected representatives came up with something called sequestration and, once again, we were entering uncharted waters. When this downgrade occurred, the doom and gloomers dominated the conversation again. At the time, the financial media was full of endless speculation as to how this downgrade would adversely affect the U.S. economy. Not surprisingly, once again, the doom and gloomers were wrong.

In today's 24-hour news cycle, in order to drive ratings, it seems the more you can put things in crisis mode, the more air time you get. As a result, whenever we have an event that is

unprecedented such as the Brexit or the lowering of the U.S. debt rating or sequestration, the doom and gloomers seem to come out of the woodwork and dominate the airways. Unfortunately, the fact that these doom and gloomers are never right does not seem to be important. What seems to be important is that they scare people and they sound good doing it.

As I've said many times before, being an investor is not easy. It takes a fair amount of discipline to ignore the endless speculation, but that is what you have to do. You have to realize that all too often the purpose of the talking heads is not to educate you or help you make better investment decisions, but to drive ratings.

I admit I don't know how the Brexit is going to play out and, in reality, neither does anyone else. To speculate and make radical moves in your portfolio is akin to gambling.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com.

Wounded warrior brings yoga to Canton park

Old Glory Flags and Flagpoles of Livonia and Canton Leisure Services have joined forces to host "Yoga In the Park" with Dan Nevins on Saturday, July 30, in Canton's Heritage Park. It benefits the Wounded Warrior Project.

This special fundraiser is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., but participants are asked to arrive by 8:30 a.m. for check-in and registration.

Nevins, a motivational speaker and nationally recognized Wounded Warrior featured on NBC News, is a retired staff sergeant with the U.S. Army who began his military career out of high school as a paratrooper stationed in Germany. In November 2004, an IED detonated beneath his vehicle during a combat mission in Iraq, causing Nevins to suffer a traumatic brain injury as well as his left leg to be amputated below the knee. After more than 30 surgeries, Nevins' right leg was also amputated below the knee.

Nevins credits the practice of yoga for turning his life around after

losing his legs in Iraq. This professional speaker, who for more than a decade has shared an inspirational message of leadership, perseverance, resilience and overcoming adversity with audiences around the globe, is also a certified Baptiste yoga instructor.

Nevins believes that yoga can help everyone, especially veterans returning home from service, and encourages all veterans to try yoga for its physical and emotional benefits.

"My whole platform is for you to invite a veteran to yoga, because it just might save their life," he said. "I became a yoga teacher because I knew first hand of the power it has to heal."

All proceeds from this event will go to benefit Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are on sale at <https://activenet.active.com/canton>; just search for Dan Nevins.

Tickets are \$35 online and will be \$45 the day of the event. Ticket price includes a Wounded Warrior Project yoga mat and carrying bag, as well as a Wounded Warrior Project support bracelet,



Dan Nevins, yoga instructor, motivational speaker and nationally recognized Wounded Warrior, travels the globe inspiring audiences while practicing yoga.

while supplies last. Participants will also receive a tax statement at the end of 2016 stating

the portion of your donation that is tax-deductible. Learn more about Nevins' incredible story

at www.dannevins.com. For more information, call 734-394-5360.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Shred day

On Saturday, July 9, DFCU Financial will offer residents the opportunity to have their paper records and data storage materials shredded and recycled during the Community Shred Day at the Livonia branch location at Newburgh and Seven Mile.

This free event aims to raise public awareness of the need to securely destroy confidential materials to prevent identity theft and fraud, as well as to encourage recycling.

Materials will be collected on July 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the credit union at the corner of Newburgh and Seven Mile (enter off Newburgh) in Livonia. The drop-off event is open to the public. There is a maximum of five boxes/bags limit per vehicle. For more information, contact Peggy Richard at peggy.richard@dfcufinancial.com or call 313-322-8239.

Acceptable items for shredding include bank statements, forms, receipts, old checkbooks,

See EVENTS, Page A9



Chamber executive director Dan Irvin (center), with Kara Blondell and Dr. Remi Sarna of Bright Side Dental, is leaving the chamber following next week's Founders Festival.

Farmington chamber director leaving position

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer



"(Laurel Park) reached out to me. This is a great opportunity. ... It's difficult because of the roots I've planted."

DAN IRVIN, Greater Farmington Area Chamber director

Dan Irvin can probably retire his tutu. He's not likely to need it where he's going.

Irvin, since October 2014 executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, announced this week he's leaving that post. Irvin will be the new general manager at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Irvin's last day will be July 17, the final day of the 2016 Founders Festival.

It isn't an opportunity for which he went looking, but it's one he said he can't pass up.

"I was not seeking employment outside the chamber," Irvin said Tuesday. "(Laurel Park) reached out to me. This is a great opportunity. ... It's difficult because of the roots I've planted. Things are starting to blossom here."

They've been blossoming since Irvin replaced Mary Engelman, who resigned after the Founders Festival in July 2014. With a focus on delivering value to chamber members, Irvin and his staff have been building up the chambers numbers steadily.

Irvin is quick to credit the chamber staff — office manager Cheryl Zajdel, director of finance Diana Lis, director of membership development Marcia Rodeheffer and direction of communications/events Kristin Curle Houchins — for improvements that have come.

