

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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DRAMATIC PUTT CLINCHES
O&E MEN'S GOLF TOURNEY
SPORTS, B1



Mom Kari McWhirter helps son Gunner, 5, with getting settled into Sandi Stuhr's kindergarten classroom the first day at P.D. Graham Elementary. She opens Gunner's chocolate milk carton.

JULIE BROWN

Graham 'a good place' for learning first day, all year

Julie Brown
hometownlife.com

Camesha Reynolds was visiting with another mom the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 6, in the gym at P.D. Graham Elementary School. Son Jalen, 3, was happy to be there the first day of school as his older siblings settled in down

the hallways in their first-grade and second-grade classrooms. "So far," Camesha Reynolds said of the Wayne-Westland elementary serving her family well. "I did the tour. I just felt like it would be a good place." Their family moved last spring from Oak Park with schools a factor.

She wants their honor roll son to learn along with his siblings. "I want him to continue to be challenged," Reynolds said. P.D. Graham was bustling, including the kindergarten classroom of Sandi Stuhr, an 18-year Wayne-Westland veteran teacher welcoming 26 students Tuesday.

A few technological challenges kept the teachers hopping that morning, although all were eager to welcome their students. Stuhr said, "Can you say bye to mom and dad?" as a few tears and sniffles emerged among the kindergartners.

See SCHOOL, Page A2

Garage sales are free this weekend

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

For folks who've been meaning to get rid of unwanted items around the house, Westland is offering two weekends for permit-free garage sales: Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 8-10 and Sept. 15-17.

In addition to waiving the \$12 permit fee, the city is offering an interactive map on which garage sale locations can be listed, including the types of items being offered for sale.

"We have about 100 garage sales listed on the website so far," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "They can go on our website and select an option to help steer traffic to their homes. It's an added incentive to increase their success."

For those without computer skills or access, Wild said a telephone call to the mayor's office will let people get their information posted.

The permit-free garage sale weekends were set up in an attempt to address concerns about the city ending free bulk-item pick up by the city trash hauler.

See SALES, Page A2

Cases against Adams, English resolved

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Criminal cases pending against two former area officials have been resolved.

Former Westland Parks and Recreation Director John Adams entered a guilty plea to one misdemeanor charge of domestic violence before Judge Michael Gerou in Plymouth's 35th District Court. A second domestic violence charge was dismissed.

As part of the plea, Adams will be required to undergo substance abuse evaluation and attend a 26-week batterer counseling program. If he completes one year of probation without any new offenses, the

See CASES, Page A2

Life of a zookeeper and other tales at the zoo

Susan Bromley
hometownlife.com

It was her day off, but Ashley Richmond rushed to work filled with excitement and anxiety when she got the Saturday evening call.

It was a day unlike most others, but every day is a wild day for some local residents who recently shared their experiences working at the Detroit Zoo.

For Richmond, the call that came on Aug. 6 was to tell her

the zoo's 7-year-old giraffe, Kivuli, was in labor. Just three and a half hours later, the Farmington Hills resident who cares for Kivuli, as well as her mate Jabari, 8, and their nearly 2-year-old son, Mpenzi, watched the birth of the newest giraffe family member, a 5-foot tall, 166-pound girl named Zawadi.

"Just the people she knows were there, we don't want it to be stressful," said Richmond, who was also present for the birth of Mpenzi. "You wait 15

months and hope for everything to go well, for mom and baby to be healthy. It was sort of an out-of-body experience, I was in a daze watching ... You want to videotape everything, but at the same time be present in the moment. It was a bonus that it ended up being a girl — that is what we were hoping for. I got teary-eyed, there was relief on my part, I was just glad everything went well and the baby was breath-



SUSAN BROMLEY

Melissa Pletcher (left), assistant manager of volunteer services, stands to Jabari, an 8-year-old reticulated giraffe, and Ashley Richmond, giraffe zookeeper at the Detroit Zoo.

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page A1

'We love you'

"Have a great first day," one mom called out as she left the room. "We love you." Nearby, mom Kari McWhirter was helping son Gunner, 5, open his chocolate milk carton. Many Graham parents took photos of their kids, a number of whom wore special back-to-school outfits.

Graham Principal Jennifer Curry has been with Wayne-Westland about 18 years, having started as a teacher. "I do love it here," she said. "We're going to welcome over 100 kindergartners.

We have four kindergarten classes."

The school goes up through fourth grade, and held an open house the previous Wednesday for a school tour, learning the bus routes and meeting teachers. The PTA served coffee and doughnuts to parents the first day of classes "if they're not quite ready to leave. Our PTA group is wonderful," the principal said.

She noted after all these years she has difficulty sleeping the night before school starts, as do many of her colleagues. Curry has daughters in eighth and 10th grades, and her husband also works at a school.

"So we all have this



JULIE BROWN
Mom Camesha Reynolds visits with other parents and son Jalen, 3, a preschooler with older siblings in first and second grades at P.D. Graham.

first day at school," she said.

Helping kids learn

Curry recommends parents give children a morning and evening routine for school, such as story time, brushing teeth and bedtime "so they just kind of know what's happening next. It's kind of just preparing them for what's coming. They just want to know what's happening. I think sometimes as moms and

dads we get more nervous."

She said parents should feel free to contact the teacher if issues come up. There's email, the phone, and time before and after school. Curry finds 99 percent of issues are resolved with the teacher, although she's readily available too.

At P.D. Graham, educators work to respond to parents within 24 hours, and often the same day.

"They're checking their emails all day long," Curry said of teachers.

P.D. Graham has three student teachers now, from Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "So we are really excited to have them as well," Curry said.

Her school has neighborhood kids who walk as well as several bus routes. In addition to K-4, it hosts a preschool special education program with morning and afternoon sessions.

"We have a hard time losing our fourth grade," said Curry of the students who head to Marshall Upper Elementary. "We just hope we give them the skills to succeed," which includes good relationships. Curry peppers her speech with "kiddos," and her caring is evident.

"I think it's going to be a great year. We're excited," she said with a grin as the over 400 students

entered.

Posters in school halls reinforce themes like "Reading Is Cool, At Home or At School" and "P.D. Graham, Always my best, and Nothing Less!" Graham Huskies parents learned from their PTA about fun Popcorn Days on Friday, as well as school Movie Nights.

'Busy and exciting'

Teacher Jill Cusumano has a K-2 cross-categorical room, for students with cognitive impairment. It's her fifth year at P.D. Graham and teaching.

"It is busy and exciting," Cusumano said of the first day. "The kids sometimes are nervous but they get very excited by lunchtime. I would say this whole week sets the tone for the year," with students getting comfortable.

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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CASES

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Adams

English

domestic violence conviction will not be part of his public record.

Adams was arrested in Canton for assaulting his wife, Angelica, with a second domestic charge added stemming from an earlier incident. Angelica Adams appeared in court with her husband indicating the couple had reconciled and asking that the no-contact provision of John Adams' bond conditions be dropped.

Retired in 2014 as Westland assistant chief/fire marshal, Adams headed the Inkster Fire Department prior to being appointed earlier this

60, has paid a \$180 fine for civil infraction of impeding traffic in Westland 18th District Court. That was reduced from a misdemeanor charge of failing to stop at a personal injury accident.

The accident occurred Jan. 27 in the area of Hoover Elementary School in Wayne just before 9 a.m. Wayne Police report being dispatched on a report of hit-and-run traffic crash involving a pedestrian, a 7-year old boy who reported minor injuries. at the school before leaving.

To avoid a conflict of interest, the charge against English was transferred to be heard by Westland 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli. The Westland court

has concurrent jurisdiction with the Wayne Court.

English was also charged with failing to stop at the scene of a property damage accident after hitting a parked car Sept. 4, 2014 in the parking lot of Kroger at Merriman and Michigan Avenue in Westland.

In that incident, police reported that after leaving the scene, English called police from the Wayne Kroger located further west on Michigan Avenue to report someone hit his vehicle while at that location.

English entered a guilty to a reduced charge of failing to report an accident the following month and paid \$325 fines/cost.

English began working for Wayne in 1984 as a meter reader. Before his retirement in June 2009 as assistant city manager, he served as acting public works director and personnel director.

Working as a contract employee, English served as city manager from December 2010 until he resigned in September 2013.

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SALES

Continued from Page A1

Holding the garage sales also encourages recycling of unwanted items rather than having items thrown away and ending up in a landfill. The city offers a single stream curbside recycling program, along with a curbside collection of clothing and small household appliances by a separate contractor.

The city also continues to offer a drop-off center at the Department of Public Service yard on Marquette to accept unwanted electronics and materials like automotive fluids.

To accommodate large items no longer collected for no charge curbside, Wild noted the city would offer a free drop bulk drop-off day on Saturday, Sept. 24. It's strictly a residential program and those dropping items off will be required to show proof of Westland residency.

"People can bring a mattress, furniture, televisions. We won't accept commercial or business items — no building materials," Wild said. "It's residential only."

For people who need help moving bulk items, the city will provide help through DPS. Anyone who needs help should call the mayor's office at 734-467-3200 by Wednesday, Sept. 21, to make arrangements for assistance.

To get a garage sale listed on the city website, visit www.cityofwestland.com

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KIDS ARE KIDS FIRST

Retired educator still serving blind children

When Kathy Donagranti was a teenager, she took a volunteer job at a camp for children with special needs.

She came home after the first day and told her mother, "It was awful. It hurt my heart." Her mother said she didn't have to go back.

But the next day, she did.

"There was something about those children that I realized," she said. "They were children. They were different, but they were like the children in my neighborhood."

That realization — that children with special needs are children first — has shaped the Farmington Hills resident's life. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in teaching students who are visually and mentally impaired from Eastern Michigan University and then spent 44 years working in special education at Livonia Public Schools. She started out tran-



Kathy Donagranti of Farmington Hills arrives at Seedlings with books she's brailled at home. She's accompanied by granddaughters Emma and Anna.

scribing students' assignments into braille so the students could read them and students' brailled homework into print so the teachers could grade it. She retired in January 2015 as administrator of student services.

About a year later, she became the newest volunteer at Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia.

As a retiree, Dona-

granti could have volunteered anywhere.

"There are so many places that want your time and your money," she said. But she chose Seedlings, she said, not only because of her life's passion, but because of founder/director Debra Bonde.

As a member of Seedlings' board from 1988-95, including time as president, Donagranti

knows Bonde runs a well-managed nonprofit. Of every \$1 donated, 91 cents goes into book production, not overhead costs. "All the money goes where it should go," she said.

Donagranti spends five to six hours a week applying braille on clear tape next to the print in baby board books. She takes pleasure in knowing that the blind stu-

dents she taught, now all grown, have books in braille they can read to their children.

Donagranti remembers when her blind students didn't have braille books for pleasure reading, because they cost too much or their parents didn't know where to find them.

Seedlings, which Bonde started 32 years ago, changed all that by selling books at an average price of only \$10 a book, about half the cost to produce them, and publishing a catalog where parents and grandparents could select books to give as gifts to blind children.

Children who are visually impaired need to have books just like sighted children do, Donagranti said. "It's freeing for them not to have to depend on someone reading to them."

Donagranti and Bonde met during Seedlings' early years when Seedlings' office was in Bonde's basement in Detroit. Donagranti helped Seedlings find its first Livonia home after space became available

in the old Bentley High School.

Besides serving on Seedlings' board, Donagranti participated in fundraisers and helped spread the word about Seedlings. She often makes a donation to have a book inscribed in someone's name to honor or remember them. Now, some of those people do the same for others.

