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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

SUNDAY 03.26.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Petition to recall Godbout approved

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

A petition seeking to recall Westland City Council President James Godbout was approved Thursday by the Wayne County Election Commission.

Resident Steve Boron had submitted three petitions seeking to recall Godbout. As a reason for the recall, the petitions cite the fact that Godbout voted in favor of a city-wide lighting assessment; that he voted in 2016 to raise water rates while being delinquent on his own water bill; and that he voted for a \$10 million bond issue to pay for a citywide upgrade to smart meters.

Only one petition is allowed



Godbout

to go forward and the commission approved the water rate petition for circulation — the first petition presented. The petition will be valid for 180

days, but signatures from registered voters must be collected within a 60-day period. Approximately 5,500 signatures will be required to put the recall on the ballot, a number based on 75 percent of total votes cast in Westland in the last gubernatorial race. Boron said he has about 40 people to go door-to-door to gather signatures.

"It is what it is. They (petition circulators) will go out and say what they will say. I'll deal with it as it goes along," said Godbout, first appointed to fill a council vacancy in 2000 and first elected in 2001. "I have to do what I feel is best. I always have had the best interest of the city as a whole at heart."

Under state law, the election commission only considers whether the petition language is clear — it doesn't look at whether the language is true or accurate. In this case, Godbout said as council president he calls for a vote, but doesn't cast a vote unless there is a roll call vote.

"The only vote that I cast

was for the lighting assessment," he said. "I had already made payment arrangements for the water bill."

A 2012 change in state law requires that a recalled candidate run against another candidate to keep their position. Previously, there could have been two elections — one to decide if an official should be recalled then, if needed, a second to fill the vacated spot.

"They will try to get their signatures. If they do, I'll run in the fall and they won't be able to recall me for the rest of the term," said Godbout, the highest vote-getter in the last two elections. "When I'm out in stores or a restaurant, I get a lot more positive feedback

from people than negative. I'm staying positive and will keep doing what I've been doing."

In addition to the recall, Boron said he is working on a referendum to place a term-limit proposal on the ballot. The proposal would be to limit city elected officials to serving a lifetime total of 12 years. That petition requires 3,000 votes and would be submitted to the city clerk, then forwarded for review by the Michigan attorney general. If approved by the attorney general, the referendum could then go on the ballot.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Caleb White gets a quick hug from Genesis House II resident Christina Jones during a March 18 game night. Caleb is known by name by most of the residents and they approach him easily to say hello.

Veterans 'ramp' up to help other veterans

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

A local veterans group is working to provide handicap-accessible ramps to Westland veterans.

The Veterans of Westland, a committee formed at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, has already built a couple of the aluminum ramps and is raising money to construct more. But league president Vic Barra is planning for a different type of ramp program.

"The league would maintain ownership of the ramps. They are aluminum and fabricated in a modular fashion in a common design," Barra said. "So as the ramps are returned when the veterans no longer use them, the ramp can be configured with our inventory to create ramps as needed for other veterans."

On the ramps built so far, the veterans were able to get the costs reduced from some \$5,000 to \$6,000 to about \$2,500. The labor is donated and Duo Guard provided the materials at cost, Barra said.

Donations to the ramp program covered the materials. There have been individual donations and support is being sought from Westland charitable groups. Any money left after adoption fees are covered at the Pets for Vets event will be split between the Last Day Dog Rescue and the veterans ramp program.

Tara Cooper, who sells Tupperware, is hosting a fundraiser for the Veterans of Westland ramp program. She is donating 40 percent of profits on sales to the group through March 30. There is a special link that must be used for the orders to be tracked. There is a link on the Veterans of Westland Facebook page.

"The ramp costs the veterans nothing. We have paralyzed veterans with struggling families," Barra said. "We build the ramps, we maintain ownership of the ramp and we maintain it. All the ramps are built to ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) guidelines with high-quality materials."

Eventually, Barra said he hopes the veterans will raise enough funds to have stock on hand for 8-10 ramps that could be installed as needed at the homes of local veterans. Some veterans have a permanent disability requiring the ramp, he said, while others have a temporary need after being released from a hospital.

See RAMPS, Page A2

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DETROIT: 'BIG PART OF WHO I AM'

Since age 6, Caleb White has been reaching out to homeless people

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

At age 6, Caleb White was making a difference where many others would look away.

Caleb, now 14, a Northville resident and a freshman at Catholic Central High School in Novi, has for years been stopping on Detroit street corners and at shelters to ease the lives of homeless people.

"If I were in that position, I would want help, too," Caleb said during an event at a Detroit shelter.

"I guess I just like to help," he added. "I make a lot of friends here through volunteering. It's a big part of who I am."

He is founder of the Caleb White Project, a charitable organization with a two-fold mission: to aid down-on-their-luck people and to develop leadership skills among young people that will equip them to serve their communities.

"They need to eventually step up and pass it on, too," he said.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amanda Kopp gives Caleb White receives the Virtue, Values and Vision award from National Catholic Educational Association on Jan. 31.

See CALEB, Page A3



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NANKIN MILLS CALENDAR

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in the historic Nankin Mills Gristmill and Wayne County Park's Office at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Two indoor presentations for ages 12 to adult; \$3 per person, call Park Office at 734-261-1990 to pre-register:

Gristmill families of Nankin Mills

» 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8

Nankin Mills operated as a Gristmill (grinding flour from grains) from 1842-1918. Many different families owned and operated the mill over the years and lived in the

little house beside the Mill. Learn the history of our beautiful, historic Mill and Miller's house, longtime landmarks on Ann Arbor Trail.

Wildflowers of Southeastern Michigan

» 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29

Not only are they beautiful, but our native wildflowers have fascinating folk stories. You will learn how they were used in the past for food, medicine and other purposes as well as intriguing natural history of some of our favorite native wildflowers, such



You can't miss Frog Frenzy at Nankin Mills.

as how ants help to plant trillium in the forest.

One program for the whole family, ages 6 to adult, \$6 per child and \$2 per adult, call Park Office at 734-261-1990 to pre-register:

Frog Frenzy

» 6-8 p.m. Saturday, April 29

Join us to learn about the many different kinds of frogs that call Michigan home and meet some live frogs! Children will create an amphibian craft and then we will all venture outside to visit our pond to catch and release some of our native frogs! Those interested in more frog

adventures can follow our Naturalist and car-pool a few miles to another site in Holliday Nature Preserve to enjoy the spring symphony of frog romance.

Earth Day Extravaganza

» 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 22 (free; no registration required)

Join Nankin Mills for a special day to celebrate all things Mother Earth. Live animal shows, music, crafts, speakers, nutty nature reenactors and educational demonstrations will all be a part of the family fun.

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RAMPS

Continued from Page A1

"If a guy gets out of the University of Michigan Hospital and will have three months in a wheelchair, we want to install a ramp in one week," Barra said. "It takes 90-120 days on the VA (Veterans Administration) list. We'll take care of Westland ramp. It's a good investment in the community."

Word is getting out about the ramp program. Barra said he recently received a call from the son of an 89-year-old World War II Air Force veteran who is in need of a ramp in Westland.

"We will begin moving forward on this needed ramp immediately. My biggest concern is that the demand will exceed supply," Barra said.



Volunteer labor builds ramps for area veterans. That includes Vic Barra, president of the Wayne-Ford Civic League (left), Jim Hart, Westland Councilman Michael Kehrer and Mike Londeau.

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Game night at homeless shelter: 'Everyone's equal'

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Saturday evening on Detroit's west side, in the basement of a shelter for homeless people.

Some have to be here, some want to be here, but people in both groups are having a good time.

There's pizza and pop, games like Jenga, Connect Four and Sequence, plus the chance to hand-paint a picture frame or a birdhouse-shaped knick-knack.