For instance: » Taste of Two Cities jumped from 42 participants to more than 300.

» The golf outing drew 24 participants in 2014; this year, it was 112.

» The State of the Cities event grew, up from an audience of 125 to 200.

» Member retention is up from 68 percent to somewhere right around 90 percent. Membership is up by more than 100.

"That's a reflection of the staff here," Irvin said. "If they didn't get behind every crazy idea, I'd be telling a different (numbers) story. It really is a team effort."

Irvin admits some of those ideas were a bit "out of the box." That's where the tutu comes in. Irvin wore it in an exercise video he made to promote the chamber's networking events.

The idea worked — the next networking event drew some 60 people — and the numbers have just kept climbing.

Zajdel, Lis and Houchins have been with the chamber since Irvin started (Rodeheffer started in October 2015). Houchins called Irvin's move "bittersweet."

"It is a great opportunity for him at Laurel Park Place and I know he will do great things there just like he has at the chamber," Houchins said of Irvin, whom she said had a "vision" for the chamber. "I'm happy for him, but I'm sad for us. I learned a lot from Dan. He was a true mentor for me."

Board president Karen Blazaitis called Irvin "an integral part of growing the (chamber) over the last 21 months.

His enthusiasm and drive helped propel our chamber membership to its highest numbers to date," she said.

While a search firm was used when Engleman resigned, Blazaitis said no firm will be hired this time. Instead, an eight-member panel will comb through applications (interested applicants can email president@gfachamber.com) and make the selection.

Blazaitis said prospective replacements for Irvin must have prior chamber experience and must have a financial and managerial background.

"You have to have someone who 'gets it,'" Blazaitis said. "It takes a lot of energy. We are dedicated to keeping what we have and moving forward. We have the foundational elements set to find someone who will continue the momentum."

While he won't be leading the chamber, Irvin promised he'll still be a big part of it. He'd like to be a chamber ambassador, plans to continue working for a nonprofit in the area — as all the chamber staff does — and will still be heavily involved.

"I'm very blessed to have had this opportunity," Irvin said. "I'm very proud of everything we've done to turn the chamber around."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Ferns, kites on tap at Nankin Mills

Wayne County Parks will introduce three new programs and host a family favorite history lesson at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center during July.

Ferns of Holiday Nature Preserve

Be one of the first to participate in this new program where participants will learn about a variety of plants 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 9.

Wayne County Parks' Holiday Nature Preserve has some of the oldest and most beautiful plants on earth, including twenty different species of ferns. During this indoor presentation, a Nankin Mills naturalist will share photographs and help visitors recognize the botanical treasures.

This program will serve as a good introduction to the Fern Hike being held at Koppernick Section Holiday Nature Preserve Sept. 17.

This presentation is recommended for ages 12 and up. The program fee is \$3 per person; add \$1 per person for out-of-county residents.

Make it at the Mill - Kites

As part of the "Make it at the Mill" series, Wayne County Parks has dedicated a program to the art of making kits. A naturalist will provide kite making supplies and participants will be encouraged to be creative and innovative as they embark in the kite making activity.



Once the kites are finished, participants will take their kite outside to fly alongside members of a local kite club who will demonstrate different kinds of kites.

The program is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9.

This program is recommended for ages 6 and up, with an adult. The program fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult; add \$1 per person for out-of-county residents.

Copper Rush in Michigan

Most people have heard of the Gold Rush to California in the 1850s, but did you know the Copper Rush came first — right here in Michigan? Native Americans were the first to discover copper thousands of years ago.

Participants will learn about our state's history of copper mining, Native American mining techniques and mining methods today, which is an interesting and colorful part of Michigan's history.

The program is set for 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 16. This program is recommended for ages 12 and up; program fee is \$3

per person; add \$1 per person for out-of-county residents.

Henry Ford's Village Industries of Southeastern Michigan

Henry Ford is known for many things in southeast Michigan. One of his projects has direct ties to Nankin Mills Interpretive Center as the former owner from 1918-48. Ford gifted Nankin Mills and three other sites on the Middle Rouge River to Wayne County. These buildings would be included in the new Middle Rouge (Hines) Parkway being developed.

Join a Nankin Mills naturalist to learn more about these and other Henry Ford's sites in the area. It is a fascinating part of the Ford history. A tour of the Ford exhibits in the Interpretive Center will follow the presentation 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23.

This program is recommended for ages 12 and up; the program fee is \$3 per person; add \$1 per person for out-of-county residents.

Nankin Mills is located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

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OUR VIEWS

Vote 'yes' on SMORSA proposal

Proposal S, the proposal to allow the City of Wayne to join the South Macomb Oakland Regional Services Agency seems like a no-brainer.

Of course, we understand it's really not that simple; deciding to increase your own taxes never is, and that's what would happen here.

However, without joining SMOSA, Wayne is projected to run out of money by 2017. Joining the public safety authority, which currently includes the cities of Eastpointe and Hazel Park, is projected to raise \$4.9 million annually dedicated to public safety.

It obviously won't be painless — taxes are expected to jump some \$420 a year for an average home with a taxable value of \$30,000 and a State Equalized Value of \$60,000, said Tim McCurley of Plante Moran, who serves as city finance director.