Donagranti said she always knew she'd come back to Seedlings to volunteer after retiring. "There was no organization I would be more comfortable with," she said.

Bonde said she is grateful Donagranti is continuing her life's work with the blind at Seedlings, which distributes braille books — half of them for free — to visually impaired children in 75 countries. "Without our corps of dedicated volunteers like Kathy, we would not be able to give the gift of literacy to these precious children around the globe," she said.

For more information about Seedlings, visit seedlings.org.

Plymouth Elks offers blues, jazz

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325, in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society will host the Boa Constrictors on Sept. 13 and jazz quintet Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN on Sept. 27.

The lodge features Blues @ The Elks 7-10 p.m. second Tuesday of each month and Jazz @The Elks 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$5 donation for the blues concert and a \$10 donation for the jazz entertainment.

The Boa Constrictors return with their high-energy blues and R&B music to fill the dance floor and generally have a good time. Carl Caballero will be on vocals and harmonica, Steve Allen on vocals and bass, Glenn James on vocals and guitar and Mike Kissick on drums. Go to www.theboaconstrictors.com for more information.

Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN Quintet will feature Sarah D'Angelo. This group performs jazz standards. Join the Elks

for the humor and good sounds of the quintet with Sarah DeAngelo on vocals and clarinet, Paul Keller on string bass, Duncan McMillan on piano, Steve Wood on tenor sax and flute and Dave Taylor on drums. Go to paulkellerjazz.com for more information.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780 or go to plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.



Paul Keller AT SUNDOWN quintet performs Sept. 27 at the Plymouth Elks.

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Wayne man walking to store reports robbery

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

A Wayne man reported being assaulted and robbed while taking a late-night walk to 7-Eleven on Aug. 30.

The man told police that he was walking south on Howe to the convenience store on Van Born just before midnight. He

said he was in front of the Van Howe Apartment complex when a white four-door sedan stopped in the roadway.

A man he didn't know got out of the vehicle and approached him, the man said, as two other men came up behind him.

The man told police that he began to speak to the first

suspect asking if he needed something. One of the two suspects struck him from behind, the man said, hitting on the head with what seemed to be a pipe knocking him to the ground.

Once he was on the ground, the man said the three suspects jumped on top of him telling the man not to look at

them and to give them all he had in his pockets. After the man gave up his wallet, he said the suspects ran back to the car and drove off.

The man continued to 7-Eleven and police were called. The man told police he would be able to identify the first suspect but was unsure about the other two who came at him

from behind.

Fire Rescue transported the man to Beaumont Wayne Hospital for treatment of his head injury.

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WAYNE COP CALLS

Attempted break-in

A resident in the 34000 block of Forest told police Sept. 1 that she left home about 8:30 a.m. and returned at 9 p.m. to find pry marks on her door and the frame. No entry was made to the house.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Aug. 18 a Wayne woman told police that while she was parked at Uncle Joe's Market and Bakery, 5750 Merriman, someone stole \$30, her ID and insurance card from her vehicle.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 3700 block of Elizabeth told police that from 4 a.m. to just after 5 a.m. Aug. 20 someone entered his vehicle and stole about \$250 in uncirculated presidential dollars from 2015-16 in four rolls. He said \$140 was also missing from his wallet. He noted he forgot to lock the vehicle and discovered the theft after in-

vestigating a noise.

Vandalism

Just before 1:30 a.m. Aug. 24 a resident in the 3500 block of Gloria reported hearing approximately six shots from what sounded like a BB gun followed by a loud vehicle pulling away. The resident said he checked outside but due to darkness saw nothing. About 7 a.m., he found six BBs in the windows and siding of the home.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Aug. 17 a resident in the 35000 block of Park told police that two vehicles were broken into overnight. Reported missing were a case of Mountain Dew, two sunglasses, less than \$20 in change and a spare key.

Stolen vehicle

» An Ypsilanti man told police Aug. 19 that his wife was visiting family at a home in the 4300 block of Nyman when someone stole her 2013 Volks-

wagen Passat while it was parked in the street. He said they were current on payments and had both sets of keys to the vehicle.

» On Aug. 20 a resident at the Alexis Manor Apartments, 35330 Van Born, told police that someone stole her 1999 Dodge Caravan from the handicapped parking space in the central parking lot.

» A 2003 Dodge Caravan was reported stolen overnight from outside an apartment at 33197 Forest.

Hit and run

A Westland woman told police Aug. 23 that someone hit her 2015 Dodge Charger while it was parked at Walker and Annapolis in the early morning hours. The vehicle had a basketball-sized dent on the driver-side front-quarter panel and scratches on the driver-side front door.

The woman said she had parked the car about 2 a.m. and found the damage about 5 a.m.

The officer noted the woman appeared to be intoxicated and there was no sign the damage had been caused to the vehicle at that location.

Attempted larceny

Police were called to Fresh Choice Marketplace, 35400 E. Michigan Ave., Aug. 27 about an attempted beer theft. An employee said a male entered the store and asked where the beer was located.

Due to the male's young age, the employee followed him, then saw that his backpack had been removed and was in the grocery cart. When asked to see what was inside the backpack, the employee said the suspect dropped the backpack and ran from the store.

The employee found a cold six-pack of beer inside the backpack, which also contained Xbox One cables, an empty Xbox One game case, assorted Xbox papers, a smart phone and ear buds, which were collected by police.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 34000 block of Stellwagen told police Aug. 25 that someone went through his vehicle and stole a backpack and medical card.

Dog issue

Police were called to the 35000 block of Stellwagen early Aug. 29 when a resident told police his wife was stopped from leaving for work by a dog. The officer found that dog was attached to a 30-foot tie-out which was tangled around a post next to the residents' front door. The man said he didn't recognize the dog.

Officers took the dog to the Wayne Animal Shelter.

Stolen vehicle

On Aug. 29 a resident in the 4400 block of Howe told police that someone stole her blue scooter valued at \$1,170.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com

Police seek suspect in sexual assault case in Hines Park

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Livonia police are asking for the public's help locating a man they say sexually assaulted a runner in Edward Hines Park.

According to police, a 28-year-old woman was running eastbound at about 7:25 p.m. Sunday along the Hines Drive bicycle path, west of Levan in

Livonia. She told police she came across the suspect, who was walking westbound along the road. She told police the man wrapped his arm around her neck and struck on the side of her face when she tried to pass him, struggling with her and trying to drag her toward the Rouge River.

Police say he also attempted to remove the woman's cloth-

ing and told her he wanted to have sex with her. She was able to fight off the suspect, who then ran eastbound on foot.

After flagging down a motorist along the road, she was able to use his cellphone to call authorities and report the incident, police said. Police arrived, but were unable to locate the suspect.

Capt. Robert Nenciarini of

the Livonia Police Department said the woman did not require any hospitalization after the incident.

Livonia police say the suspect is described as a black male between 28-30 years old, about 5 feet, 10 inches and 180 pounds. He's also described as having a muscular build with short, dark hair and clean shaven. The suspect was seen wear-

ing a tight-fitting black or gray compression-style shirt, as well as dark-colored cargo shorts.

Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

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Ashley Richmond, a Farmington Hills resident, works with the kangaroos at the Detroit Zoo.

NICOLE RAYMOND

ZOO

Continued from Page A1

ing and stood up after 20 minutes. I had a feeling she would be a spit fire, she was very active inside of her mom."

This year marks a decade as a zookeeper for Richmond, who in the sixth grade foretold her destiny in a letter to her mom in which she wrote that she wanted to go to Michigan State University, get a degree in zoology, and work at the Detroit Zoo.

She walked that path, although she acknowledges it hasn't always been easy.

"I am 33, but some days I feel 63," laughs Richmond, who has cared for the giraffes and kangaroos the majority of her career at the zoo, but also worked in various other areas.

When she interviewed, Richmond didn't have a preference for which animals she would work with as all of them were captivating. That is the essence of being a zookeeper — building a relationship with animals.

"Every animal I have worked with, there is a level of respect, and with that comes love," she said. "You learn their behaviors and personality and their comfort level for certain things. You get attached."

Her relationship with these animals is not like that of a pet, however. She is a caregiver, which involves a lot of manual and physical labor — keeping their environments clean, providing mental stimulation, and feeding them.

Mob mentality

She starts her day at the Australian Outback exhibit at the zoo, where she cares for a mob of 19 red kangaroos, and one Bennett's wallaby, all of whom have their own names and personalities. Some are laid back while others are curious and sniff Richmond. Others still are stand-offish and head in the other direction as she walks around cleaning their exhibit and feeding them.

They eat what she calls a "kangaroo and wallaby chow," placed in the shelter area. She also makes interesting changes to their environment, which can include hanging melons as treats, adding spices or perfumes for new odors, and throwing large piles of dirt into their yard for the kangaroos who have a natural urge to dig.

She checks to make sure they aren't scratching themselves, which could indicate a skin irritation, or doing any odd behaviors. Kangaroos, she adds, are good at masking illness. Even an ear down or angled awkwardly could mean something is amiss with the animal.

"They might come and smell me, but I don't pet them," she said. "None of them are hand-reared; they are all parent-reared. It's a respect thing, and I don't cross that line... I make sure they are doing what they would be normally at that time and 99 percent of the time, everyone is fine. When you know them so well, you can tell when something is off."

There are 12 female kangaroos and seven vasectomized males. While the kangaroo exhibit is large, the indoor shelter is at maximum capacity. Kangaroos have a life expectancy to the late teens, as do wallabies.

Zoo staff want to get another wallaby to join the 7-year-old male they obtained six years ago after he and thousands of other animals were rescued from inhumane conditions by an international exotic animal dealer in Texas.

"The situation was very dire and it was a big undertaking," said Richmond, who adds that the wallaby will not be bred as his genetic background is unknown.

Intense giraffes
There are also no plans to add to the giraffe family. Species Survival Plan coordinators make decisions regarding breeding of animals, with knowledge of genetics and conservation efforts. Kivuli will be on birth control, and no decision has been made yet on whether Zawadi, whose name means "gift" in Swahili, will stay in Detroit.

The reticulated giraffes, which weigh roughly 2,600 pounds when fully grown and can reach up to 18 feet as the tallest land mammal, are easier to transport when they are younger. Their large size also means Richmond spends the majority of her days with the beautiful creatures who spend roughly 17 hours of their day eating and only sleep three hours a day. She has observed them in the wild on a trip to Africa and uses that knowledge for her care of them at the zoo.

"My outback routine is much less intensive than with giraffes," said Richmond. "I spend about six hours of my day with the giraffes. A 2,600 pound giraffe, they make a big mess every day, I spend a lot of time cleaning up after them. Plus I feed them twice a day. They also get enriched frequently."

The primary enrichment for giraffes centers around food, with Richmond placing mulberry branches, grape vines, willow branches and more of what she calls "browse" around their exhibit. She cuts very large branches and ties them to different areas of their yard so she doesn't have to hand feed them all day long and so they use their tongues as much as possible in a natural way.



A red panda at the Detroit Zoo on a recent day.

SUSAN BROMLEY



An otter naps at the Detroit Zoo one recent day.

SUSAN BROMLEY

The giraffes, like the kangaroos, each have their own distinctive personalities as well. Jabari is more interactive and likes being around all people as long as there is a treat involved. Kivuli is the opposite, more timid and apprehensive of strangers, but like Jabari, very smart. Mpenzi tends to be shyer, like his mother, and of course, the personality of the new arrival is not yet known, but Richmond looks forward to getting to know her as well.