Players are talking about their games or plotting their moves, young children are shouting and running in the hall chasing balloons. At the crafts table, there's quiet conversation.

It's another family game night sponsored by the Caleb White Project, a charitable organization named for the Catholic



Longtime volunteer Pete Hayek (left) plays Sequence with resident Artina Armstrong at Genesis House II on March 18.

Central High School freshman who's been reaching out to homeless people since he was 6. Caleb and other volunteers, at least one Saturday each month, visit the shelter, Genesis House II, for games, socializing and a pizza

dinner. "I have fun down here," said Artesha Davis, who was attending her third game night, while at the crafts table. Davis had just finished playing Sequence, in which participants draw playing cards and

try to match them to cards depicted on the board in an effort to get five matches in a row. Daughter Takesha, 9, won the game; Davis was at the shelter with her and another daughter, Takela.

"Everything," Davis said when asked what she likes about the events. "Just being in the room, talking with people. I'm a people person."

The game nights bring together people of different ages, races and experiences and cross city-suburban boundaries in a personal way.

"Everyone's equal" and people who normally wouldn't socialize together do so, said Pete Hayek of Northville, who was volunteering for game night March 18. "That's the magic of game night."

Kim Winfrey was at

one end of the crafts table, quietly painting a picture frame. It was her first game night; she went down to dinner, she said, and decided to join the fun.

"Fantastic," she said when told Caleb had organized the evening. "That's so nice." She asked to meet Caleb and he later introduced himself.

"Those one-on-one communications, I think, are some of the biggest parts of what we do," Caleb said.

Winfrey, formerly a food-service manager, said her life unraveled after her husband Matthew died — seven years ago to the day. "My career, my education, everything. Everything got put on hold," she said.

Now, she said, she's trying to rebuild, getting job training in the culi-

nary arts and also studying online through the University of Phoenix.

Julissa Gutierrez of Lincoln Park was volunteering at the March 18 game night, prompted by her son, Angelo, 7, who had joined the crafters.

"He just wants to come and help," Gutierrez said. "He said he was inspired by Caleb."

Caleb has been leading the game nights for about three years. His brother Noah, who is 9, came up with the idea, Caleb said, because it combines two of Noah's favorite things: helping people and playing board games.

"People enjoy the idea of just coming down and having a good time," Caleb said.

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CALEB

Continued from Page A1

'True heart of gold'

Caleb, with the support of family, friends, classmates and volunteers and donors, plus the backing of corporate heavy hitters like Quick-En Loans' Dan Gilbert, offers people in need direct aid in a variety of ways. Among them:

» Each year since 2008, he's gone to Detroit at Christmas time to hand out care packages, with essentials like hats, gloves, food, toiletries and, more recently, socks.

"We don't make them feel embarrassed or anything like that," Caleb said. "Usually, everybody we come across is super thankful."

» Every summer since 2014, he and other volunteers set aside a day to distribute backpacks stuffed with school supplies to Detroit children. The back-to-school event has become a miniature carnival, with food,

games and activities, plus free haircuts and manicures.

» At least one Saturday each month, he and his crew visit Genesis House II, a west-side shelter for homeless women and children that's part of the Detroit Rescue Mission. Young people, the middle-aged and seniors, black and white, enjoy pizza and pop, laugh and talk and play games and work on crafts.

"Everyone's equal" and people who normally wouldn't socialize together do so, said Pete Hayek of Northville, who was volunteering for the March 18 game night. "That's the magic of game night."

» Caleb and volunteers in December threw a Christmas party for about 60 homeless military veterans at another DRM shelter. Sponsors that included Domino's Pizza, Novi's Oak Pointe Church and the Catholic Central wrestling team "adopted" veterans, providing each with a personalized gift package. Caleb and other volun-

teers had interviewed the men beforehand to find out their needs, wants — and clothing sizes.

"Caleb White is dear to our hearts. He is a young man with a true heart of gold," Chad Audi, president of Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, said in an email. "Detroit needs more difference-makers like Caleb White."

Empathy started early

Caleb's concern started when he was 6.

"He saw somebody sleeping outdoors on the way home from the circus and wanted to build him a house," said his mother, Melissa Kennedy.

He also asked questions. "I didn't know what homelessness meant," Caleb said.

Later that year, before Christmas, Caleb returned to Detroit with about 10 care packages, handing them out to people on the streets.

"That's when all of this began," he said. "Every year after that, more people got involved."

The effort's reach grew, too; Caleb's most recent gift distribution, in which he got help from CC wrestlers, totaled about 250 gifts.

Caleb helps without judgment. He recognizes some are homeless because of poor decisions, others because of circumstances beyond their control and the lack of a support system.

"It doesn't matter what choices you made," he said. "We're going to help you either way."

He is, in part, motivated by his Catholic faith. "We're called to live like Jesus or called to walk in his footsteps," he said.

The work keeps everyone — his mother, father Bryan White and other family members, Caleb White Project board members and fellow Shamrocks and other volunteers — active.

"I always joke that Caleb sort of gets us into these projects before I have a chance to think about it," Melissa Kennedy said, adding the projects lead to "crazy busy" times. "It always comes together."

Caleb, however, still finds time for CC sports, like track and cross country, his schoolwork, playing the French horn and, now, driver's ed.

Fostering leadership

Caleb often speaks to school groups about service — pitching in to make the world a better place. The talks are part of the leadership-building mission; another part is the CWP leadership board, which is made up of young people like himself.

"He is passionate about homelessness, but he really just wants young people to understand that they can make a difference and he challenges them to be leaders in something that they care about," his mother said.

He is also increasingly sought after by adult audiences. Earlier this month in Miami, Caleb spoke to about 300 executives from the vaccine division of Merck & Co., the pharmaceutical firm, about service. His talk followed a Merck-sponsored event — a game

night, with a traditional Cuban dinner — at a Miami shelter the previous day.

"He's got a movement going," said Hayek, who works in Merck's vaccine division. Hayek helped book Caleb for the event and for a smaller Merck gathering in Indianapolis last August.

"The impression that Caleb made in Miami was long-lasting," Hayek wrote later in an email. "Merck employees left inspired by his talk and by their game-night experience. Our vaccine teams feel a great responsibility to protect our young people and Caleb reminded them why they do what they do."

Caleb has won recognition for his work, including the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, the Governor's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award and, most recently, the National Catholic Educational Association's Virtues, Vision and Valor Award.

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Trial date set in homicide case

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

The three suspects accused in a double homicide in a Westland neighborhood will face a jury trial later this year.

Dominik Charleston, 19, of Romulus, Amber Tackett, 17, of Taylor and Kobi Taylor, 19 and homeless, are scheduled to go before a jury June 19 in Detroit's Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, according to online court records. The three are charged in the homicides of Jordan Baker, 19, of Wayne and Howard Wick, 35, of Westland, both of whom were found shot to death Feb. 6 in the neighborhood near Norene and Treadwell streets.

Charleston faces two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of felony murder, two counts of armed robbery and one count of felony firearm. Both Taylor and Tackett are charged with



The three defendants, Amber Marie Tackett, Dominik Lou Charleston, and Kobi Austin Taylor, listen to the proceedings of the pretrial examination held March 10 in Westland.

two counts of felony murder, two counts of armed robbery and one count of felony firearm. If convicted, all three face a maximum of life in prison.

A final conference will take place in the case May 12 in the downtown courthouse before Circuit Judge Qiana Lillard. The three were arraigned in circuit court March 17, a week

after being bound over on all the charges from Westland's 18th District Court.