FILE PHOTO

In a community that's three police officers down from its budgeted number — and 25 officers fewer than its heyday — the math seems simple.

Wayne currently has 19 police officers, although the department is budgeted for 22 officers. That's down from a high of 44 officers due to years of budget cutting. Shorthanded in policing a community of over 17,000 people, Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag said he has difficulty hiring quality candidates, and if someone is hired, not losing those hires to other departments.

The SMORSA proposal seeks voter approval of membership in a public safety authority and the levy of 14 mills to fund police and fire services. Currently, Wayne is projected to run out of money by the end of 2017 if there is no additional revenue. The Wayne City Council has approved a resolu-

tion promising that if the millage is passed, four additional police officers and three firefighters will be hired.

The proposal isn't a fix-all; City Manager Lisa Nocerini said she is seeking concessions that are necessary even if Proposal S passes.

Rumors spread through social media about Ford Motor Company are proving untrue; Ford would, indeed, have to pay the SMORSA levy if approved by voters. On the flip side, the rumor was that Ford would never expand with the higher tax levy, but Nocerini says she's got an email from Ford promising a \$70 million investment in the plant.

It's got to be a three-way approval; voters in both Hazel Park and Eastpointe have to approve Wayne's addition and, of course, Wayne voters would have to approve it.

That's what we're recommending they do.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Mason

I am writing this letter to recommend Sue Mason as the next County Commissioner for Westland, Inkster and Garden City.

As an editor and reporter of the Garden City and Westland newspapers, she has served the community well, so well that she received the key to the city last year from the mayor of Westland, William Wild.

Some people think that you have to be a politician to serve your community; that is simply not true. People like Sue Mason have been serving our community with every line she wrote or edited for 40 years. She sat through many political meetings and wrote

about them. The press's role is keeping us informed as one of the most highly regarded parts for democracy. Probably the best example of serving the community is keeping us informed of all the comings and goings of career politicians.

Many of us are grateful for her diligence to get the job done. May it be informing us that the county has a parks issue, a road project or a jail that is not being built. She has helped almost every nonprofit organization in our communities needing coverage on their next fundraiser. Sue has given kudos to our young people for scholastic achievements and/or being athletic champions. Sue has shown up at

school events on a moment's notice or rearranged her schedule to be sure to attend school events that are important to the community.

Many new businesses are grateful that she wrote about them, which brought them more business. These articles of support only helped the struggling economy of the three communities she would represent.

I have no doubt she will be a great commissioner, ready to step into the position informed and ready to take action.

So I urge you to vote for Sue Mason for County Commissioner.

Cheryl M. Park
Garden City

State abandoned us

During the last 10 years, Wayne has lost more than \$7.5 million in constitutionally guaranteed state-shared revenue from the state Legislature and governor. This year, Wayne will also lose well over \$1 million in personal property tax

revenue levied on industrial business such as Ford Motor Company, also due to the elimination of this tax by the state.

Since 2010, Wayne has lost more than \$33 million in tax revenue. Those losses have translated into depleted city services, especially in our police and fire departments. Our police department has dropped from 42 sworn officers to 18. Our firefighters have dropped from 22 to 12.

This is not "right sizing" of government, but instead the dangerous understaffing of our key security forces.

The city general fund will be depleted in December 2017, and Wayne will be completely devoid of funds. The city will be insolvent and that could result in an emergency manager, assigned by the same state officials who caused the financial crisis, taking control of our community. Wayne will be forced to lay off even more police officers, fire

fighters, and many other city employees critical to the well-being of our residents.

Even though the State of Michigan has abandoned our city, we cannot abandon each other.

This is a time to come together to preserve our city. We are indeed at a crossroads in Wayne and we have a choice to make. We can choose to take the steps needed to protect our community and keep it safe and viable, or we can ensure the slow and painful demise of our community, lowering our property values and sending us into an irreparable state of decline.

Or, we can come together, as neighbors, and save our community from those critics and naysayers who believe that our city's best days have passed, and who rather watch our city die than help save it.

We can choose to "save money" now or unite to return our community to the viable and productive neighbor-

hoods we all once enjoyed where city services and property values were increasing, where our city offered strong public safety services and amenities that were attractive to new residents. We can choose to abandon each other or to bond together as one city, one family, one community.

I am reminded of our city's motto, "people, pride, progress" but I see it as more than that — it's a promise. The only way that we can ensure that the people of Wayne are safe — that our pride is safe — that the progress our city has made is safe, and keep our community relevant, is to stave off state intervention by voting yes on "S" on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Please join me, and many of your neighbors in restoring our indomitable spirit, our "Wayne Pride," by voting yes on Proposal "S" and charting a new direction for our great city.