Regardless, Zawadi, like all giraffes, will require patience, as Richmond notes you can't really make a giraffe do anything they don't want to do. That's OK with the zookeeper though, who still enjoys the job despite the hard labor and deeper understanding now of what the career entails than when she was a little girl dreaming of working with the animals and when visits to the zoo meant seeing performing chimpanzees and seals.

"That is not something that happens now, and I am thrilled about that," said Richmond. "I try to look at things more from the animal's eyes and maybe more than I expected, things have evolved for the better. I love where I work and I love all of our hopes and dreams for the future. It's really motivating."

She tries not to think too much about what tomorrow will bring as the job is taxing on her body. She is living for the moment, but notes that as she ages, a change to a less physically demanding position may be in the cards.

Brian Manfre, a Westland resident, made that change.

Mammals on the mind
Always fascinated by animals, Manfre earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Eastern Michigan University in 2005 and interned at the Toledo Zoo. He started working at the Detroit Zoo more than nine years ago, the first six of them as a zookeeper, caring for warthogs and zebras.

Three years ago, he became mammal supervisor, overseeing carnivores including lions, tigers, otters and wolverines, as well as some of the small mammals like red pandas and bush dogs. He also oversees hoofstock including the zebras and warthogs,

camels and bison.

The job entails working with administration and keepers to make sure they are in the position to take the best possible care of these animals. This includes overseeing construction projects on exhibits, renovations, and relocation of animals to accommodate their needs while projects are underway.

"There is not any such thing as a routine day," said Manfre. "If one of my keepers has a concern with a veterinary issue, I am the first point of contact to get them out there and assess things."

Recently, Manfre had plans to tie up loose ends at the newly-expanded camel exhibit and then to work on the zookeepers' schedules, followed by supervisor meetings with his fellow mammal managers.

He has what he considers a good 50/50 mix of administrative work with working alongside the zookeepers — helping with projects or assisting with routine animal check-ups which require anesthesia with the larger animals — and coordinating individuals to make sure everything goes smoothly.

"The best part of my job is just having the opportunity to work with a lot of unique animals," said Manfre. "The most common thing I hear is that people think zookeeping doesn't require education or is just picking up poop, when in actuality zookeepers are highly trained. It requires education, expertise and is a very difficult job to get. You definitely need a lot of attention to detail and have to pick up on subtle cues from animals and make quick, good judgment decisions, while being attentive to safety."

Manfre's contact information is sbromley@hometownlife.com

Make certain beneficiaries make sense to you

I had a recent meeting with a client regarding their estate plan that I thought I would share with you. The client is divorced and in his mid-70s. He was married for more than 30 years and has three children. According to him, the divorce was very nasty and changed his relationship with his children. As he describes it, before the divorce he had a wonderful relationship with his children and, since the divorce, which is more than five years ago, he no longer has any relationship with two of them. In fact, as he describes it, he has grandchildren that he has never seen. He says he's tried to reach out to the two kids, but his efforts have been unsuccessful. As we sat down to discuss his estate plan, the one question he asked me was what I thought the right thing would be with what he should do with his money.

The way I interpreted the question was, despite having no relationship with the two children whatsoever, should he still leave them part of his estate upon his death? As I explained to the client, I don't believe that as a matter of right people are entitled to an inheritance. In most cases, inheritances are earned by the love and devotion that someone has demonstrated. I also explained that many situations are based upon the needs of the beneficiary. For example, I have drafted many estate plans



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

where parents treat their children differently, not for a lack of love and devotion, but because of financial concerns. In other words, one child's financial situation may be such that a larger inheritance is called for. There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to inheritances and people shouldn't try to do what everyone else is doing, but should do what makes sense for their individual situation.

After the discussion with the client, he did decide to totally disinherit the two children and leave the money to the child who has been very good to him. At the beginning of the meeting the client was tense, but by the end of the meeting he was relaxed and relieved. Relieved in the fact that, from the beginning, he knew that he didn't want to leave money to the two children, but he needed the assurance that he was doing the right thing.

When it comes to choosing beneficiaries, people generally name all their children as their alternate beneficiaries. You should never do what the majority does, but you should do what makes sense for your individual circumstances. There is nothing to say that all children should be treated equally. You may love

them equally; that doesn't mean from a financial standpoint their needs are the same. After all, when the kids were growing up, if one of your children needed braces, you didn't say I know I have to spend an equal amount on my other children. More likely than not, you treated them each according to their individual needs. The same thing should apply when it comes to estate planning.

I recognize when you don't treat children equally, there could be some hard feelings. If you think there would be hard feelings, you can either explain to your children ahead of time why you're doing what you're doing or you can add something to your estate planning documents that explains your reasoning. You're under no obligation to do so, but if it would make you feel better, you should.

In the situation at hand, if down the road my client's relationships with his two children changes, he can always change his estate planning documents. That is why it's important that every year or so you review your estate planning documents to make sure they still reflect your wishes.

When it comes to deciding beneficiaries, don't let anyone tell you what you should do. You should do what you believe is right for your individual situation.

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



Kelly (left) and Shelby Perkins founded Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness with her husband in 1997.

Martial arts a lifelong passion for studio owner

When Kelly Perkins began martial arts training with her sons in 1986, she didn't know it would become a lifelong passion.

Perkins went on to earn her third-degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. In 1997, she discovered American Kenpo and founded Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness with her husband, Shelby.

"I have the greatest respect for my TKD training, but there is more to self-defense than kicks and punches," Perkins said. "American Kenpo brings realistic self-defense to situations you may truly find yourself in."

Perkins said Kenpo

"teaches how to escape when your arms are pinned," when attacked from behind and many other realistic scenarios. American Kenpo uses the body's anatomy to "control an opponent's height, width and depth from you," she explained.

Guardian Martial Arts is the only studio in SE Michigan that teaches American Kenpo.

In addition, GMA offers Pilates Reformer classes. Reformer trims, tightens, and strengthens the body via weighted straps. Owners said it is great for getting in shape and rehabilitation of the body. It is good for all fitness levels.

GMA has Kenpo and

Reformer classes through the week and on the weekend.

Safety and fitness are not all that's important to Perkins. Helping the community is important, too, and in 2014 she helped co-found the Garden City Business Alliance, where she serves as Vice President.

"I believe in protecting what's important," Perkins said. "To me, that includes one's personal safety, our health and fitness and the community in which we live."

For more information, call 734-266-0565 or visit www.guardianmartialarts.com. The studio is located at 30942 Ford Road in Garden City.

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Sept. 15 Job Search Seminar a boon to job seekers

A JVS Job Search Seminar, "Taking Your Best Shot by Storm," will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Southfield Public Library Auditorium, 26300 Evergreen Road. Pre-registration is not required.

Join Abby Kohut - known as Absolutely Abby - to learn the steps to launch a successful job search. Admission is free.

Kohut is an author and expert on effective job search strategies. She is president of Staffing Symphony, LLC and author of "Absolutely Abby's 101 Job Search Secrets." She has held corporate recruiting positions in a variety of industries and is responsible for helping 10,000 people get hired.

The workshop is sponsored by JVS and the Southfield Public Library. Kohut will stress the five Ps - be prepared,

persistent, patient, positive and prudent.

Southfield-based JVS, a nonprofit, also has other extensive resources for job seekers. The JVS Women to Work program helps women find employment after being out of the workforce for a substantial period of time. The program is designed to guide participants through the latest job search strategies while providing emotional support to make the process easier.

For more information on Women to Work, email Judy Richmond at jrichmond@jvsdet.org.

JVS also has some words of wisdom for job seekers:

» Climb the totem pole. Young job seekers have tons to offer, but they usually end up in entry-level positions. This is for one simple reason: They lack experience. So as a young em-

ployee, be willing to climb the totem pole. "Excel at basic tasks, and even though they might be boring, see them as a gateway to more exciting work," the agency notes in its current newsletter. "Over time, this will prove to your boss that you can handle more complex assignments."

» Use your resources. "When you sit down to re-vamp your resume or prepare your pitch to employers, taking the time to search the Internet for new ideas can be a game changer. Thousands of resume templates are at your disposal with Google images. YouTube has a slew of popular videos on crafting an elevator pitch. You may already know the basics, but if you're willing to search, you could find a few transformative tips that can take your credibility to the next level," the newsletter notes.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Goodman Acker 'Cool Place'

Goodman Acker, P.C. has been chosen as one of the '2016 Cool Places to Work' in Michigan by Crain's Detroit Business and Best Companies Group.

Crain's Detroit Business designed this program to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Michigan, which benefits the state's economy, its work force and businesses.

Companies throughout Michigan entered via a two-part process. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, philosophy, systems, practices and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey. Scores were combined to determine the top organiza-

tions and the final ranking.

Goodman Acker regularly does something different for its employees to show that they value their hard work, including breakfast cooked by the partners, bringing in a masseuse to do chair massages, a yearly Halloween costume contest, birthday celebrations and more.

"It's an honor to be listed as one of the 'Cool Places to Work' in Michigan, and we look forward to continuing to be a place people enjoy working at," senior partner Barry Goodman said.

Only 75 companies in Michigan were selected, and only three law firms.

Fast growth

Concorde Holdings, a nationally recognized private firm offering a full spectrum of services and support for financial

professionals through its three lines of business - Concorde Investment Services, Concorde Asset Management and Concorde Insurance Agency - has earned a spot on the Inc. 5000 list of the 2016 fastest-growing private companies in America for the second year in a row.

Over the past three years, Concorde Holdings has experienced a 141-percent growth rate. Among Michigan companies that made the list, Concorde Holdings was ranked as one of the top five financial services companies in terms of growth.

In 2015, Concorde Holdings achieved \$28.5 million in gross revenue. Kavanaugh anticipates a 20-25 percent gross revenue increase in 2016.

For more information, visit www.concordeis.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Farmers Market

Wilson Barn hosts a Farmers Market Saturdays through Oct. 8 at 29350 W. Chicago in Livonia.

The market features local vendors, produce, crafts and baked goods and breads. For more information, call Karen at 734-261-3602 or visit wilsonbarn.com

Documentary screening

The Livonia Civic Center Library hosts a screening of "The Great Detroit," a documentary that examines the positive aspects of Detroit, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with director Anthony Brogdon. The Civic Center Library is located at 32777 Five Mile in Livonia.

Flea markets

The Newburgh Village Social Club, a nonprofit organization of seniors in Newburgh Village, is hosting a flea market at Newburgh Village, 11999 Newburgh in Livonia, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10.

The Greenmead Flea Market takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh in Livonia.

The event features historic tours (from noon to 3 p.m.). Visitors who have a wagon or cart are welcome to bring them to make shopping easier. No dogs are allowed. Refreshments will be available. Admission is \$2 (children under 12 free). Proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

For more information, call 248-477-7375.

Colbeck hours

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider will hold monthly office hours for September in Livonia on Friday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. until noon, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center and will be open to the public.

Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District, which encompasses the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

For more information or to contact Sen. Colbeck, visit www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Neighbors and friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a Women's Club in Livonia, will kick off another year of fun and friendship with an ice cream social at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13. The event will take place at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church on 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia. New members are welcome.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May at 7 p.m. Special activity groups continue to meet year round. For more information, visit <http://livonia-neighborsandfriends.tripod.com>

Goodfellows meet

Livonia Goodfellows will hold their General Membership Meeting on Monday, Sept. 19 (note: this is a change) at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Senior Center located on the southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington



Wilson Barn music

Uke 'n Sing will perform at the Wilson Barn Farmers Market from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Uke 'n Sing plays ukuleles and guitar and sings a wide range of songs from old classics to rock. John and Sharon McAuliffe, David and Theresa Smith, and Bob and Sally Niemczewski have been playing together for several years and have performed at music festivals, senior centers, bookstores and cafes.