During the preliminary examination, testimony from several witnesses, including police, said the shooting deaths resulted from a drug transaction that went bad. One witness testified that Taylor was at his home earlier the night before for the Su-

per Bowl, when Taylor told him he planned on going to pick up some marijuana. Police say the three drove to the area and committed the robbery, with both Baker and Wick getting shot and killed in the process. They remain locked up in the Wayne County Jail without bond.

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Car stolen while warming up

Westland police were called Monday morning to a residence in the 30000 block of Marshall Court on the report of a stolen vehicle.

The victim said the vehicle was stolen from her driveway while it was warming up that morning. She said there were several security cameras that record that area, and she will provide footage to police.

Door lock damaged

A resident in the 8300 block of Woodcrest Drive came to the police station March 17 to report damage to the lock of her front door.

The resident said someone damaged the lock sometime during the day the day before. She said there was no entry accessed to her residence, and it appeared the damaged lock had already been replaced by management.

License plate stolen

A resident in the 8600 block of Terri Drive came to the police station March 19 to report his license plate had been taken from his vehicle.

The victim said he last saw the plate on the vehicle the day before. He noticed the next day the plate was missing from the vehicle which was parked in the street in front of the residence. He said he did not know who would have taken the license plate.

Hit-and-run

An individual whose car was parked at Macy's, 35000 Warren, came to the police station March 19 to report the vehicle had been hit

while parked.

The driver said he left the store after being inside for a few hours and observed damage to the rear passenger door and corner panel. The damage caused the rear passenger seat not to open.

Air conditioning unit taken

An individual who owns a home in the 3000 block of Rustic Lane came to the police station March 15 to report an air conditioning unit had been stolen.

The victim said he owns the home where the air conditioner was stolen from, but it is vacant. Said he last saw the unit when he was at the home in January, and when he went March 15, it was missing. No evidence was apparent at the scene, and the victim said he had no suspect information.

Tax fraud reported

A resident in the 7700 block of Merriman came to the police station March 14 to report their identity had been stolen via a fraudulent tax return.

She told police she received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service, telling her she had already filed her taxes. She told the IRS she had not filed her taxes and that someone had used her information in order to secure a tax refund. She said she did not give anyone permission to file taxes on her behalf.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Westland Police Department.

Police report: Gun-kissing man stole Red Bull

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

A district manager representing the Shell gas station at 37449 Five Mile came to the Livonia police station Thursday to report several retail frauds of stolen Red Bull by the same individual.

The manager said the suspect has entered the station on several occasions and taken cans of Red Bull without paying for them. They said the man came in on one occasion and paid for a bottle of water, but not the Red Bull he slipped in his pocket. The suspect has appeared to be a regular customer in recent weeks, allegedly claiming to be a U.S. marshal or corrections officer and carried a gun with him. The manager said at least once, the suspect took the gun out of its holster while at the regis-

ter, said, "This is my girl girlfriend" and kissed it before putting it back in its holster. Police advised to call them the next time the suspect entered the store.

Several items stolen

An employee at Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, came to the police station Wednesday to file a retail fraud report.

The suspect, believed to have been the same suspect in a retail fraud at the store Jan. 31, was seen by store employees pushing a cart to the plumbing area and selecting a several-hundred-dollar drain cleaner. He was then seen selecting two garage door openers. He then placed a call while in the paint department and selected a can of paint thinner. He reportedly was later seen trying to leave the store without paying for the

items, but was stopped by an employee. The suspect reportedly shoved the employee during a confrontation and then ran toward the parking lot, getting into a vehicle. The suspect allegedly told the employee he would shoot him if he saw him again. The car then drove toward Schoolcraft.

Retail fraud reported

Police were called Thursday afternoon to Menards, 12701 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud.

An employee told police he saw a suspect select a smart thermostat while inside the store. He reportedly was seen taking it off the shelf and opening it, concealing the thermostat in his coat pocket. He reportedly then tried to leave the store without paying, but

was stopped by an employee. He was detained until police arrived, who arrested him, but released him at the scene with a citation.

Backpack stolen

A shopper at Laurel Park Place mall, 37700 Six Mile, came to the police station Thursday to report a stolen backpack.

He said he set his backpack on a couch while shopping at H&M. When he came back, he discovered his backpack was missing. He was unsure if there were any cameras in that area and he had no suspect information. He said the backpack contained several items, including a cellphone, laptop computer, iPod, iPad, wallet, school books and binders. He told police he also reported the theft to mall security.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

Car stolen

Wayne police were dispatched Sunday to a residence in the 35300 block of Van Born on the report of a stolen vehicle.

The victim said he parked in the parking lot the night before but was unsure if he locked the door. The next morning, he discovered the vehicle was missing. He said he

was in possession of the one set of keys and the car was paid off, though he said he left a set of keys outside of the car several months ago. Those keys were taken.

Account accessed

A resident in the 4300 block of Newberry filed a police report March 16 stating her bank account had been compromised.

She said someone accessed her bank account and took money from it. She said it appeared money had been taken out near several places. The victim said she went to the bank and closed the account and a police report was requested by her bank.

Identity stolen

A resident in the 32100 block of Van Born filed a police report March 15 about identity theft.

The resident said someone opened an account with Sprint in her name without her knowledge. She said she was in the process of purchasing a house when her credit report showed she owed \$1,100.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Wayne Police Department.



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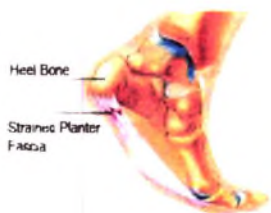
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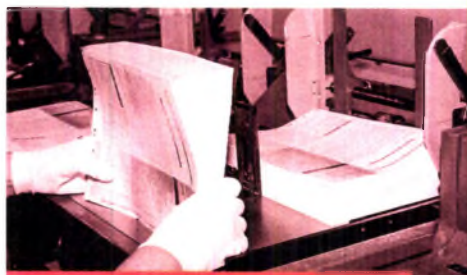
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Another Hockey Night in Westland benefits arena

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

More than 500 spectators turned out for the eighth annual Hockey Night in Westland to see Detroit Red Wings alumni take the ice against the Westland Wild Wings.

Usually drawing a sellout crowd, the charity game has raised money in recent years for improvements to Mike Modano Arena. Westland Mayor William Wild leads the Wild Wings. Also taking the ice for the Wild Wings was Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala. Wild's son Luke also played for the Wild Wings again this year.

"It was a blast to play on a line with my son Luke, who scored on a penalty shot and also in the halftime shootout," Wild said.

Former Red Wing John Ogrodnick was among the alumni taking the ice. Former Red Wing and current announcer Mickey Redmond stopped by the locker



Westland Mayor William Wild (left) with former Red Wing John Ogrodnick.

room before the game to give the Wild Wings a pep talk — and ask that they take it easy on the alumni team.

The Wild Wings, who have yet to win a game, took an early 4-1 lead but eventually lost 10-7, keeping the Red Wings Alumni team's perfect

record intact.

Before the game started, the Westland Mighty Mites team took to the ice and showed off their skills before the crowd.

"Thanks to all in attendance and the Team Westland for another great community event," Wild said.



Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala on the ice for the annual charity hockey game.



Former Red Wing and current announcer Mickey Redmond stopped by the locker room to give the Wild Wings a pep talk.

Kidney walk kickoff held in Livonia

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan hosted a Kidney Walk kickoff event Wednesday at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia to inspire 2017 Kidney Walk captains and to celebrate the foundation's 21st annual Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo.

The goal of the Kidney Walk is to support the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, whose mission is to prevent kidney disease and improve the quality of life for those living with it. This year's walk marks a golden event as the 21st annual Kidney Walk will be held May 21 at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, where more than 6,500 walkers and supporters are anticipated to be in attendance.