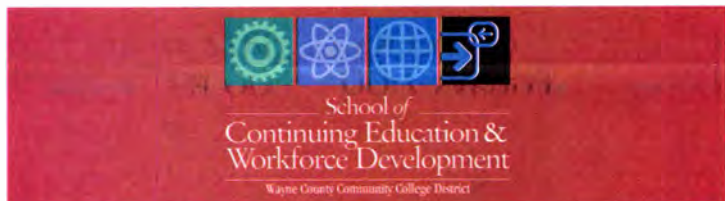
Chris Sanders
Wayne City Councilman

OBSERVER

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Brad Kadrich,
Community editor

Jani Hayden,
Advertising director



SUMMER SAFETY FAIR

Friday, July 8, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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EVENTS

Continued from Page A7

unwanted/expired credit cards, junk mail, file folders and binders and all envelopes.

Food distribution

On Tuesday, July 19, the City of Livonia will distribute, through the State of Michigan Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), salmon, orange juice, Tasteeo's cereal, UHT milk, peaches, vegetarian beans, rotini and cranberry sauce. Other items will also be provided from Forgotten Harvest. The distribution is from noon to 2 p.m. at the vacant district court building, 15140 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road. This distribution is offered to Livonia residents who are currently enrolled in TEFAP with a TEFAP I.D. card. Distributions are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

Senior housing residents should check with their housing office for TEFAP information. If further information is needed, contact the Community Resource Department, Commodity Food line at 734-466-2673. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nankin Mills programs

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center hosts "Ferns of Holiday Nature Preserve," 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 9.

Ferns are some of the oldest and most beautiful plants on earth. Wayne County Parks is fortunate to have almost twenty different species growing in Holiday Nature Preserve. They can be difficult to tell apart. During this indoor presentation, our Nankin Mills Naturalist will share photographs, pressed ferns and clues you can look for to help you recognize these botanical treasures. It will be a good introduction to

the Fern Hike being held Sept. 17. Presentation is recommended for ages 12 to adult.

Program fee is \$3 per person. Please call the Wayne County Parks Office at 734-261-1990 to pre-register.

Make it at the Mill - Kites, 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9. As part of the "Make it at the Mill" series, the whole family is invited to participate in making their own kites. The Nankin Mills Naturalist will provide all kite-making supplies as well as information about bird and insect flight. A local kite club will also be on hand to demonstrate some unusual kites. This activity is recommended for ages 6 and up, with an adult companion.

Program fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult. Please call the Wayne County Parks Office to pre-register at 734-261-1990.

Vacation Bible school

First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square in Wayne (across from the post office) hosts Vacation Bible School for kindergarten through fifth grade. The school takes July 17-21 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, call 734-721-4801 Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Teddy Bear picnic

The Teddy Bear Picnic at the Simmons-Hill House Gardens takes place 2-4 p.m. Saturday, July 16. Pack your picnic lunch, blanket, and favorite teddy bear.

Children's activities include story teller, craft and a honey bee tea.

Advance tickets \$5 per child. Tickets are available at the Greenmead office Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

Trunk sale

The Livonia Historical Commission hosts a one-

Happy 60th



SUBMITTED

James R. (Bob) and Patricia (Melville) Johnston of Livonia will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 14. The couple was married July 14, 1956, in Detroit. Their children are the late Ronald Johnston and Linda (Bruce) Elenbogen, and they have two grandsons, Andrew and Josh. Bob Johnston is a retired electrical engineer from Burroughs Corp., and Pat is a retired secretary.

day trunk sale 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh in Livonia.

A large variety of items will be available. Enter at the Special Event Parking Lot. Admission is a donation. Plenty of free parking.

All proceeds benefit Greenmead Historical Park

Kindergarten program

South Redford School District is offering a tuition-free Kindergarten Readiness Program (with the exception of a one-time-only material fee of \$75) to all children who reside in South Redford and will be age 4 by Sept. 1. The children attend three-hour classes, Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon sessions.

The preschoolers

participate in activities designed to encourage the development of readiness skills necessary for a successful kindergarten experience.

Parents interested in more information may contact the Kindergarten Readiness teachers at 313-535-4000, Ext. 1036. Registration packets are available the the district's Jan Jacobs building at 26141 Schoolcraft, Redford. The Kindergarten Readiness Program is located in the same building.

St. Michael car show

Are you a "muscle car" fan? A "street rod" junkie? A classic car aficionado? Perhaps just someone who likes cool cars? Then St. Michael the Archangel Church is hoping you will find their upcoming summer car show to be right up your

alley. The St. Michael the Archangel Church Social Committee is offering its first car show in the St. Michael School parking lot on Saturday, July 16, with a limited number of display spots available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the lot opening for participants at 8 a.m. All cars must be in place no later than 11 a.m. The \$10 registration fee covers participation and a car owner's goodie bag.

All makes, models and years of cars are welcome. Voting will take place throughout the day, with the awards ceremony beginning promptly at 2:30 p.m. There will be three award categories: Kids' Choice, Participants' choice, and Best of Show. Door prizes will be drawn every hour and there will be additional activities and food available. There are, however, no burn outs, spin outs, racing or alcohol permitted on the church premises.

St. Michael's the Archangel Church and School complex is located at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road between Farmington and Merriman roads in Livonia. For more information, visit www.livoniast-michael.org.

Citizens for peace

The Citizens for Peace will present the program "The Syrian Refugee Crisis: We Are All Related" at their July 12 meeting at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Road) at 7 p.m.