Road. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 313-438-0862.

9/11 remembrance

Sunday, Sept. 11, marks the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on this country. A worship service of remembrance will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia, to commemorate the 9/11 anniversary and honor those who serve their country and communities.

Church officials invite the community to join them in honoring first responders for the sacrifices they make to keep our communities safe. First responders and their families are specially invited.

Immediately following the service (at approximately 11:30 a.m.) a picnic lunch will be served. To help plan for food, RSVP by calling 734-464-0211, or register online at tinyurl.com/hltc-picnic or email dove@holyltrinitylivonia.org.

For more information contact Kathy Weinberg at 734-464-0211, Ext. 202.

Hearing loss support

The Hearing Loss Association of America will discuss "What Happens at the National Hearing Loss Convention" during its meeting 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Garden City Hospital.

For more information, call Tony at 734-664-3297 or email afcrack@comcast.net.

Genealogical meeting

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, Sept. 19, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. Please note the new format: 5:30 p.m. Bring your dinner and join the conversation with other members, 6:15 p.m., announcements and pre-program, 7 p.m., Wally Schlegel will present the new and improved FAMILYSEARCH.ORG. website.

Meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.wwcgs.org.

3-D photography

The first meeting of the season for the 3-D Photography Club takes place 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile, in Livonia.

The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo

cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. The program will be an open discussion about evaluating stereo images. After a refreshment break, we'll have a 3D image competition among our club members.

For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Parish concert

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish hosts "Amor," featuring Anna Nadasky, Mezzo-Soprano, and Paul Shafer, Piano, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 at the parish, 31530 Beechwood in Garden City.

The concert will explore love through classical, romantic, and contemporary composers. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call 734-427-1533, Ext. 106.

Lucky Squirrel

The Garden City DDA will host its Lucky Squirrel Vendor and Flea Market Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, and vendor space is available.

The Lucky Squirrel is an outdoor event with over 10,000 square feet. Vendors can reserve a 10-by-10 space for \$10 to peddle wares at the old Farmers Market area, located at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Middlebelt. Crafters, artists, wood workers, artisans and cottage food vendors are welcome. Homemade jams and yard art are always a big hit.

To register, vendors need to download and print the Lucky Squirrel Registration Form from the DDA website at www.gccda.com and

send it with their payment to Garden City DDA, 29213 Ford Road, Garden City, MI 48135 by Sept. 9.

For more information, call the Garden City Downtown Development Authority at 734-261-2830 or email Theresa Manuel at resasa@downtowngardencity.com.

Amvets fundraisers

Amvets Auxillary Post 171-Westland is hosting these upcoming events:

Texas Roadhouse fundraiser Wednesday, Sept. 16, 100 percent of meal orders (dinner menu only, plus bake sale in foyer) will be donated to Amvets.

Car and motorcycle show sponsored by the Sons of Amvets & Amvets takes place noon to 11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18. Hamburgers/hot dogs, pop and water for sale outside.

Amvets Post 171 is at 1217 Merriman in Westland. For more information, call 734-721-9440.

Anderson hours

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will be hosting Coffee Hour events in Garden City and Westland with elected officials from the State of Michigan on Monday, Sept. 12.

Coffee Hour in Westland will be co-hosted with state Rep. Robert Kosowski from 9-10 a.m. at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 North Wayne Road. Coffee Hour in Garden City will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan room at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St. Garden City Coffee Hour will be co-hosted with state Sen. David Knezek.

Citizens for Peace

Citizens for Peace present Dr. Saeed Khan's talk "Manufacturing Bigotry! We Don't Need Bigotry in the Law!" at its meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile.

Khan will share the findings of his research on a variety of laws that impact minorities. He will suggest bipartisan political engagement and coalition building around common values, common interests and common solutions. All are welcome.

For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to www.citizens4peace.com.

Rummage sale

St. Mel Catholic Church, 7506 N. Inkster in Dearborn Heights, hosts a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24. Drop-off dates are 5-8 p.m. Sept. 15 and Sept. 21. The church will not accept furniture or large items.

For more information, call 313-274-0684.

Livonia Towne Club

The Livonia Towne Club is a nonprofit women's organization bringing together women for social interaction.

The club meets the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November and December, when it's held on the second Thursday). The club meets for lunch and

a program at different restaurants in Livonia and surrounding areas. Our program could be an informative speaker, bingo, fashion show, music entertainment and more, plus an occasional local day trip.

For more information, contact Vicki at 734-591-3254.

Westland market

The Westland Farmers & Artisans Market is up and running from 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 13. It features a variety of food and craft vendors, special events and music. EBT is accepted.

The market is at 1901 N. Carlson, Central City Park, in Westland. For more information, call 734-326-7222 or email westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

Wayne Farmers Market

The Wayne Farmers Market is up and running from 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 26. It features a variety of food and craft vendors, special events and music. EBT is accepted.

For more information, call 734-658-5296 or email towfmmmanager@gmail.com

Rummage sale

InsideOut Church, 1075 Venoy Road in Garden City, hosts a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10.

For more information, call the church, 734-983-8376.

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What's Trump hiding by not releasing taxes?

For 20 years, I worked as an investment adviser helping families save for a home, pay for their kids' college and plan for retirement. I know Michigan families work hard to secure the building blocks for a strong financial future, and they should be able to trust that their president can do the same with their tax dollars.

Over the last 40 years, nearly every major party presidential nominee, Democrat and Republican alike, has released his or her tax returns so the American people can better understand how



Gary Peters
GUEST COLUMNIST

these candidates manage their own finances — before deciding who should manage our nation's finances.

Unfortunately, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has made clear that he believes he can play by a different set of rules. When asked about his tax rate, he said, "it's none of your business."

But before Michiganders can ever trust Donald Trump to lead our country, they deserve to know: what exactly is he trying to hide?

A column in the New York Times raises the question of whether Trump is using a bevy of loopholes in the tax code, many of them available to developers, to pay zero taxes.

Is his exaggerating how much money he's contributed to charities? Is he taking advantage of the tax code by promising not to build luxury homes on his own golf course? Or perhaps he

does not want to admit that he may not be as rich as he claims to be?

We now know Trump's tax plan, outlined at the Detroit Economic Club, would cut taxes for the wealthy. But the American people will never know just how much Trump stands to gain from his tax plan unless he stops stonewalling voters and releases his tax returns.

Trump has insisted that he cannot reveal his tax information because he is under an IRS audit. This is simply not true. He has previously handed over his tax returns in

the midst of an audit when one of his casinos was at stake and it was in his personal interest. And as the IRS confirmed, there are no restrictions to making tax returns public during an audit.

What we do know about Trump's business record, however, is deeply troubling. He talks tough on trade, but as a businessman Trump makes his own Trump-branded products overseas instead of here at home.

With the release of her 2015 tax information last week, Democratic presi-

dential nominee Hillary Clinton has now revealed 38 years of tax returns. Additionally, Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine just released a decade's worth of his and his wife's tax returns.

Mitt Romney said that it is "disqualifying" for any modern-day presidential nominee to refuse to release tax returns.

I couldn't agree more.

Gary Peters, a Democrat from Bloomfield Township, represents Michigan in the U.S. Senate.

Transportation system can move region forward

Every elected official, civic, business, labor and religious leader should be promoting a "yes" vote Nov. 8 to move Michigan forward by building a much-needed regional transit system.

An investment in mobility in the four-county region (Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw, plus the city of Detroit) is an investment in our collective future. The region's leaders have put forth a proposal to raise tax dollars for a sensible regional transit initiative. It is truly a positive step to see the leadership of southeast Michigan come



Tom Watkins
GUEST COLUMNIST

together to jump-start our region.

The tax will effectively be managed by a Regional Transit Authority whose mission is to manage and secure transportation resources that significantly enhance mobility options, to improve quality of life for the residents and to increase economic viability for the region. Go to www.rtamichigan.org. It is now up to voters

to say "yes" and provide the resources to make this long overdue mission come alive. The action voters take at the polls will have implications that will be felt for decades to come.

The ballot proposal will bring bus rapid transit, a rail line between Ann Arbor and Detroit, an airport shuttle service, a regional fare card system and other transit service upgrades to a non-existent system today.

The tab is as big as the need: \$4.6 billion of yours, mine and our tax dollars. It adds up to a 20-year, 1.2-mill property tax increase, if voters approve it — as we should!

Clearly, this is an investment worth making. The tax would cost the average homeowner about \$95 per year. These plans cover a lot of ground for \$100.

This action will go a long way toward helping every citizen in the re-

gion, especially helping persons with low incomes, a means of getting to work; the elderly and persons with disabilities will have additional opportunities for mobility that they don't have now.

Robert Reich, former labor secretary under President Bill Clinton, cut to the heart of the upcoming vote when he said: "A society — any society — is defined as a set of mutual benefits and duties embodied most visibly in public institutions: public schools, public libraries, public transportation, public hospitals, public parks, public museums, public recreation, public universities and so on."

Paul Hillegonds, Regional Transit Authority chair, a trusted leader who has added value and helped make a difference for decades in Michigan, had this to say about the value of this transportation plan: "The regional transit proposal is about

connection and opportunity. With voter approval, we will connect people with jobs and vital services like health care and education. We will spur more investment, prosperity and the quality of life that young talent is seeking today. I believe our decision in November will be one of the most important steps we can take to secure a better future for our southeast Michigan communities and families."

Detroit Regional Chamber president and CEO Sandy Baruah "applauded the action by our elected regional leaders and RTA board for achieving consensus on regional transit. This is another example of how southeast Michigan is able to collaborate for regional progress. The chamber is committed to working towards a 'yes' vote in November."

For the region that "put the world on wheels," we seem to be in the Stone Age compared

to other cities, states and nations when it comes to mass transportation.

This needs to change. Getting to "yes."

"I'm encouraged by this plan to bring rapid and reliable transit options to the people of southeast Michigan. This sort of collaboration is what will help Michigan continue to be the comeback state," Gov. Rick Snyder said.

This is an opportunity to vote your self-interest and help Michigan catch up with the rest of world by providing a viable public transit system.

Vote "yes" Nov. 8. Help drive our region boldly into the future.

Tom Watkins, a Northville resident, is president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (www.dwmha.com). He can be emailed at tdwatkins88@gmail.com or followed on twitter at [@tdwatkins88](https://twitter.com/tdwatkins88).

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Birmingham to get Michigan's first Starbucks Reserve coffee

Jay Grossman
Hometownlife.com

Starbucks Reserve coffee is coming to Michigan.

A Starbucks spokesperson confirmed the company plans to open a Birmingham Starbucks at 101 N. Old Woodward in Birmingham that will be the first in Michigan to sell Starbucks Reserve coffee. The new store is more than twice the size of the existing Starbucks across the street on Old Woodward, and will offer customers plenty of premium coffee choices.

"It's going to be a larger store with more space, and it's at a better location," said Karleigh Wolber, a supervisor at the Birmingham Star-



Michigan's first Starbucks Reserve is opening in the spring at 101 N. Old Woodward in downtown Birmingham.

bucks. "We're going to have more food options, and we're going to have a clover machine that will provide our customers

with more coffee choices. We'll also have more space for laptops." The new store opens in the spring.

The first Starbucks Roastery Reserve and Tasting Room opened in Seattle in 2014, offering customers more space, a

larger breakfast and lunch menu, more baked goods, a line of premium coffee choices and its own roastery.