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's goal is to raise \$600,000 at the Kidney Walk to support the many programs and services of the founda-



Rich Luterman speaks at the Kidney Walk kickoff Wednesday in Livonia.

tion. More than 150 people attended, including representatives from the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Henry Ford Health Systems, Greenfield Health Systems, McCann Worldgroup Detroit and WJBK-TV's Rich Luterman, who served as the master of ceremonies.

The 2017 Kidney Walk should draw more than 6,500 walkers and supporters to be in attendance.

Livonia branch library hours shift during carpet installation

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Major improvements at Livonia's two branch libraries have caused a shift of hours at the two buildings.

New carpeting is being installed at the Carl Sandburg branch library, 30100 Seven Mile. Installation began two weeks ago, said city Library Director Toni LaPorte, closing that branch until work is done.

Work at the Sandburg branch was scheduled to wrap up in March; however, LaPorte said complications pushed the

completion date back. Now, the Sandburg branch hopes to reopen the week of April 3.

While the Sandburg branch is closed for the carpet installation, the Alfred Noble branch, 32901 Plymouth, will be open Monday-Thursday instead of just Mondays and Wednesdays. Hours at the Noble branch will be noon to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Those hours will last until the Sandburg branch carpet installation is complete. After that, Sandburg will remain open four days a week while the Noble

branch gets new carpeting.

"It will be until Sandburg reopens and then we'll do the opposite," LaPorte said.

Hours at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library, 32777 Five Mile, will remain constant during the renovations. LaPorte said there are no immediate plans to replace carpeting in that building, which opened in the late 1980s.

Books checked out at the Sandburg branch can be returned to the Robert and Janet Bennett Library during the renovations.

The carpet installation

is the first major renovation project in many years at the branch libraries, which are usually open two days a week. LaPorte said the Noble branch last got carpeting in the late 1990s, while Sandburg's carpeting was last replaced sometime in the 1970s.

It's an improvement, LaPorte said, that has thrilled the branch library staff.

"They're desperately in need," she said. "The staff there are so happy. They can't wait."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

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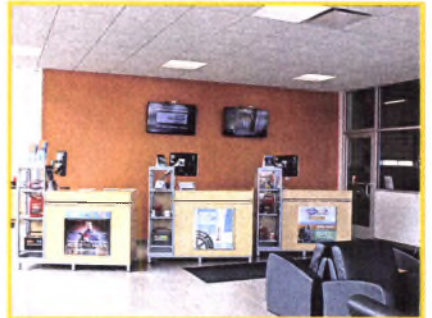
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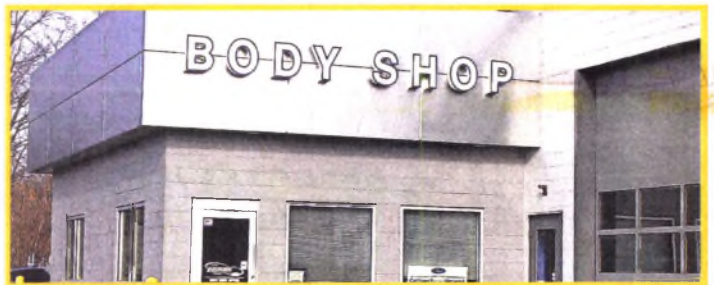
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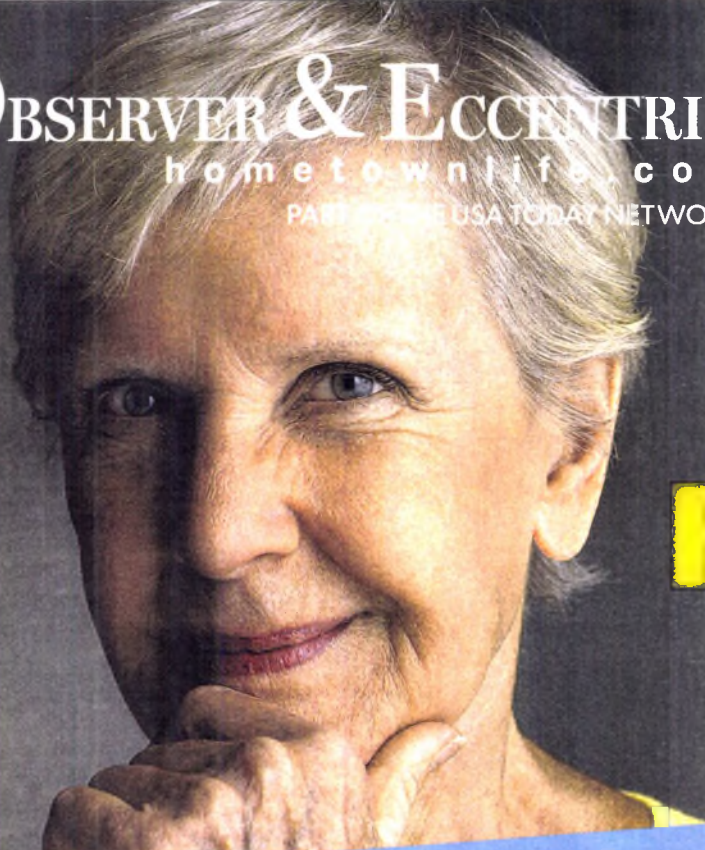
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Livonia Pompon honored for its first-place rank

Livonia Pompon was recognized by the Livonia City Council at the Monday, March 13 meeting for its first-place win in the Middle School division at the Mid American Pompon State Championships on Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Livonia Pompon is competitive pompon team comprised of dedicated athletes in grades 5-8 representing the city of Livonia. On Feb. 19, they competed against 12 other middle school pompon teams across the state of

Michigan. Coaches ARE Andrea Shook, Brittany Rees, Kari Barden, Jillian Henderson, Aiden Shook and Rachel Parrelly.

The team includes Isabella Abate, Avrey Black, Abigail Boettcher, Sydney Castillenti, Ava Collyer, Allison Garpow, Rylee Guidash, Alison Gwizdz, Ainsley Johnston, Meghan Kelly, Ruby Klingensmith, Sarah Lamb, Mackenzie Latham, Isabel Longoria, Brianna Martin, Morgan Matick, Izzy Migora, Emily Mitchell, Sophie Nomides, Madison Norton, Madison Prowse, Rachel Salutes, Sophia Schlatterbeck, Claire Sierota, Jenna



Also in the photo of the team are Mayor Dennis Wright, Council Vice President Brandon M. Kritzman, Councilman Scott Bahr, Councilwoman Maureen Miller Brosnan, Councilman Jim Jolly, and Councilman Brian Meakin.

son Norton, Madison Prowse, Rachel Salutes, Sophia Schlatterbeck, Claire Sierota, Jenna

Walters, Zoe Zagar and Emily Zimmerman Included in the photograph is Mayor Den-

nis Wright, Council Vice President Brandon M. Kritzman, Councilman Scott Bahr, Council-

woman Maureen Miller Brosnan, Councilman Jim Jolly and Councilman Brian Meakin.

Lowering your risk for colorectal cancer

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer occurs in the colon or rectum, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. In 2017, The American Cancer Society estimates that Michigan alone will have 4,660 cases of colon cancer and 1,680 deaths. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The good news is that colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable types of cancer. If you are age 50 or older, a colorectal cancer screening could save your life. Colorectal cancer usually starts as precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) in the colon or rectum. Over time, these polyps can become cancerous. Screening tests like a colonoscopy can find these precancerous polyps and remove them before they develop into cancer. Screening tests



also can find colorectal cancer early, when treatment is most effective. If you're age 50 or older, it is highly recommended that you speak with your doctor about getting screened.