Patrick McLean, board member of the Syrian American Rescue Network, will share information about the people coming to our state to escape the war in Syria, and what is being done to help them. SARN's mission is to provide humanitarian and economic support to refugees as they reach self-sufficiency in Michigan. For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to

www.citizens4peace.com

Mom 2 Mom Sale

SS. Simon & Jude Church, 32500 Palmer in Westland, hosts its Mom 2 Mom sale 10 a.m. to noon (9-10 a.m. for early bird) on Saturday, Aug. 6.

Cost is \$15 per 8-foot table; racks and card tables are extra.

For more information, call Carolyn at 734-728-1559 or Sandy at 734-721-4867.

Scavenger hunt

Beginning Friday, July 8, and running through Friday, July 22, the Garden City Business Alliance and the Downtown Development Authority will be hosting a city-wide scavenger hunt.

Pick up your clue packet at the DDA any time between June 27 and July 22. The DDA is at 29213 Ford Road and is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beginning June 27, the clue packet will also be available on the GCBA website www.gardencity-businessalliance.org/ clues and on the DDA website www.gccda.com/clues.

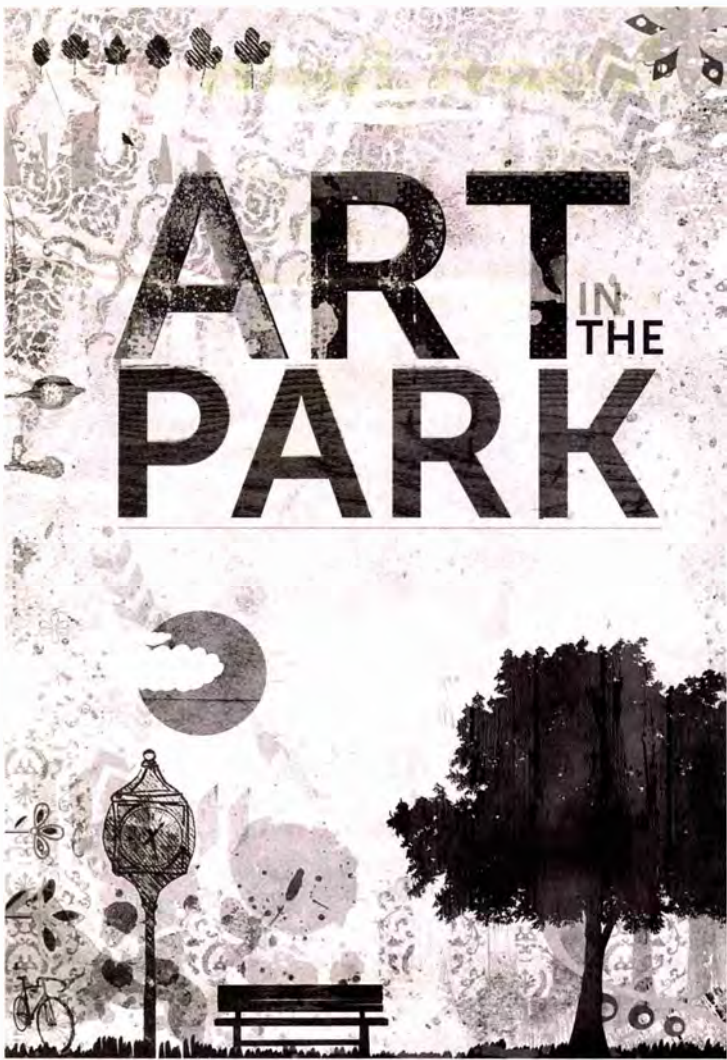
Solve all the clues correctly and return your packet to the DDA by 3 p.m. July 22 and you'll be entered into a drawing for cash prizes. The first-place prize is \$500. Winners will be drawn at the Music in the Park event July 28 in Garden City Park.

For more information, call 734-261-0380 or email theresa@downtowngardencity.com.

Car show

American Legion Post 32 hosts a car show at 9318 Newburgh Road in Livonia every Thursday from 5 p.m. to dusk through Sept. 29.

Join the Legion for fun, food, cars and bikes. The event also features door prizes, raffles and giveaways. Plaques for "best of show" are awarded each week. Dinner inside and grill food outside.



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Date	Artist	Location	Color Block
July 8	Demetrius (Krayon) Nabors	IKEA- in the Blue Block Ford & Haggerty	
July 15	Althea René	Super Bowl- in the Purple Block Ford between Canton Center & Sheldon	
July 22	Lin Rountree	Home Depot- in the Orange Block Ford & Lotz	
July 29	Randy Scott	JC Penney- in the Green Block Ford between Morton Taylor & Sheldon	
August 5	Penny Wells	Home Depot- in the Orange Block Ford & Lotz	
August 12	Tim Bowman	Super Bowl- in the Purple Block Ford between Canton Center & Sheldon	

JAZZY CARRY OUT SPECIALS

Mention "ShopCanton" at participating restaurants to get the carry out specials from 6 - 8 PM on concert Fridays. For details on carry out specials contact the restaurant.