"This location will have our full Starbucks menu of handcrafted beverages and food and will not be a Reserve-only store," the spokesperson said. "Additionally, this store will offer an exceptional collection of exclusive, small-batch arabica coffees available in select Starbucks stores around the world, roasted at our Starbucks Roastery Reserve and Tasting Room in Seattle."

Because of the premium selections, customers can expect to pay more for their coffee. A 12 oz. cup of coffee at the Starbucks Reserve in Man-

hattan sells for \$4.

The new store will occupy the former Cosi space at the northwest corner of Maple and Old Woodward, right in the heart of downtown Birmingham. Landlord Brian Najor said he expects the store to be a popular draw.

"It's kind of a unique use for that space, and it's a perfect location," said Najor. "We're adding a premium retailer to a prominent space, and I really think it will be a nice addition for Birmingham. And besides, I'm a big Starbucks fan so I plan on spending a lot of time there."

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DIYers find bargains for home improvement at ReStore

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

One kitchen window. That's all Keith Cunningham needed for a home remodeling project as he shopped at Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County ReStore in Farmington Hills.

Twenty-two windows. It was a bargain he couldn't resist.

"I get to Habitat and I find all these brand new, never-installed Andersen 400 series. I start hyper-ventilating I went and grabbed the cart and started loading them up. I ended up with 22 windows. I was able to change the architect's drawing so I could use them all," said Cunningham, a Pleasant Ridge resident. "I bought 22 windows for \$1,400."

Cunningham is a steady customer at the home improvement resale store that draws contractors, remodelers, landlords and bargain hunters to buy gently-used appliances, furniture, home accessories and new building materials. The store at 28575 Grand River Ave. is one of 900 across the country that donates net profits to Habitat for Humanity, the nonprofit Christian ministry that builds and remodels houses for low-income families. The Farmington Hills store opened three years ago, but its management changed in April. Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County is in charge of both the flagship store and a smaller ReStore in Pontiac. A "grand reopening" is set for Friday, Sept. 30, at the Farmington Hills location.

Tim Ruggles, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, said the store has been one of the area's best-kept secrets because of limited marketing. He and Rose-Ann Nathan, ReStore consultant, are set to change that.

"We understand the needs of the community and the shoppers. We've adjusted our prices and merchandising and we hired some employees,"



Doors are ready for construction projects.

Nathan said.

"They've already created a better shopping experience by organizing and consistently pricing the merchandise, according to Ruggles.

DIY shoppers

"It really is a service to the community because it's about reusing materials and keeping materials out of the landfill," he said. "There are so many people interested in re-purposing. That's a big movement now. It really is a service because people can come here and they don't have to shop garage sales."

The store gets half its inventory donated from individuals, families, churches and other organizations. Half come from businesses. New products arrive every day and photos of some items are posted on ReStore's Facebook page.

Merchandise sells from 40-50 percent or more off retail price. A new hot tub with a \$3,000 price tag, for example, would sell for around \$400 at ReStore, Nathan said. New, brand name paint is \$9 to \$14 per gallon.

"It could be discontinued, a wrong order," Ruggles said, describing business-donated merchandise. "A lot of retail establishments will take returns from customers. It actually costs more to ship it back (to the vendor) than the value of the product. They're looking for an easy way to dispose of the product. We can be that easy method

and take it off their hands."

Ruggles said the store has received a consistent flow of donations from individuals, but needs more commercial products. ReStore also is looking for volunteers to help unload, clean, price, repair and stock items.

"We're short on labor. We're looking for some strong arms to help," Nathan said. Twenty-four pallets of landscaping rocks, at least 15 sets of cabinets, doors, windows, refrigerators and couches were among some of the heavier items in stock recently.

Getting bargains

Isabelle Muha of Birmingham bought cabinets from ReStore for an inherited farmhouse she and her husband are remodeling for future sale. They're return customers.

"I would say you have to be handy and creative and if you have those skills it's a great place to go," she said. "I think Habitat is great on multiple fronts. They're a charity and they serve the community. We have chosen them because of the cost."

A few weeks ago, Cunningham found "a mountain of cabinets" and bought 35 of them for \$2,500. He had to rent a truck to get them home and plans to haul them to his daughter's house in Atlanta, Ga.

"It's worth going to that expense," he said. "Not only do I get a quality product at a reason-



ReStore assistant manager Frank Carroll tests a range/oven to make sure it works.

able price, I feel good that my money is making a difference in someone else's life, that it's going to building a home for someone less fortunate."

Ruggles said Habitat

for Humanity of Oakland County plans to serve 64 families this year by building new houses, rehabbing homes and making repairs.

The Farmington Hills

ReStore is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Go to habitatokland.org or call 248-338-1843.

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Patriots hire Phelps as coach

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Dan Phelps' hockey coaching career has come full circle, the circumference of which is much more expansive than your basic face-off circle.

Phelps, whose coaching career kicked off in 1998 as the first varsity coach of the Novi High School hockey program, was hired last month to take over for his longtime friend, Dennis Gagnon, who is now the head hockey coach at Milford High School.

The Patriots' new mentor returns to the high school head-coaching ranks after an ultra-

successful six-year run as the Adrian College head coach (2008-14) and one year as a volunteer assistant at Franklin.

Phelps coached eight years at Novi, during which he led the Wildcats to three semifinal appearances and several regional titles.

"I'm very, very excited about this opportunity," said Phelps, whose playing career included one-year stints with the Detroit Falcons Junior "A" team, Sarnia Bees WOHL squad and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, a powerful NCAA Division III program.

See PHELPS, Page B3



Dan Phelps, pictured during his successful six-year run at Adrian College, was recently named head coach of the Livonia Franklin hockey team.

Tomasic honored

Former Livonia Stevenson volleyball standout Katie Tomasic, now a junior right-side hitter for Miami of Ohio, earned the Mid-American Conference East Division Offensive Player of the Week award following her outstanding performance during this past weekend's tournament that was hosted by the RedHawks.

It was the first weekly MAC award for Tomasic. She finished with 40 kills, which worked out to an average of 2.86 kills per set.

Tomasic also added nine blocks (0.64 per set average) with a hitting percentage of .309.

Tomasic knocked down 13 kills in the RedHawks' victory over Missouri and did not make a single error in 26 attempts.

One day earlier she registered 16 kills and four blocks against Illinois State.

Earlier in the week, she had 11 kills and three blocks against Dayton.

Tomasic is the daughter of Robert and Jody Tomasic.

She is majoring in supply chain and operations management.



Tomasic

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Rockets capture border duel with Zebras

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

The heart of the Westland John Glenn boys soccer team's defense was amazing Tuesday afternoon against host Wayne Memorial.

Powered by strong play from center-backs Blake Grove and Tanner Rhoades, and freshman goal-keeper Brendan Balko, the Rockets blanked the Zebras, 4-0, to improve their early season record to 5-1.

The Rockets' lone blemish this season was Friday's 7-2 setback to Belleville.

Wayne, which played dangerous soccer in spurts, slipped to 1-2.

"What I like about this year's team is how they play together, not as individuals," said first-year head boys coach Ralph Cabildo, who formerly served as the Rockets' girls soccer and bowling coach.

"These guys get along on and off the field, which is so important."

"What I've noticed, too, is that if there is a player not giving 100 percent, he feels bad because he sees all of his teammates working hard, so it kind of rubs off."

"The biggest test will be coming soon when we play teams like Canton. How we hold together then will show me what kind of character this team has."

The Zebras had moments of brilliance, but couldn't find the back of the net. During the first 20 minutes of the second half, Wayne possessed the ball on its half of the pitch about 80 percent of the time.

"We had some just-missed opportunities that we couldn't quite finish," Wayne head coach Brad Dewar said. "I was impressed by how my whole team played today. We just can't get over the hump."

The Rockets owned a perilous 1-0 halftime lead thanks to a goal from Cameron Simpson, who was assisted by Josh Butkevich.

John Glenn earned some breathing room in the early moments of the second half

See SOCCER, Page B2



John Glenn's Noah Said (left) battles Wayne's Derrick Crummey during Tuesday's matinee match.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GOLF TOURNAMENT



Westland's Matt Wiley was rock solid throughout Monday's final round of the O&E Men's Golf Tournament.

LABOR DAY DRAMA

Dramatic 35-foot putt earns Wiley O&E championship

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

The drama was so thick Monday afternoon on the 18th green at Whispering Willows Golf Course that the willows weren't even whispering.

They were dead silent — just like everyone else who watched Westland resident Matt Wiley drain a pressure-packed, 35-foot putt from the green's fringe to earn a one-shot victory on the 36th and final hole of the two-day Observer & Eccentric Men's Golf Tournament.

Wiley edged Jordan Andrus, a Pinckney native and redshirt senior on the Wayne State University golf team, who nearly sank a 30-footer on the 18th that would have extended the tourney into extra holes.

Wiley, who finished runner-up in the tournament the past three years to Roz Boghikian, last won the O&E title in 1981.

Just a few days removed from winning the Michigan Senior Publix championship



Jordan Andrus watches his putt head for the hole on the 15th hole Monday afternoon.

Madonna midfielder Capoccia lauded

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) announced its first weekly honors of the fall season on Monday and Madonna University senior midfielder Kelly Capoccia was selected as the WHAC's Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week.

Also tabbed WHAC Offensive Player of the Week in week one of last season, Capoccia (Farmington Hills/GVSU) earns the weekly honor for the second time in her heralded Madonna career.

The senior midfielder was selected as 2016's first WHAC Offensive Player of the Week after leading the Crusaders to a 5-0 victory on Friday over visiting Huntington (Ind.).

Capoccia tallied three goals in the season-opening victory, including the game-winning strike early in the second half.

The senior went on to add an assist to complete a seven-point match before being relieved with just over 10 minutes remaining in the decisive shutout win.

The seven-point day elevated Capoccia's career tally to 66 points and moved the senior into sole possession of ninth place all-time (career points) in MU's women's soccer history.

Ladywood golfers victorious

The Livonia Ladywood golf team improved to 2-0 in the Catholic League last week with a 164-238 victory over Warren Regina.

Seniors Lydia Cranmer and Jordyn Rioux paced the Blazers with nine-hole scores of 37 and 38, respectively.

Rounding out the winners' scorecard were Gabriella Scopone (41) and Evelyn Krueger (48).

The Blazers return to action Thursday against Fr. Gabriel Richard at St. John's Golf Center in Plymouth.



Capoccia

ED WRIGHT

See GOLF, Page B2

CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

Zebra long-distance runners set to dazzle

Wayne Memorial team small but determined

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

According to Google, a group of zebras is called a "dazzle," which is appropriate considering that's what Wayne Memorial's girls cross country team has done so far in the eyes of first-year head coach Danielle Borg.

"We may have a small team (six girls), but that does not mean we lack in hard work and determination," Borg said. "All of the athletes on the girls team work hard and persevere. They all want to improve, which is great to see as a coach. This is my first year coaching girls cross country and I am very excited to see how the season unfolds."

The Zebras have become stronger

from participating in unique and refreshing training methods, Borg revealed.

"The boys and girls team practice together, which I feel benefits all team members," she said. "Everyone motivates and supports one another, which I think is crucial to a successful program. All of the athletes work hard at practice and push themselves to be better."

Wayne's co-captains — senior Nikita Bhangu and junior Jessica Leigh — are both perfect for the roles they've earned, Borg said.

"Nikita is a veteran and is a role model for her teammates," the first-year coach said. "She pushes herself every day, perseveres and supports her teammates, both on the girls and boys teams. She also demonstrates good sportsmanship and respect for her teammates."