Why is screening so important? The average lifetime risk for colorectal cancer is approximately 5 per-

cent, and most often occurs in people age 50 and older. Your risk may be even higher if you:

- » Have a close relative with colorectal cancer
 - » Have colon polyps
 - » Have inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis)
 - » Have a hereditary cancer syndrome (Lynch Syndrome or Familial Adenomatous Polyposis)
- Screening earlier than age 50 is recommended if you have any of these risk factors

In addition to screen-

ing, making healthy lifestyle choices can significantly lower your risk for colorectal cancer. These choices include:

- » Exercising at least 150 minutes per week
- » Maintaining a healthy weight
- » Eating a healthy diet with at least six servings of vegetables and fruits per day, limiting red meat and avoiding processed meats
- » Don't smoke
- » Limiting alcohol
- » Attending regular checkups with a primary care physician

Early stage colorectal cancer does not always

cause symptoms, which is why screening is so important. However, symptoms of colorectal cancer can include changes in bowel habits (diarrhea or constipation), blood in the stool, stomach cramping or pain that does not go away, fatigue, and unexplained weight loss. If you are experiencing these symptoms, contact your doctor immediately.

If you are in need of a primary care physician to discuss your colorectal cancer risk, please call St. Mary Mercy Livonia's Physician Referral Line at 800-231-2211. Many of

our primary care physicians are currently using a brief family cancer history questionnaire to help identify if new patients may be at risk for colon, breast, prostate, pancreatic, ovarian and other cancers. Questionnaires are reviewed by a high-risk and genetics counselor at the hospital and patients deemed to be at risk are contacted so they may receive a comprehensive cancer risk assessment.

Helen Burns is a Nurse Practitioner and a High Risk and Genetics Coordinator at St. Mary Mercy Livonia.

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CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
Zoning Board of Appeals
 April 11, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
 Livonia City Hall - Gallery (5th Floor)
 33000 Civic Center Drive Livonia, MI (734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-02-09 (Rescheduled from February 28, 2017): Diversified Fuels Properties, 20755 West Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183, seeking to raze an existing fuel/retail facility and construct a new facility with the same use upon property located on the north side of Schoolcraft (33430) between Farmington and Stamford, resulting in deficient building setback abutting Schoolcraft Road and number of parking spaces.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-04-20: Kenneth Motsch, south side of Munger (30091) between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt, seeking to continue construction on a detached garage, while maintaining an attached garage, resulting in excess garage area, height and excess number of garages.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

Publish: Sunday, March 26, 2017 Livonia Observer LO-0000318196 3x3

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Presentation is free but registration is required.
Please call 734-655-1980.

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 stmarymercy.org/westside

CITY OF GARDEN CITY CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Garden City at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 10, 2017 at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to amend the current Planned Development (PD) District regulations to allow the construction of an additional freestanding sign at the northeast corner of the site at **6245 Inkster Road (Garden City Hospital, Tax Parcel No. 35011020001000, 35011020009002, 35011020013002, 35011020016002, 35011020019000, 35011020087000, 3501102031000, 35011020145000, 35011020189000, 35011020203000).**

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to the Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the application and site plan may be examined at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the hearing.

Published: March 26, 2017 LO-0000181183 3x3

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2017-03-02-04 submitted by Dynamic Lawn Service requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(b) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to construct and operate a contractor's yard for the outdoor storage of landscaping equipment and materials at 34434 Rosati Drive, located on the north side of Rosati Drive between Stark Road and Belden Court in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28.

Petition 2017-03-02-05 submitted by 7-Eleven, Inc. and Fazal & Khurram Corporation requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(r) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to utilize an SDM liquor license (sale of packaged beer and wine) in connection with the operations of a convenience store (7-Eleven) and gas station (Mobil) at 29321 Eight Mile Road, located on the southeast corner of Eight Mile and Middlebelt Roads in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 1.

Petition 2017-03-02-06 submitted by BJ's Restaurant, Inc. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 19.06 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to redevelop the site at 19470 Haggerty Road, including demolishing the existing building (former Champs Americana Restaurant) and constructing a new full service restaurant (BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse), including expansion of the Class C liquor license to include an outdoor dining patio increasing the overall seating count from 249 to 295, located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Seven Mile and Eight Mile Roads in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 6.

Petition 2017-03-02-07 submitted by 4-Legged Friends Daycare, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(b) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate an animal day care facility at 33501 Eight Mile Road, located on the south side of Eight Mile Road between Farmington and Gill Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 4.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

Ian Wilshaw, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: March 26, 2017 LO-0000318226 3x3

I am an American We are One Nation

LIZ JOYNER FINDS UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Pieces of her 'Threads of a Nation' quilt don't match until woven into a whole

NADA HASSANEIN
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit onenation.usa-today.com.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Liz Joyner's "Threads of a Nation" quilt is stitched together with red, white and blue squares and patriotic quotes: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" and "Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears."

It's a quilt that's a tribute to her family who had served in the military and worked in government — her brother a Navy SEAL and her father a Pentagon worker. But it's also, she said, a reflection of the "beauty of the diversity of our people."

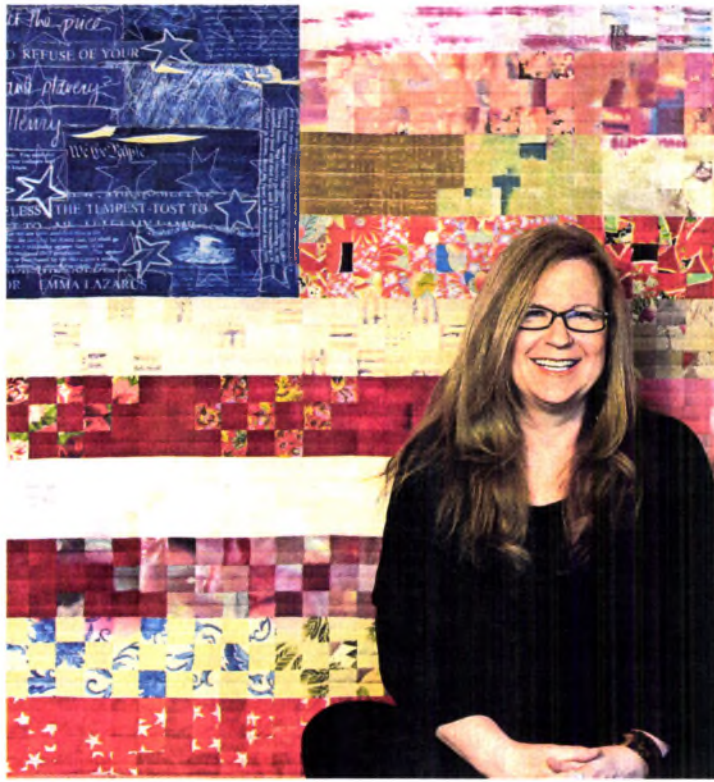
Joyner picked and dyed scarlet-, rose- and cerulean-colored fabrics that at first glance, wouldn't necessarily match. But when woven together, unified into one piece.

She's the executive director of The Village Square in Tallahassee, Florida. The quilt, created after September 11, was almost a foreshadowing of what she does now through The Village Square: bridge gaps between communities and ideologies through conversation.

Somehow, Joyner's been able to gather both liberals and conservatives around dinner tables and on stages to talk about race, religion and politics. The concept might seem only possible to discuss in a civil way across party lines "when pigs fly" — hence The Village Square's mascot, of sorts: a little pink pig with wings.

The Village Square holds events like Faith, Food, Friday, an interfaith conversation rotating at different faith centers, and film screenings followed by discussions called Race to the Movies: An Unflinching Conversation on Race.

Joyner is a fervent believer that "diverse groups make better decisions,"



HAU TAUXE/USA TODAY NETWORK

Liz Joyner, executive director of The Village Square, sits in front of a quilted flag she sewed to "represent the dynamic diversity of democracy." The quilt hangs in her bedroom.

but even if a conclusion or decision isn't made, "you've still changed everything" by gathering people to converse and learn about life from another person's perspective.