Antonio's Cucina Italiana- 734-981-9800 Applebees- 734-455-7510 Bagger Dave's- 734-404-5085 BD's Mongolian Grill- 734-844-5800 Black Rock Bar & Grill- 734-927-7800 Bombay Wraps- 734-667-3312 Canton Pita- 734-451-1411 Chili's- 734-844-9050 Genova Brick Oven Pizza- 734-667-1972 Hayden's Grill and Bar- 734-895-3388 Jersey Mike's Subs- 734-844-2121 Leo's Coney Island- 734-981-5483	Palermo Pizza and Restaurant- 734-455-5210 Parthenon Coney Island- 734-981-0200 Plato's Coney Island- 734-981-7301 Qdoba Mexican Eats- 734-981-9280 Somer Restaurant- 734-667-3230 Subway- 734-981-7300 TGI Friday's "In Here It's Always Friday!"- 734-254-0442 Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery- 734-844-0777 Thai Bistro- 734-416-2122 Toarmina's Pizza- 734-981-0060 Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza- 734-404-5484
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In the event of inclement weather, all concerts will be held indoors at Super Bowl 45100 Ford Rd.

Visit ShopCanton.org and rainedout.com Canton Jazz for updates and details.

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Old Tyme Muenster Cheese
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USDA Premium Choice Angus Ground Beef from Chuck
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Premium Fresh All Natural Ground Turkey
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Save \$1.00



Fresh Wild Caught Alaskan Sockeye Salmon Fillets
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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

New coach Rust knows North soccer

Former JV mentor promoted to coach boys varsity team

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

The changeover to a new head coach was a smooth and seamless transition for the North Farmington High School boys varsity soccer program.

Erika Rust, who served as the JV coach the previous three years, has been promoted to the top job and replaces Mike Horner as the team's new mentor.

Furthermore, she will be coaching many of the players she coached previously at the JV level.

"The familiarity is definitely a bonus," Rust said, adding

the North JV won city and league championships the past two years. "We had a pretty successful run as far as JV programs go.

"Prior to coaching the boys team, I volunteered with them. I did a lot of coaching in various clubs and camps that allowed me to coach both boys and girls."

Rust, who has taught English at the school for 14 years, has been the girls JV coach for three years, too, and will continue in that role.

Horner, who retired at the end of last season after a seven-year run as the boys head coach and 35 years of coaching girls and boys soccer at

North, was an incredible mentor to her, Rust said.

"He was very encouraging in terms of preparing me to take over once he did decide to retire," she said. "He was very encouraging and optimistic in my ability to transition with the program and continue to help build the program in the right way."

In addition to assessing the ability of players, a key aspect of coaching is being able to gauge their personalities and how they will react to different coaching styles, Rust said.