"Jessica displays hard work and

pushes herself at every practice. She is determined to grow as an athlete and wants the same for her teammates. She also displays good sportsmanship and respect for her teammates."

Bhangu opened the season with a solid 25th-place showing at the Mustang Invitational. She improved her personal-best time by 21 seconds.

Leigh placed eighth at the same event, improving her best time by seven seconds.

Expectations are also high for senior Melaina Climer, Borg said.

"Melaina works hard in every practice and never gives up," she said. "She pushes herself in order to make herself a stronger athlete. At the Mustang Invitational, Melaina was 1 minute and 47 seconds faster than last year's race. I expect her to continue to improve over the course of the season."

ewright@hometownlife.com



Pictured are Wayne Memorial cross country captains Jessica Leigh and Nikita Bhangu



ED WRIGHT

John Glenn's Justin Brown (19) and Wayne's Miguel Martinez race to the ball.

SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

when Race Loving chased down a through ball from Kyle McCarthy and poked it into an unattended net (Wayne keeper Austin McGrann left the crease to challenge Loving's run) to put the visitors on top, 2-0.

Wayne's Ken Dada threatened to cut his team's deficit in half when he toed a soft shot from the left doorstep, but Balko hit the grass to smother the one-hopper.

The prettiest goal of the game came in the 60th minute when John Glenn's Paul Vaught made a slick move on the left sideline before threading a cross to Michael Pizzuti, who hammered home a

high, hard blast.

The Rockets' final goal came in the final 10 minutes when a free kick by Butkevich from about 40 yards out was misplayed by the Wayne defense and bounced inside the right post.

Miguel Martinez and Derrick Crumme both played well for the Zebras.

Franklin edged

Plymouth's Anthony Lacopelli scored on a header off a corner in the game's second minute to lead the Wildcats to a 1-0 triumph over host Livonia Franklin.

Franklin's MVP was goal-keeper Scott Beebe who shut out the 'Cats in the second half with a couple of stellar saves.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Livonia Franklin golfers have nice mix of experience, youth

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Fourth-year Livonia Franklin girls golf head coach Jason Rammler and assistant coach Justin Adams will have a perfect blend of experience, youth and talent at their disposal this fall.

"Our seniors will be pushed by our freshmen this year," Rammler said. "It's a great group of girls willing to practice and have fun."

Serving as co-captains for the Patriots will be four-year seniors Brenna Campau and Katie Evans.

"They're both experienced and hard-working," Rammler noted.

The strong freshmen class consists of Sophia Wygonik, Summer Horen and Stephanie Cueva.

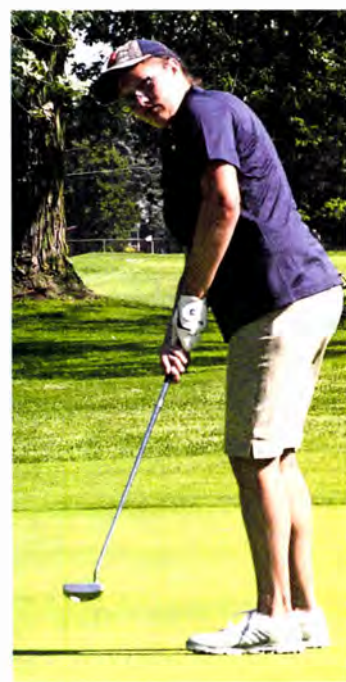
Additional new players on the roster include Emily Kostielney and Haley Pregitzer.

Among the Patriots' returners are Olivia Napier, Sarah Iler, Katie Plowman, Angelina Diponio, Audrey White, Selina Canestraro and Katelyn Jackson.

"We'll have four seniors leaving after this year, but the new players coming in will help keep the program growing," Rammler said.

The program's early season lineup will be headed by Campau, senior Sophia Cueva and freshmen Wygonik and Horen.

ewright@hometownlife.com



ED WRIGHT

Brenna Campau watches her putt wind toward the hole during the Livonia City Tournament.

GOLF

Continued from Page B1

at Polo Grounds in Washtenaw County, Wiley carded a 36-hole score of 143, one shot lower than Andrus.

Boghikian came in third at 145.

Wiley admitted that his prime objective when lining up the final putt was to "just get it close."

"Very rarely do I putt off the fringe, but I was taking a little gas and I figured the putter was the safe club," Wiley said. "I hit it at the perfect speed and it just broke into the hole."

Wiley delivered a Tiger Woods-esque fist pump.

"When I was younger, sometimes I'd let the pressure of a big putt like this get to me, but now I know how to have fun with it," Wiley said. "I really thought Jordan and I would be going to a playoff. I just tried to get it close and it happened to go in."

"Jordan is a fine young player. He hit a great drive on 15, but he doesn't know the course as well as Roz and I, and his ball went too far right and out-of-bounds. I thought he was two up on us at that point, so I told Roz, 'The game's on for sure now.'"

Andrus, who was an all-state golfer at Pinckney High School, said he's already looking forward to next year's O&E tournament.

"I hit the ball well today, but I had the one bad tee shot on 15 that cost me," Andrus said. "The pin placements were tough today; I'm usually a decent putter, but I couldn't get anything going."

"I tip my hat to Matt. That was a great putt. My goal coming in was to win, but it is what it is."

Wiley bogeyed the par-3 16th hole, but finished strong with a par on 17 before notching a birdie on 18.

"Honestly, I don't look at scorecard anymore late in tournaments because it consumes my mind," said Wiley, who admitted he wasn't certain who was lead heading into the 17th. "But before we took our second shots on the 17th fairway, Roz asked me, 'Where are we at here?' and that's when we figured out how tight things were."

"It means a lot to win this, especially since I haven't won it since 1981."

Wiley earned a \$350 gift certificate and a trophy for his efforts. Andrus



ED WRIGHT

Livonia's Andrew Newman placed sixth with a 36-hole score of 161.

2016 O&E GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sept. 4-5 at Fox Creek and Whispering Willows Championship Flight
143: Matt Wiley, 144: Jordan Andrus, 145: Razmig Boghikian, 151: Marco Trevino, 153: Chris Treadwell, 161: Andrew Newman, 162: Alan Johnson, 163: Paul Otanez, 164: Paul Mazanka, 165: James McComb, 166: Nolan Peterson and Joel Hall, 167: Stephen Connolly, 171: Kenny Lee and Jeff Harrison, 172: Daniel Tacker, 173: Greg VanGorp, 176: Barry Slegers, 177: Sam Williams, 184: Mike Lightbody, 186: Michael Bean.
First Flight
156: Alex Kolpacke, 160: Jeff Orzel, 163: Kyle O'Keefe, 165: Peter Mianowski, 166: Brian Hanley, Kevin Moreno and Gordon Harrison, 168: Steven Geanides, 169: Zoz Compagnari, 171: Derek Verant, 173: John Waterworth and Thomas Mulhern, 175: Michael Cavicchio and Matt O'Neill, 178: Eric Birkle, 180: Doug Campbell and William Hanley, 182: Daniel Tondreau, 183: Gordon Stefanick, 184: Ronald Ambrose and Tommy Stansell, Jr., 192: Art Darr, 196: Craig York, 208: John Birchler, 211: Adam Buehner.
Senior Flight
156: Bill Himm, 164: Keith Girard, 165: Mark Johnson and Vincent Rhodes, 167: Ken Gardner, 168: Don Mullett.

pocketed a \$180 gift certificate for his runner-up showing while Boghikian won a \$170 gift card for placing first in the net standings.

Westland residents Alex Kolpacke (156) and Jeff Orzel (160) finished 1-2 in the first flight standings.

Livonia's Bill Himm successfully defended his senior flight title with a 156 — eight shots better than runner-up Keith Girard, also of Livonia.

Sunday's first round was played at Fox Creek Golf Course in Livonia.

Young Rockets set for launch

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Competing in the wake of significant losses to graduation, Westland John Glenn's volleyball team is going to have to be meticulous during the coming weeks, said second-year head coach Ron Staples.

"We will be competitive, but we have to do all the little things to compete in are league," said Staples, whose team captured a Division 1 district championship in 2015. "It comes down to serve-serve and limiting unforced serve errors."

"We cannot just give points away. We have to make teams earn them."

Among the Rockets' graduated seniors were Ryan Clemmons, Shelby Hodges, Denaé Tolu, Tori Dulock and Jeanette Wakeford.

On the bright side, John Glenn returns a talented corps of players who logged extensive minutes last fall: Kori Spader, Kaitlin McGrath, Carley Loving, Megan Buford, Aylin Barajas, Sharon Woodard and Zharia Jackson.

Staples listed Sara Sparrow, Nicole Szymanski, Caitlyn Deverney, Briann Bagwell and Savannah Madison among his group of "promising newcomers."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

RED golf outing

Real Estate Donations, USA is proud to sponsor a collaborative partnership golf outing benefiting female veterans in need and the Redford Union High School baseball dugouts.

The outing will be held at noon Sunday, Oct. 2, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

The \$100 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with a scramble format, a cart, steak/chicken dinner, drink tickets (one-hour open bar sponsored by RED) and a hot dog, chips and pop at the turn.

To register, contact Robert Miller at 248-568-2448 or rmiller@redusa.us or Arlene Callaghan of Woman Supporting Women Veterans at 810-599-6014 or wswvets@gmail.com.

Checks should be made payable to Real Estate Donations.

Stevenson soccer alumni game

All Stevenson High School boys soccer alumni are invited to a Stevenson soccer alumni game at 7 p.m. Friday.

The game will take place under the lights on the Stevenson field immediately following the boys varsity game against South Lyon East. So far players, from 1988-2016 have replied that they plan to attend.

Stevenson alumni T-shirts can be ordered for \$10 to \$15 per shirt. If you

can join the soccer alumni, contact David Burton, junior varsity head coach and varsity assistant coach, at dburton@twmi.rr.com and provide your graduation year and shirt size.

Ruffed Grouse banquet

The Greater Southeast Michigan Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society will host its 39th annual Conservation and Sportsmen's Banquet on Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia.

The event will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

As with all RGS fundraisers, proceeds from this event will be used to enhance habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other forest wildlife.

The evening will feature a live and silent auction, games, drawings and door prizes, highlighted with the finest selection of quality firearms, artwork and collectibles.

Individual membership and dinner tickets are \$75. There is also a membership and spouse package for \$100 (includes two dinners) and a junior membership and dinner ticket for \$40 (17 and under).

Banquet, Conservation, Sustaining and Gold sponsorship packages are also available at \$275, \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

For more information, call Jim Gilsdorf at 734-662-7512.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

Franklin harriers get younger fast

Ed Wright

hometownlife.com

One look at the Livonia Franklin girls cross country team's roster, and you'd think the Patriots stopped for a water break at the fountain of youth.

With three of the top seven runners from last season (Natalie Douglas, Julie Wonch and Natalie Martinez) graduated, the Patriots will be in somewhat of a rebuilding (or reloading) mode this fall.

"This year's team is suddenly much younger than last year, where the varsity

was a majority of juniors and seniors," Franklin head coach Dave Bjorklund said. "The good news is that we have a large freshman class and several of them look promising to make varsity contributions."

The Patriots' unquestioned No. 1 performer is sophomore Erin Seibert, who qualified for the Division 1 state meet as a freshman. She placed 13th at the D1 regional meet and seventh at the KLAA Kensington Conference event.



Seibert

Seibert will be joined at the front of the Patriots' pack by senior Camryn Zurawski, sophomore newcomer Hailey Kutruksis and sophomore Allyson Stabler, who made her mark at the varsity level last fall.