Joyner believes important change starts with relationships fueled by empathy.

"Human beings are capable of amazing feats of empathy," she said, "when we just get to know each other."

Liz Joyner

Location: Tallahassee, Fla.

Age: 57

Profession: Executive Director, The Village Square

Mission: Reviving the founding spirit of American democracy by building community across ideological and demographic divides inside hometowns.

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Q&A WITH LIZ JOYNER

What does it mean to you to be an American?

The Adlai Stevenson quote, "the steady devotion of a lifetime." It's really quite incredible how many people do that. Alexis de Tocqueville said when he came to America that Americans are forever in the habit of forming associations. We've gotten used to doing things with people who are more like us rather than unlike us, and we need to get back to the habit of seeking out other people.

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

I really feel like I grew up in a place that I know what it looks like — I know what a healthy, civic life looks like. I know what disagreement looks like when it's vibrant and real and dynamic, and it really was from watching people who had become my friends who were local leaders, who had those kinds of dynamic conversations going on that inspired me. I reached the point in time that my personal frustration was so high that if I didn't do something, it wouldn't have been healthy for me.

What gives you hope?

I think that getting the upcoming generations of leaders, people who are millennials and younger, gives me a lot of hope. It gives me a lot of hope that when you guys are my age, it'll just naturally be better. But — there is a 'but' there, and the 'but' is: We've got to find a way to connect what's naturally so exceptional about your generation to what is exceptional about the hero arc of American democracy.

What concerns you?

That having fallen into our like-minded silos, as we have, that we're not going to have the will to climb out. And I think if we have the will, it's there — but we're going to have to see the reason to find what we share.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

What I hope to accomplish with what we do is revive the old idea, repackage it in a way that works for a new environment. I describe The Village Square as being a very new, very old idea. It really is just the whole idea that we had from the very beginning of American democracy. We've just got to punch it up a little bit.

Kosowski named 'Legislator of the Year'

State Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) has been named the Michigan Municipal League's 2017 Legislator of the Year. The award was presented during the league's Capital Conference Awards Gala on March 21 in Lansing.



Kosowski

Kosowski represents Michigan's 16th House District, which comprises a portion of Westland and the entire city of Wayne.

Kosowski is serving his third term in the House. Before that he worked as Westland Parks and Recreation director. He worked for the city for 20 years. He was a member of many advisory boards. He studied business management at Adrian College and Wayne State University. He and wife Elizabeth have two sons, Andrew and Austin. The family has resided in Westland for more than 20 years.

Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe presented Kosowski with the award. "During his time in the state House, Representative Kosowski has distinguished himself as a thoughtful policymaker

and earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle," Rowe said. "Representative Kosowski has proven time and again that he values good policy over partisanship. His door is always open to the League and his constituents. The League looks forward to working in partnership with him through the remainder of his time in Lansing."

Kosowski has been an outspoken, supportive voice on numerous issues that have been critical to the Michigan Municipal League and its member communities, including his leadership in attempting to restore cuts to revenue sharing, protecting tax increment financing as an economic development tool, and supporting government immunity in the event of sewer backups during extreme rainfall, Rowe said.

Former MML employee John Stewart offered congratulations and support to Kosowski. "I want

to congratulate Representative Kosowski on being awarded the highly honorable distinction of Legislator of the Year," Stewart said. "As a former full-time Michigan Municipal League employee, the MML is an association of over 96 percent of all cities in Michigan. They have recognized Representative Kosowski as a fighter — a fighter to stop the cuts in revenue sharing that prevent us from adequately funding services like our police and firefighters."

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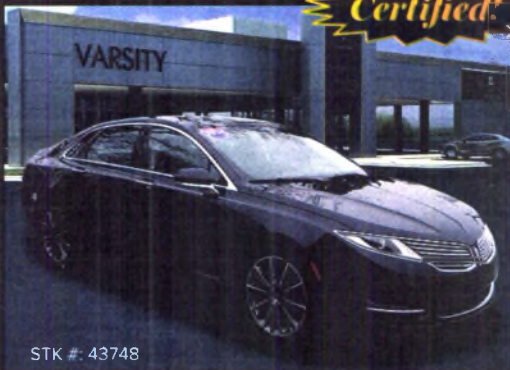
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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Schoolcraft College dome, program 'catalyst' for health

St. Joe's Sports Dome not just about soccer, thanks to newly unveiled SC Elite partnership

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

There's literally no place like dome — especially at Schoolcraft College. Wednesday afternoon's official grand opening of the newly named St. Joe's Sports Dome was about much more than celebrating the \$6 million

facility that now towers over 1-275 in Livonia.

It also was about launching SC Elite — a collaborative program designed to jump-start health, fitness and good nutrition both for youngsters and adults.

"As a college, we're all about success in the classroom," Schoolcraft

Vice President Glenn Cerny said. "What we have learned is success in the classroom happens when we also engage our students outside the classroom, in activities on our campus."

The unveiling also featured a ribbon-cutting including Schoolcraft

See DOME, Page B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ed McCarthy, president of the Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club, said the new St. Joe's Sports Dome has been a "game changer" for the organization.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW

Spartans set to move up the charts

Strong nucleus and promising newcomers could make this a big season for Stevenson

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The Livonia Stevenson varsity girls soccer team had a pretty big year in 2016, sporting a 15-5-3 record and finishing third behind perennial powerhouses Novi and Northville in the KLA Central Division.

But head coach Ken Shingledecker and the Spartans have bigger fish to fry in 2017.

"We are looking to take the next step toward being a major contender in the KLA and the entire state," Shingledecker said. "We have as good of an attack as anyone in the state."

Stevenson's attack indeed is one to watch. All-state honorable mention forwards Audrey Kopitz and Kennedy Thurlow, both juniors, are back and ready to make life miserable on opposing keepers.

Also ready to do damage are senior forward Sarah Monte (committed to Marygrove College), senior Maria Bayyouk and newcomers Maddie Nelson (junior), Abby Werthman (freshman) and Meredith Hage (freshman).

The Spartans can also bank on standouts elsewhere on the field.

At midfield is senior Megan Verant, who made third-team all-state last season and is committed to Madonna University.

But the Spartans lineup also feature returning midfielders such as junior Kayla Gacioch, senior Kait Pence and sophomore Sarah Dressing.

Pushing them for playing time will be junior newcomers Teresa Semak and Jennifer D'Antonio.

See SPARTANS, Page B2



THERESA CALLAN
One of Livonia Stevenson's key returners is Alyssa Benvenuti (center), shown during a 2016 game against South Lyon East.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL

BARRY'S BLUEPRINT STILL DELIVERS



Cougars' Hall of Fame softball coach Patterson gives his all for team, expects players to do same

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

The imprint Barry Patterson's made on Garden City varsity girls softball is tangible and impossible to miss.

In fact, he designed the team's distinctive logo that adorns hats, sweatshirts and pretty much everything else around the team. Angular "G" and "C" letters join to form a Cougar head, complete with teeth ready to take a competitive bite out of opponents.

"I wanted to brand our program a little bit

back in the day," noted Patterson, following Thursday's practice inside the Garden City High School gymnasium — what with fields still too muddy to use.

Hats on heads, hearts on sleeves ... one might as well call Patterson "Mr. Garden City Softball" for all he's done for the program since taking the helm in 1987.

Patterson's tough-but-fair coaching style also stresses fundamentals, doing things as a team, working hard and getting after it on defense.

"Our philosophy over the years, just try to play defensively as sound as we can

See PATTERSON, Page B3

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GIRLS LACROSSE

Ladywood squad under new management

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Although Wednesday's season opener was postponed due to cold weather, first-year coach Mike Sullivan has a warm feeling inside about his Livonia Ladywood lacrosse squad.