"Guys and girls respond to coaching techniques a little

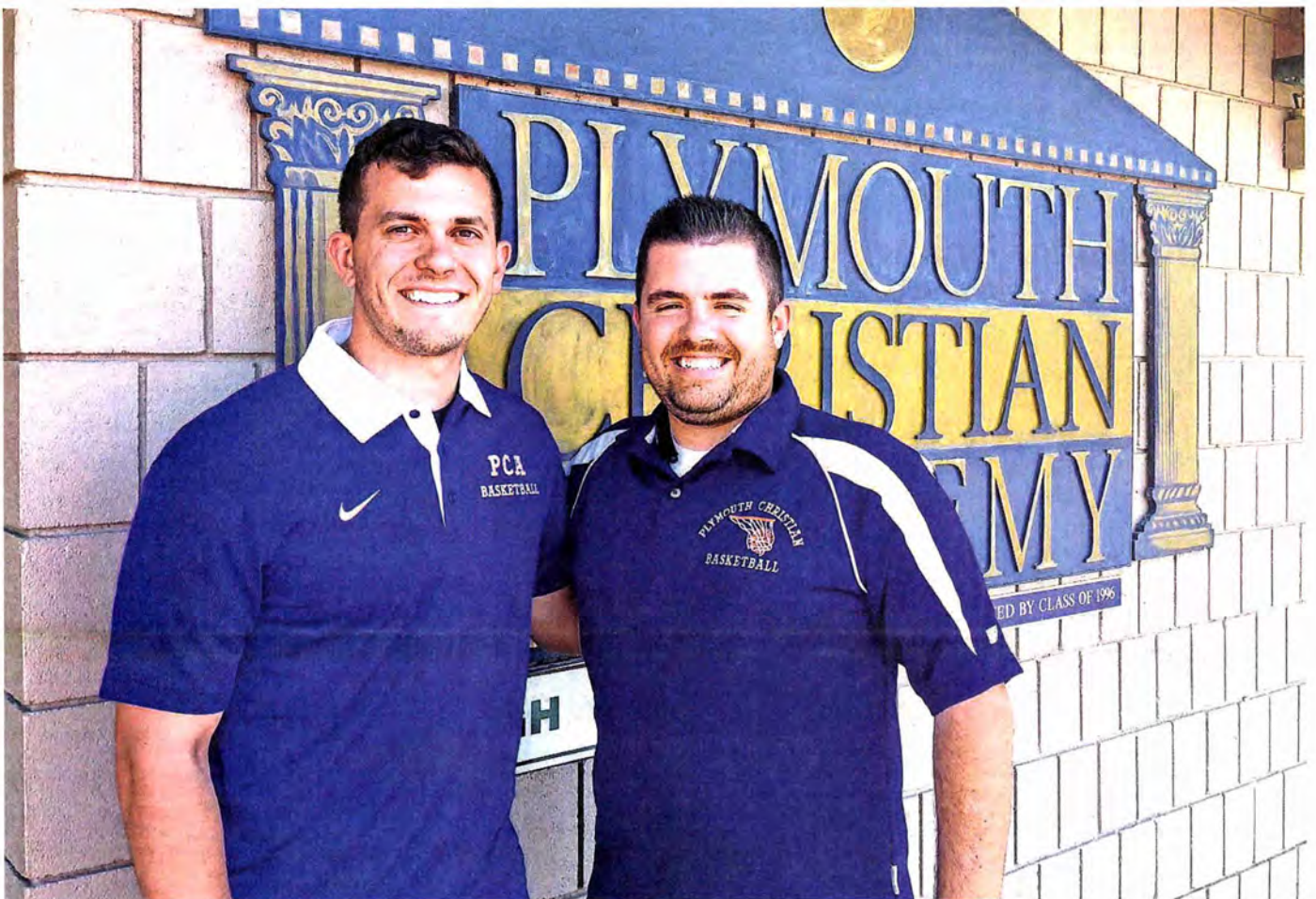


JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Coach Erika Rust exchanges high-fives with players after a North Farmington girls soccer victory.

See RUST, Page B2

STEPPING UP



TIM SMITH

Matt Windle (left) is taking over as athletic director at Plymouth Christian Academy from Nathan Yates (right), who becomes the school's new assistant principal.

MATT QUEST

New PCA athletic director Windle all about helping student-athletes reach potential

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For Matt Windle, there is no reason congratulating him for having an ambitious career plan and the energetic drive to match it.

Just 23 years old, Windle's penchant for making quick and timely

moves on the chess board of life is all about his strong religious faith — with some family encouragement, of course. The 2011 Livonia Churchill grad already has a college degree in his pocket along with several years coaching basketball at Plymouth Christian Academy.

And now, Windle is taking over as

PCA athletic director (from Nathan Yates) while continuing to be head coach of the Eagles' varsity boys basketball team. His dad, Rod, happens to coach girls basketball and track at the Canton school.

"Someone asked me the other day

See WINDLE, Page B3

THE WINDLE FILE

Who: Matt Windle, 23, Plymouth resident and 2011 graduate of Livonia Churchill. His parents are Leanne and Rod Windle, the latter a Churchill teacher and PCA coach.

What: He recently was named athletic director at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Background: Windle was a four-sport athlete at Churchill (football, basketball, baseball, track) who then earned a degree in sports management at Eastern Michigan University.

Busy commute: While going to EMU, Windle coached junior varsity boys and girls basketball at PCA. After graduating from Eastern in 2015, he coached Plymouth Christian's varsity boys basketball team. He plans to continue coaching the Eagles, even with his new position.

GIRLS SOCCER

U17 Michigan Hawks make national final four

Local talent pool fuels run to Maryland tourney

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With a star-studded cast featuring several area players, the Michigan Hawks Under-17 girls soccer team is headed this weekend to Germantown, Md., and will be among four teams competing in the Elite Club National League finals.

The Hawks — coming off a 2-0 win over SC Del Sol to

a 4-0 run recently in the Oceanside, Calif., qualifying tournament — are coached by former Detroit Rockers player Doug Landefeld.

The remaining teams in the field are all from California, including the San Diego Surf, Slammers FC and the De Anza Force FC, who the Hawks defeated earlier this season, 1-0.

"It should be good. We know them all pretty well. It should be fun," Landefeld said.

See HAWKS, Page B3



JULIE WILLERER

The U17 Michigan Hawks are headed to the Elite Club National League finals this weekend in Germantown, Md.

EDUCATING HOMEOWNERS



GETTY IMAGES

Right exists to know condominium unit owner

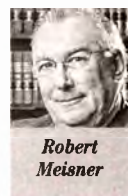
Q: We have a situation where a limited liability company is buying a unit in our condominium. We are concerned about who was actually going to live there. Do we have a right to find out?

A: The name of a unit owner who lives in a housing organization in which use-rights and other property interests are formally interlocked seems to be a reasonable request. An official owner of a unit may have otherwise legitimate reasons to register the property with a corporation or a trustee.

However, granting homeowners the ability to identify the beneficial owner by name, if nothing else, serves an important goal of preserving their liberty to make timely and informed decisions. You have a right to know who will be living there as that person or persons will have a responsibility to comply with the condominium documents and your condominium bylaws should so provide.

Q: I live in a detached condominium and want to install a high-voltage station in my unit to provide for an electric vehicle. Do I need permission from the association?

A: It depends on your condominium documents as to who is responsible for the electrical network in your condominium and whether the association is responsible for the exterior of your building. It is probably a good idea to consider this given the influx of electric vehicles. Homeowners who install residential charging equipment before the end of 2016 can receive a federal income tax credit up to \$1,000. There may also be a further incentive by your municipality, utility or other governmental agency. I anticipate that future condo buyers will likely have more options for buildings with communal charges, but since you are a separately detached condo, it may not affect you unless the association decides to consider a communal charger.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit rbmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

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

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.