Other varsity competitors include junior Kaylee English, senior Emma Devine, and freshmen Ashley deGuise and Cassie Young.

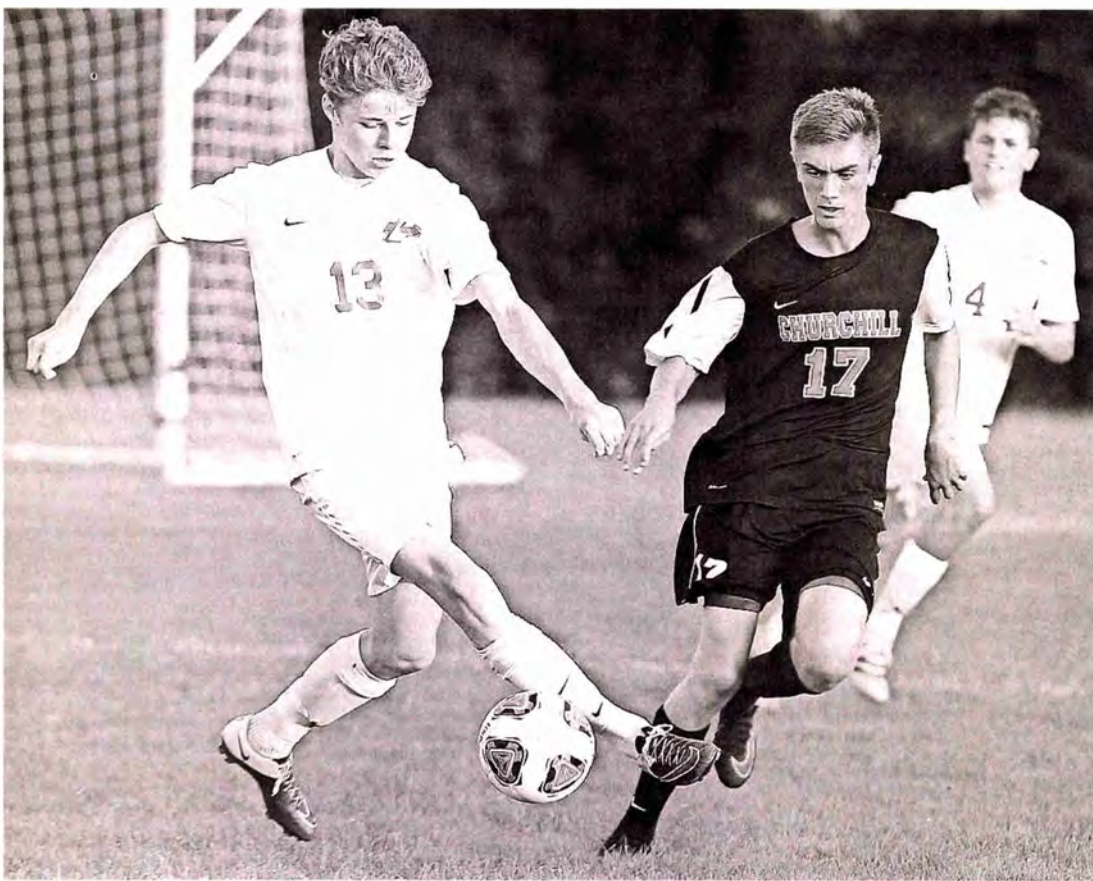
"Right now we have about eight or nine kids battling for the seven varsity spots, which is a good thing," Bjorklund

said. "Our youth is our strength, and we count on Zurawski's leadership among the varsity."

"Our ninth- and 10-graders recently did very well at the Mustang Invite at Cass Benton. We are coming off of a very successful season last year, and other teams in the division and conference are much improved. I am hoping that as our young kids improve, our team standings and success will as well."

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Churchill's Anthony Paul (17) marks Canton's Ryen O'Meara during Tuesday night's clash. The contest opened up the KLAA South Division schedule for both teams.

PREP BOYS TENNIS

Spartans drop pair of matches at the 'Park'

Ed Wright

hometownlife.com

The Livonia Stevenson boys tennis team's first two matches of the season were no walk in the "Park".

Playing on back-to-back Tuesdays (Aug. 23 and 30) at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's courts, the Spartans lost to Plymouth, 8-1, before dropping a 7-2 decision to Salem.

The only point the Spartans managed to muster against the Wildcats came at No. 5 doubles, where senior Peter Akel and junior Brian Stemen out-stroked Haroon Zahoor and Darren Tascillo, 6-4, 6-1.

Stevenson's No. 4 doubles duo of Kevin Dunne and Caleb Williamson had Musa Zahoor and Rishabh Agrawal on the ropes before dropping a 0-6, 6-4, 6-3 match.

The Wildcats swept the singles matches behind strong play from No. 1 man Matt Decker, who ousted Cade Bunton, 6-0, 6-1; No. 2 swinger Deven Patel, who was too much for Jeff Della Mora, 6-1, 6-0; No. 3 player Yogesh Mojanraj, who out-pointed Scott Findlay, 6-2, 6-3; and No. 4 netter Aditya Suryakumar, who won 6-1, 6-3 over Jacob Redd.

Plymouth top doubles tandem of Justin Kapke and Ramana Ramathan defeated Stevenson's Tom Dunne and Steve Dunne, 6-3, 6-4, while Anoop Kotha and Nathan Tseng blanked Josh Maj and Alec Said, 6-0, 6-0.

The Spartans' No. 3 doubles pairing of Abe Alrabady and Tom Andrews played well in spurts before dropping a 6-4, 6-4 decision to Prathik Addeppali and Rohit Narayanan.

Rocks Roll

Stevenson's highlights against Salem were Della Mora's 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 triumph over Mauricio Barrera at No. 2 singles and Findlay's 7-6, 6-4 win over Ajay Bharathan.

Bunton lost to Eric Liu, 6-1, 6-2 at No. 1 singles and Salem's Jason Zheng had his way with Akel at No. 4 singles, 6-2, 6-3.

Stevenson didn't win a set in doubles play.

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TOM BEAUDOIN
Stevenson No. 1 doubles player Steve Dunne returns a shot during the Spartans' match against Salem.

Canton cruises to victory

Churchill unable to stop wave after wave of Chiefs' pressure

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

In the opening moments Tuesday night, Livonia Churchill had a glorious chance to get on the scoreboard first against Canton.

But Chiefs' senior goalkeeper Steven Page dove to rob the Chargers' early attempt, and that seemed to awaken a sleeping giant. Pretty much the rest of the night at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity soccer field, the host Chiefs ran past Churchill players en route to a convincing 5-1 victory.

"It's always important to make a big save like that, because it gets us even more motivated," said Canton senior defender and co-captain Matt Rockafellow, with a glint in his eye.

Not much needs to be said or done for Canton to turn on the jets; Tuesday's lopsided win in the KLAA South Division opener for both teams upped the Chiefs record to 7-0-1 overall. Churchill dropped to 3-2 with the loss.

"We always give them games, Churchill kids are tough and we play hard," Chargers head varsity boys soccer coach Matthew Grodzicki said. "It's just tough, you got to score the first goal. You can't spot two or three and expect to come back and get a result."

"We work hard, there's no doubt, and we'll compete and I'm sure Mark (Zemanski) will tell you the same thing. But that team's deep."

Zemanski already had a pretty good team returning from 2015, when the Chiefs lost in the Division 1 finals. The 2016 squad looks to be even better and deeper, what with the return of senior forward Mohamad Miri from a major knee injury that knocked him out almost all of last season.

Bigger and better

"We're bigger than we were last year, which has helped us," Zemanski said. "We have a lot of guys back. Mo coming back from an injury is huge. I like our team, we're playing well."

Miri had a goal and two assists, and was rewarded by sitting out the final 26 minutes of the second half to enable a talented bunch of reserve players to trot out onto the pitch.

According to Miri, who looks as though he'd fit right in with a college team, he came into this season on a mission to make up for last year's lost opportunity.

"I just had to work twice as hard, because I was so far behind," Miri said. "Even when I came back (from nearly eight months on the sidelines) I had four or five months I was trying to rebuild myself because I was so slow."

"I had to make sure I was working harder than everyone on the field, I made sure I was at the gym after practice every single day. I put in the best effort I could and it's starting to pay off now."

Teaming up

Another player not around for the Chiefs' 2015 state playoff run, former Michigan Wolves Academy player Alex Spratte, teamed up with Miri to open the scoring at 6:20 of the first half.

Canton senior midfielder Ryen O'Meara chipped the ball along the right side to Miri, who dashed deep into the Churchill zone before serving a feed into the box where Spratte made good with a header.

With less than 26 minutes left in the opening half, Rockafellow doubled the lead to 2-0.

Senior midfielder Joey Chung nudged a rebound out to Rockafellow, located a few yards above the top of the box, and he blasted a laser inside

the right post behind Chargers' goalie Michael Lubonja.

"Joey (Chung) just sent me a great ball right outside the box and I nailed it," Rockafellow said. "I put my head down, moved my foot and rocketed it right in the corner."

Lubonja denied the Chiefs on a few top-notch chances in subsequent minutes, diving to deny a scoring attempt by junior midfielder Luke Kurili.

That only delayed Canton's third goal of the half, scored with about 7:45 remaining to make it a 3-0 spread.

Junior midfielder Avery Olson floated the ball into the middle of the box and Kurili headed it up and over the Churchill goalkeeper.

Shutout spoiled

The Chargers got on the board with 1:37 left when senior Uthman Babatunde's low drive from inside the box whizzed past Page (junior David McGrath played the second half).

Canton upped its edge to 4-1 with 34:30 remaining in the tilt. Rockafellow delivered a crisp pass from the right side of the box right in front to Miri for the slam-dunk goal.

Closing out the scoring at 13:48 was O'Meara, who blasted an ankle-high shot off the left post and in.

Meanwhile, Grodzicki saw plenty of positives from his team despite the one-sided result. "Devin McCulley's our workhorse in the middle, he plays our No. 10 spot," Grodzicki said. "He always hustles no matter what. I'm proud of the way he runs the team, controls the midfield. He had his hands full today."

"Meritan Jusufi in the back and Michael Hudock, those guys come out and play 80 minutes for me. Against a team like this when you do a lot of defensive chasing, it's tough."

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PHELPS

Continued from Page B1

"During most of my coaching jobs, I've had to start from scratch. I enjoy the challenge of building a program, which I did at Novi and at Adrian College. We graduated 13 seniors from last year's Franklin team and we only have three seniors back, so our goals will be smaller and attainable than in recent years.

"The No. 1 thing I'll ask our players to do is get better every day."

DAN PHELPS

Livonia Franklin head hockey coach

"The No. 1 thing I'll ask our players to do is get better every day."

Phelps' full-time job these days is as a supervisor for the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. He still lives in Livonia, near

his alma mater Franklin, with his wife and daughter.

Phelps' tenure at Adrian College was remarkable as he led the Bulldogs to an overall record of 165-65 and led them to four consecutive trips to the American Collegiate Hockey Association's national tournament.

"That was a full-time job at Adrian," Phelps said. "But I still lived in Livonia during that period. I love the Franklin community and will always bleed red and blue."

"I've played for and coached with

some outstanding coaches and I feel an obligation to pass on what I've learned to the kids at Franklin. It's refreshing, actually, getting back to coach high school hockey. I want to continue the successful stretch Dennis started."

Coaching with Phelps will be assistants Jimmy Harms and Steve Piccoli. "You're only as good as the people you surround yourself with, and I am very excited to be coaching alongside these two guys."