Sullivan inherits a Blazers squad that finished 10-7 a year ago under Chris Merucci in his lone season as coach. Ladywood's season ended last year in the MHSAA Division 2 regional semifinals against Walled Lake Northern, 14-11.

"I didn't know much about the talent coming in," Sullivan, who is the Blazers' third head coach in three seasons. "I just knew they needed a coach and I knew I like coaching. But as I've been here, we've had athletes and we have people who can score. And that's really all I needed to try to win."

Sullivan, who coached boys club lacrosse the past two years at Total Sports in Wixom, has been leaning on assistant coach Andrea Konja during the preseason workouts.

"I have a broader understanding of most sports, but during practice I'll be putting in game plans and then someone will correct me on a rule," he said. "I've been looking into all the rules, and what not. But as you go on it's kind of been a work in progress. I've been an assistant



Ladywood's senior lacrosse captains are Colleen Barnes (left) and Colleen Lynch.

BRAD EMONS

coach who kind of concentrates my thoughts and strategies towards women. So I'm learning just as much as I'm teaching them. It's a very similar sport, but very different at times."

Nicole Reece (Alma College) and Jill Jacobs (Tiffin University) were two notable losses to graduation.

But senior captains Colleen Barnes and Colleen Lynch both return and will

be team leaders. Barnes plays defense, while Lynch is an attacking midfielder.

Sullivan hopes to get consistent scoring from junior attackers Sydney Pilut and Claire Haase, while sophomore Adrianna Rugerio will open in goal for the Blazers.

Other key returnees include sophomore attack Victoria Pilut, senior midfielder Kristin Kelly, senior defender Devon Kelly, junior midfielder Bridgid Sullivan, senior attack Jacquelyn Cywinski, junior midfielder Julianne Snyder, junior Kathleen Sullivan and sophomore attack Victoria Pilut.

After the Farmington season opener was postponed, Ladywood will open its season at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 3 at Birmingham Marian in a Catholic League match.

Sullivan hopes the Blazers can not only contend in the Catholic League, but also compete at the state level. During a four-year run from 2011 through 2014 under coach Kristine Sanders, Ladywood reached the Division 2 semifinals three times and lost in the 2013 state final.

"I'm not going to make any bold predictions, but at the same time I'm not coaching to just be O.K.," Sullivan said. "I have the expectation that we're going to win."

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GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW

Trio of John Glenn alums back to change program's culture

Opening win shows new coaches already connecting with Rockets' varsity girls soccer team

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It's almost like Back to the Future for Westland John Glenn's varsity girls soccer program.

After enduring a dismal 2-14 record last year, the Rockets brought back soccer alums Khalid Suleiman, George Easter and Evelyn Accerno to take the coaching helm of the Rockets' varsity and junior varsity teams.



Suleiman

Of course, Suleiman and Easter were strong players on John Glenn's varsity boys teams of the mid-to-late 2000s. Suleiman is varsity head coach with Easter as his assistant.

Accerno is the head coach of the JV. All are United States Soccer Federation-certified coaches, the first time the John Glenn staff can make that claim.

"This season we are focusing on rebuilding a program," Suleiman said. "Last year we lost six seniors who made a big difference in the game."

Already, the Rockets are halfway to equaling their win mark of a season ago. On Thursday, junior Jenna Deer-



One of the Westland John Glenn captains is senior Kaitlyn Balko. She is considered a "glue" player with strong leadership.

SUBMITTED

ing (on a penalty kick) and junior Carley Loving scored while freshman goalkeeper Sasha Lux recorded her first career shutout in a 2-0 win over Farmington.

Suleiman, who has eight years coaching experience including with

Hartland United FC, said one of the areas he and his coaches want players to make strides in is how to perform well under pressure.

The opener was Exhibit A that the message is being heeded.

"Last year our program struggled a lot with getting along, maintaining composure under pressure and keeping on to the lead," Suleiman noted.

But he cited the influx of ninth-graders Lux, Madison Ciemnicki and Nivene Rizkallah as standing up "to the test and I am very excited to see what they have in store for us the next three years. Madison Ciemnicki is a brick wall at the center back position who in my mind is by far one of the biggest pick-ups of the year."

But John Glenn does have some key returners who can't wait to forget all about last year.

Senior Kaitlyn Balko and juniors Deering, Daniel Deel and Rachel LaRowe are team co-captains who all are "great players with a lot of ability to make this year successful."

Among other Rockets who want to make a difference are Loving, Morgan Dangle, junior Emma O'Beirne and sophomore Bryce Allen.

Aubrianna Kolb, Makayla Seregna and Minami Arima all were solid in the opening victory to provide reliable depth.

Deering enjoyed a goal and an assist against Farmington to nab player of the game honors, and she could use that showing as a springboard to an outstanding season.

Suleiman continued that Balko "held the team on her back using her motivational support and positive attitude to keep the girls going when times were tough. She is the brick and stone to this team which holds all the girls together."

"This game showed the girls true potential to change this program and have it running in the right direction," Suleiman said.

Lutheran Westland preview

After posting an unusual record of six wins, one loss and 10 ties in 2016 (including 1-1-4 in the MIAC), Lutheran Westland's varsity girls soccer team will mostly be brand new, coach Sara Schafer said.

"We are a young team this year," Schafer said. "All the new players are working hard everyday to improve and they are working well as a team."

There are some key returners, in senior co-captain Rebecca Gembarski and junior co-captain Mackenzie Salenik.

Gembarski, a defender, is beginning her fourth varsity season. Salenik is a third-year varsity player and will play midfield.

Also back is sophomore defender Marissa Gonzales.

Players new to the fold who could help the Warriors' cause include sophomore midfielder Faith McLeod, freshman forward Emilie Fremder and freshman midfielder Laiken Osborne.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

After 11 seasons, Graves departs as Madonna women's hoops coach

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Madonna University women's basketball program is going in a different direction after Carl Graves confirmed Friday he will not return for his 12th season as head coach.

Graves went 166-162 overall in 11 years. He surpassed Marylou Jansen's career 154-win total on Dec. 3, 2016, to become the all-time winningest coach in program history and was honored for the accomplishment prior to the Crusaders' Jan. 14 home game against Lawrence Tech.

According to Madonna.edu, Graves' replacement will not only serve as head basketball coach, but also as a senior women's administrator working with assistant athletic director Noel Emenhiser, who is also the men's basketball coach.

"The job has already been posted," said MU's Scott Kennell, who is in his first year as the school's A.D. after coming from Penn College (Pa.). "The process goes through the sports information department. We don't comment on why people are not here. It's a new process for any of our employees. We're not commenting."

Madonna's newly hired sports in-

formation director Zachary Shore said there would be no press release regarding Graves' departure. Graves' bio was taken down Thursday on the MadonnaCrusaders.com website. The website continues to list both Jamey Petree and Heather Pratt, a former Crusader player under Graves, as assistant coaches.

The Crusaders wound up 16-12 overall and 12-10 in the WHAC this past season. Two of the team's five starters have been lost to graduation including NAIA honorable mention All-America and first-team All-WHAC selection Michele Hayes.

"The University deemed that the position needed to be full-time," Graves said. "They offered it to me and I could not take it as a full-time position because I already have a full-time position, so my understanding is that they're going forward. It needs to be full-time for a lot of reasons, which I guess they can explain to you. I know that they were talking about making some of the positions full-time, but they decided this one needed to be full-time in the fall. They did offer it to me with a pay increase and I could not take it."

The 48-year-old Graves is currently employed as a social worker in special



Graves

education with the Monroe County Intermediate School District.