For more information, call 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

WAYNE METRO 'ABOUT CREATING PREPARED BUYERS'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dannielle Bills is a social worker with a passion for helping people with housing issues. As homeownership services manager for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, she's involved with helping people decide if owning is right for them, along with a host of related issues.

The Own My Home homeownership education program has been around some 15 years, and recently funded through Community Development Block Grants of Wayne County HOME dollars.

"Homeownership education has been around for decades," Bills said. In addition to deciding on renting vs. owning, clients need to look at issues of maintenance (there is no landlord to call in owning), the process of getting a mortgage, and recognizing predatory lending practices.

"It's about creating prepared buyers and helping them sustain ownership. We work with some people a couple of years," Bills said. "Owning a home is very different from renting."

That includes staff pulling a



"It's about creating prepared buyers and helping them sustain ownership ... Owning a home is very different from renting."

DANNIELLE BILLS homeownership services manager for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

credit report to help the client overcome obstacles, to pay down debt, "just helping them save toward the down payment," she said.

She said clients' first step is to sign up for a Homebuyer Club Workshop on the agency website: www.waynemetro.org/homes or email Wayne Metro for more information at: ownmyhome@waynemetro.org

You can contact the Wayne Metro Connect Center at: city of Detroit residents: 313-388-9799, out-county residents: 734-284-6999, TTY: 1-800-649-3777.

Wayne Metro staff helps to connect clients with other programs that assist with down payments. Wayne Metro has Realtors and lenders who work with the program as facilitators, meeting to speak to clients.

"The participants have a chance to ask specific questions," she said. Their questions include issues on credit reports, such as a bankruptcy or lien, impacting ownership, ways to improve a credit score, and what kind of an offer to make based on a sale price listed.

The agency is certified both through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Programs get support through private industry, including the real estate industry, Bills said.

"Read and ask questions," she urges prospective buyers. If answers aren't satisfactory, "you should continue to ask questions. Always being informed."

Bills noted, "There's assistance out there to purchase homes. There are so many

programs out there designed to help people become homeowners." That's true even for those with credit issues.

Bills noted the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has helped with rules and regulations applying now to the mortgage market.

"It's on the consumer to be mindful of the information they're getting is accurate," she said. "If they're not comfortable, they have choices" on lenders. There's a window of time to shop around for preapproval with lenders.

"They're busy," she noted of Realtors. "Our only job is to be those clients' advocate." She has done such work since 2010, and noted other agency services such as free income tax e-filing for earners under \$50,000 a year.

"The best way to go is to take a homebuyer education class," she added, noting staff has no stake in the outcome of the decision made.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie

Competitive housing market puts crimp on buyer options

After steadily increasing for three straight months, pending home sales let up in May and declined year-over-year for the first time in almost two years, according to the National Association of Realtors. All four major regions experienced a cutback in contract activity last month.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, slid 3.7 percent to 110.8 in May from a downwardly revised 115.0 in April and is now slightly lower (0.2 percent) than May 2015 (111.0). With last month's decline, the index reading is still the third highest in the past year, but declined year-over-year for the first time since August 2014.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says pending sales slumped in May across most of the country. "With demand holding firm this spring and homes selling even faster than a year ago, the notable in-

crease in closings in recent months took a dent out of what was available for sale in May and ultimately dragged down contract activity," he said. "Realtors are acknowledging with increasing frequency lately that buyers continue to be frustrated by the tense competition and lack of affordable homes for sale in their market."

Supply is scant

Despite mortgage rates hovering around three-year lows for most of the year, Yun says scant supply and swiftly rising home prices — which surpassed their all-time high last month — are creating an availability and affordability crunch that's preventing what should be a more robust pace of sales.

"Total housing inventory at the end of each month has remarkably decreased year-over-year now for an entire year," added Yun. "There are simply not enough homes coming onto the market to

catch up with demand and to keep prices more in line with inflation and wage growth."

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, Yun says the fallout from the U.K.'s decision to leave the European Union breeds both immediate opportunity as well as potential headwinds for the U.S. housing market.

"In the short term, volatility in the financial markets could very likely lead to even lower mortgage rates and increased demand from foreign buyers looking for a safer place to invest their cash," he said. "On the other hand, any prolonged market angst and further economic uncertainty overseas could negatively impact our economy and end up tempering the overall appetite for home buying."

In spite of last month's step back in contract signings, existing-home sales this year are still expected to be around 5.44 million, a 3.7 percent boost from 2015. After accelerating to 6.8 percent a year

ago, national median existing-home price growth is forecast to slightly moderate to between 4 and 5 percent.

Regional breakdown

The PHSI in the Northeast dropped 5.3 percent to 93.0 in May, and is now unchanged from a year ago. In the Midwest, the index slipped 4.2 percent to 108.0 in May, and is now 1.8 percent below May 2015.

Pending home sales in the South declined 3.1 percent to an index of 126.6 in May but are still 0.6 percent higher than last May. The index in the West decreased 3.4 percent in May to 102.6, and is now 0.1 percent below a year ago.

The National Association of Realtors is America's largest trade association, representing 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

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