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Christenbury Creek was developed by Arteva Homes. The developer is also the builder of two of the Homearama showcase homes.

HBA OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Homearama highlights local lifestyles; charity preview Sept. 21

The eight custom-built new homes showcased in Homearama 2016 at Christenbury Creek in Macomb Township will be unveiled Wednesday, Sept. 21, at a charity preview party to benefit the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. Homearama 2016 is presented by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

The charity gala will be held from 6-10 p.m. at Christenbury Creek, 49758 Card Road. Guests will enjoy extensive hors d'oeuvres and cocktails presented by Andiamo and Nino Salvaggio then will have the opportunity to stroll through the fully decorated, furnished and landscaped homes built by four of the region's custom home builders.

The homes feature the latest in building trends, technology and interior design. Preview party guests will be

among the first to tour the homes and will have the opportunity to speak to the builders, interior designers and various other professionals who were a part of creating these showcase homes. "Bringing the Dream Home" is the theme of Homearama 2016 and visitors will experience many affordable ideas that can be incorporated into their own homes. Guests will receive a Homearama Plan Book at the event featuring floor plans and other information on the homes.

Christenbury Creek was developed by Arteva Homes. The developer is also the builder of two of the Homearama showcase homes. Other builders, each featuring two homes, include Lassale Homes, Sunset Homes and Vitale Companies. The homes range in price from \$449,000 to \$749,500.

Tickets for the charity

preview party cost \$100 per person and include a "come back" ticket for use once during the run of the public event beginning on Sept. 23. For the charity preview party, there will be a complimentary on-site executive shuttle service. Dress for the evening is casual-chic. Limited tickets are available at www.HomearamaHBA.com.

Following the charity preview, Homearama 2016 will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends, Friday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 25, Thursday, Sept. 29, through Sunday, Oct. 2, and Thursday, Oct. 6, through Sunday, Oct. 9. The event features free on-site parking. Advance tickets for use on one day during the run of the program may be purchased online for \$10 per person or at the gate for \$12 per person. There is no charge for children 15 and under when accompanied by an

adult. A portion of the proceeds from the public event will benefit HBA's Charitable & Educational Foundation, the American Red Cross and the Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation.

For more information, visit www.HomearamaHBA.com or call 248-737-4477.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (HBA) is a trade association representing over 800 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. Membership nationwide includes more than 175,000 individuals and companies.



Recent residential construction data shows that the size and costs of new homes have moved downward over the past year, notes the National Association of Realtors which cites affordability concerns.

JULIE BROWN

Industry report cites need for more housing for middle-income, lower-income buyers

Pending home sales expanded in most of the country in July and reached their second highest reading in over a decade, according to the National Association of Realtors. Only the Midwest saw a dip in contract activity for July.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, rose 1.3 percent to 111.3 in July from a downwardly revised 109.9 in June and is now 1.4 percent higher than July 2015 (109.8). The index is now at its second highest reading this year after April (115.0).

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says a sizable jump in the West lifted pending home sales higher in July. "Amidst tight inventory conditions that have lingered the entire summer, contract activity last month was able to pick

up at least modestly in a majority of areas," he said. "More home shoppers having success is good news for the housing market heading into the fall, but buyers still have few choices and little time before deciding to make an offer on a home available for sale. There's little doubt there'd be more sales activity right now if there were more affordable listings on the market."

Added Yun, "The index in the West last month was the highest in over three years largely because of stronger labor market conditions. If home building increases in the region to tame price growth and alleviate the ongoing affordability concerns, the healthy rate of job gains should support more sales."

Recent residential construction data shows that the size and costs of new homes

has moved downward over the past year. According to Yun, this is an early indication that home builders are beginning to shift away from building larger, more expensive homes for the upper end of the market to focusing more on properties geared for buyers in the middle and lower price tiers.

"Realtors in several high-cost areas have been saying for quite a while that there is robust demand for single-family starter homes and townhomes at an affordable price point for young buyers," added Yun. "The homeownership rate won't move up from its over 50-year low without a meaningful boost from first-time buyers, whose participation has yet to noticeably increase so far this year despite mortgage rates near all-time lows."

Existing-home sales this year are forecast to be around

5.38 million, a 2.8-percent increase from 2015 and the highest annual pace since 2006 (6.48 million). After accelerating to 6.8 percent a year ago, national median existing-home price growth is forecast to slightly moderate to around 4 percent.

Regional breakdown

The PHSI in the Northeast moved up 0.8 percent to 96.8 in July, and is now 1.1 percent above a year ago. In the Midwest the index decreased 2.9 percent to 105.8 in July, and is now 1.1 percent lower than July 2015.

Pending home sales in the South inched higher (0.8 percent) to an index of 123.9 in July and are now 0.4 percent higher than last July. The index in the West surged 7.3 percent in July to 108.7, and is now 6.2 percent above a year ago.

'Reasonable repair' standard applied by court on property

Q: I own an apartment complex. Sometimes, I'm not sure whether I should make certain repairs to the common area. What are my legal responsibilities?

A: It would be best to consult with your attorney regarding specific questions concerning repair requirements. However, a recent unpublished Michigan appellate court decision is instructive in this regard — *Tremper vs. Westland Colonial Village Apartments* (MILW No. 08-92024).

The decision confirmed that the applicable statute, MCL 554.139, only requires that common area be "fit

for the use intended" in contrast with the responsibilities in connection with "the premises," i.e., the separately leased residence, where the lessor has a higher obligation to keep the premises "in reasonable repair" and in compliance with applicable health and safety laws. In this case, a common area sidewalk had a section of pavement that was one inch higher than another section, which allegedly caused a trip and fall accident. The court ruled in favor of the defendant apartment complex owner, stating that there was no question that the sidewalk was fit for its intended purpose; however, it is interesting to note that a dissent was filed by one judge stating that this question was for a jury to decide, not the court.

Q: We purchased a home inclusive of sod and underground sprinkler system which was in place along the boundary line with an adjacent vacant lot. We have maintained that sprinkler system and continuously mowed, fertilized and watered the sod for over 16 years. Now our lot neighbor is beginning to construct a home on the adjacent lot and a survey revealed that a section of land consisting of portions of the sod and sprinkler system were part of his lot. Do we have any rights in terms of adverse possession?

A: Probably not. In a similar case out of Nebraska, the court held that although the possession of the adjacent lot owner was actual, continuous, exclusive and under a claim of ownership for the statutory period, it was not "notorious." In effect, neither the underground sprinkler system nor its sprinkler were visible and therefore did not satisfy the requirement of being "notorious" in order to establish adverse possession. Of course each case is factually intensive. In effect, the court in that case was saying that something more than a neighbor watering and mowing over the property line is needed to alert a reasonable owner that his title is in danger and he must take steps to protect his interest, i.e., to be "notorious."

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 bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Benefit Estate Sale

Hall & Hunter Realtors will hold its 13th annual Estate Sale of Antiques, Collectibles and Treasures to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County.

It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Hall & Hunter Realtors, 442 S. Old Woodward Ave. in Birmingham.

Since Hall & Hunter started this tradition 11 years ago, the firm has donated \$250,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County. For more information, go to HollandHunter.com or call 248-644-3500.

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Garage-Tag Sale
 Canton Fri. 9/9 - Sat. 9/10 9a-4p Fur coat, Antique turn, toys, sewing machine, designer purses- 327 Robin Dr

Canton Multi-Family Garage Sales @ Canton Glade Condos. Haggerty btwn Cherry Hill & Ford. Huge Variety Sat-Sun Sept 10-11 9-4p

Canton Pebble Creek Subside Sale 3 hrs. 9/8-Sat. 9/10 9am-5pm off Palmer Rd. btwn Honan & Lotz

CANTON- SALE Fri 9/9 & Sat 9/10 9a-4p Something for everyone! 6625 Whitehurst

Canton Windsor Park Subside Sale 9-3 Thurs. 9/8-Sat 9/10 E. of Sheldon to Emerson N. of Warren to Arlington www.windsorparkcanton.org

Farming Hills 3 Family Sale 28848 W. King William Dr. in Dunbar Oaks Subdivision off Drake S. of 13 Mile. Thurs. 9/8-Sat. 9/10 9am-5pm

Livonia 27541 Buckingham (W. of Inkster rd. N. of 96) Thurs 9/8-Fri 9/9 9a-4p

Livonia-Sat. 9/10 & Sun. 9/11 10am-5p Furniture, household & clothing 14715 Taylor Blvd. (3 Mile & Inkster Rd)

Garage-Tag Sale
 Livonia Thurs. 9/8 - Sat. 9/10 9am-4pm household, clothing, toys, collectibles. Christmas, jewelry 27925 Oakley

Millard- 2232 S. Hickory Ridge Road. 1 Mile S. of M59. Sept 8-9th. 9-5pm. Collectibles, household, clothes, jewelry, antiques and MORE!!!

Plymouth- Great Selection of Antiques-Tables, Dressers, Sideboard w/mirror, windows, doors, old work bench, 4 board cupboard, ladders, vintage books, cement rocky boy. MUCH MORE! 655 Forest, Sept. 8-10th. 9-5pm. 1 blk W of Main 2 bks S of Ann Arbor Trl.

PLYMOUTH: MULTI-FAMILY 13210 Beacon Hill Dr. N of Ann Arbor Trail. S of R. Territorial. Thursday, Sept 8th: 9-5p, Friday, Sept 9th: 9-4p.

Plymouth Multi Family Sale Something for Everyone! Thurs. 9/8 - Sat. 9/10 9am-5pm 12940 Drury Lane

MOVING SALE
 Redford, Garage Sale, 20493 MacArthur, Sat: Sept. 10, 9-4 pm., Sun: Sept. 11 9-4 pm., Oven, Patio set, bedroom set, yard tools, TV, microwave, and much more. Dir: off 8 mile btw Inkster and Beech Daly.

GARAGE SALE
 South Lyon, 11958 Crooked Ln, Sat. Sept 10, 10-5. Antique Furniture, Kid's Bed, Mini Fridge, Legos, Toys, Handicap items, plus more.

GARAGE SALE
 South Lyon Garage Sale - Sat 9/10 & Sun 9/11 9-43. GALEVIEW DR 9-5p Cool Stuff, Household Items & Furn.

WESTLAND- GIGANTIC YARD SALE! 9/10 9a-4p HOLIDAY PARK TOWNHOUSES, Wayne Rd. btw Joy & Warren. Rain date 9/11.

White Lake Garage/Moving Sale Antiques, furn., lawn equip, bikes, toys, tools Fri. 9/9 & Sat. 9/10 8am-4pm 1820 Carla Hills

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Whirlpool top load water saver washer & mos. old & GE Profile dryer. LG drum 1 yr old. Both \$500 313-295-0899

Cemetery Lots
 Glen Eden Cemetery; 2 plots, Block 20, Garden of Holy Trinity, Section 1480. Graves 1 & 2. 1 for \$1000. 2 for \$1500. 248-880-6734 or 248-477-1946


Livonia Beautiful Glen Eden Indoor Crypt For 2 - St. Gabriel Mausoleum \$7,000 (valued \$15,000) 248-529-6619

Furniture & Household Items

3 bdrm sets, antique table/chairs. Silver, collectibles. 248-790-1827

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.375	0	2.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.375	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.25	0	2.49	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.25	0	2.5	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.625	0	2.875	0
Lenderful LLC	1326443	lenderful.com	3.375	0	2.875	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.5	-0.125	2.75	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	2.875	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.5	0.25	2.875	0

Above information available as of 9/2/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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