"That's my day job, that's my passion," Graves said. "That's what I went to school for and that's what I love to do. I mean, not that I don't love coaching ... I love coaching, too. One day I'll return to coach. But 11 years there I feel like I did a heckuva job and we had a lot of great things happen."

Graves' teams finished runner-up in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference three times and qualified for the WHAC playoffs 11 times. One of his biggest wins came in late December of 2013 when the Crusaders upset NCAA Division I foe University of Detroit Mercy at Calihan Hall, 86-76.

Graves was twice named WHAC Champions of Character Coach of the Year. He coached two WHAC Players of the Year and one Newcomer of the Year. Fifty-one student-athletes had earned Academic All-Conference honors with 32 of them being named NAIA Scholar-Athletes under Graves.

"I've had kids you remember like Tabatha Wydryck and Katie Martin," Graves said. "Those kids that are now medical doctors ... Kim Olech a police officer out in Tucson (Ariz.) ... I could

go on and on. There's just as many of them that I am in contact with ... Kaylee McGrath is one of the top NICU nurses out in Denver. So we've had a lot of success there and I brought a lot of very talented athletes like McGrath, Olech, Wydryck and Michele Hayes — all those people — so I think we had a good run for 11 years. I'm proud of everything of what they went on to accomplish at Madonna."

A former U.S. Marine who saw action in Desert Storm, Graves coached previously as an assistant at Concordia University (1996-98) and posted a 88-39 record during his six seasons as the varsity girls basketball coach at Carleton Airport High School before taking the Madonna job.

"I don't think I'm done coaching," Graves said. "I'll coach again somewhere. Like I said, they decided that it needed to be full-time right now. It's just unfortunate. I don't have any ill will towards them. For me personally and for my family, I certainly couldn't do that because it would have represented some major changes for us as a family and I couldn't take it. It wasn't my call to make it full-time, but that's what happened."

bemons@hometownlife.com

SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

Shingledecker knows his team will be dangerous on the attack, but a storyline to watch will be how quickly the loss of three starting defenders to graduation can be offset.

"We graduated three starting backline players, so we know we will have some growing pains until that unit can jell," he said.

Of course, he still has a trio of senior defenders in Alyssa Benvenuti and Yasmine Jaafar, who have both committed to Madonna, and senior defender Emma Werthman (bound for School-

craft College). Junior Carson Van Dike is another experienced player on defense.

Two newcomers will have a chance to make their mark on defense. Those are senior Roxanne Fortier (exchange student from Canada) and junior Natalie Hawkins, a transfer from Livonia Ladywood.

Also looking to help the cause is junior defender Natalie Beaudoin, also new to the squad.

Taking care of goalkeeping duties will be sophomore returner Haley Demers, sophomore newcomer Ashley Kasper, and freshman Mackenzie Fifer.

With high stakes in the division and beyond, Shingledecker and his players know much is expected of the Spartans.

"You have to perform at such a high level every game in the Central if you expect to win it," Shingledecker stressed. "There are no nights off, and you can't have bad games."

"Getting that consistent effort every night out is always a battle with high school kids. We have tremendous leaders on this team, so we are confident we'll be in the fight at the end of the season."

For starters

The Spartans got off to a good start Wednesday with a 4-2 win over Detroit Country Day.

Stevenson poured 21 shots in the direction of Yellowjackets senior goalie Isabel Nino, who will play next year at

Michigan.

Scoring three times for Stevenson was Kopitz, with Gacioch adding the fourth. Chipping in with helpers were Abby Werthman and Verant.

"We were excellent in the attack all night," Shingledecker said. "We are pleased with the fact that we scored four goals on such a great goalkeeper."

"Our center mids of Kayla Gacioch, Megan Verant and Sarah Dressing were very good offensively and defensively all night long."

Next for the Spartans is a home game at 6 p.m. Monday against South Lyon.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Sighing word
5 Humiliate
10 Sugar-name suffix
13 Stretch (out)
19 Billiards item
20 Drive rudely (out)
21 Flanders monitor
22 Mambo music's Tito
23 Bicycle adds-on for tykes
26 Make a new blueprint for
27 Cut and Paste setting
28 Give relief to
29 Protein formed during blood clotting
30 Sue
31 Sterile hand wear
35 Three, in 6-Down
38 PIN-taking dispenser
39 "Hands off!"
40 Microwaves, e.g.
41 Stalled-car clip-ons

DOWN

1 Funny Johnson
2 Hog fat
3 Antioxidant-rich berry
4 Many Aspen outings
5 Sky ram
6 Old German capital
7 City of golf's Masters
8 Albany-to-Baltimore dir.
9 Passé anesthetic
10 Toddlers' bodysuits
11 Opt for
12 Mag VIPs
13 Parsley part
14 Adobe dwelling
15 Scold gently
16 Pep up
17 Done
18 Lion's locale
24 Abbr. for people with only two names
25 Aerie nesters
29 Ornate
32 Dark area in an eclipse
33 Do — deed

ACROSS

45 Metalliferous rock
47 "The Neverending Story" author
48 Related to earthquakes
49 Hi —
50 A little wet
52 Edberg of tennis fame
54 Horse rider's attachments
59 Dot in the sea, to Jose
63 Part of Gr. Britain
64 Entertainer Lollobrigida
66 The older Obama girl
67 Theme of this puzzle
73 A social show with Sonny
75 "It's — -brainer"
76 Rogen of "Superbad"
77 They look like footless socks
81 Gymnast, e.g.
84 "Ghost" co-star Demi

DOWN

85 Stylist's goo
86 Coastal
91 In a crowd of
95 Pal, casually
96 Rink rentals
98 Ignited again
100 Commercial charge
102 Cozy lodging
103 Tacit assents
104 Part of some made-up faces
107 Teeny bit
109 Little leaves on flowers
110 Old jazz singer Anita
111 Collective software clients
116 Bela of old horror films
117 They often surround titles
119 Wiped from the board
120 A/C abbr.
121 Broadway prizes
122 Luau favors
123 Blank out
124 Jet to JFK, once
125 Garments for Gaius
126 Ineffectual

DOWN

34 Dir. 45 degrees from 8-Down
35 Dance club VIPs
36 Regret a lot
37 Big British record co.
38 Brogue
42 Middle of summer?
43 Solemn acts
44 Running times
46 Subj. for some immigrants
50 The "m" of "yes'm"
51 Office sub
53 E-I linkup
54 Skm diver's tube
55 Flock noises
56 "It's —" ("Untrue!")
57 Surrounded
58 Military band
59 "— turn up"
60 Brogue, e.g.
61 "What a ding-a —!"
62 Freshly
65 Hard water
68 Mass unit
69 Realty unit
70 Corn unit
71 Congenital
72 Verb counterparts

DOWN

76 Plunder, e.g.
79 Eel types
80 Rub down
82 North freed by Reagan
83 "Bad!" cluck
85 Charges
87 Off-the-wall sport?
88 An Amerind
89 Color of chili
90 Suffix with govern
91 Whelp yelp
92 Put a ruler to
93 Outlived
94 Get rid (of)
96 Digital display
97 Subsequent
99 China shop ensemble
101 Defies openly
105 Skip, as a syllable
106 Hotel chain
107 Nail-biting
108 Ulua locale
112 Tofu bean, to Brits
113 Environs
114 Kind of milk
115 "To be," in Latin
116 Fronted
117 NFL VIPs
118 Also

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

7				4	3			
		4		7			8	
	9		6					7
6				1	3		7	
	5				9	6		
		7	8					4
9				3		7		
4	2			6		1		
	3		5					8

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	6	7	2	5	9	8	1	4
3	1	9	9	8	6	2	2	7
2	9	2	1	6	7	5	8	6
7	6	5	9	8	2	1	2	7
1	2	9	6	7	2	5	8	9
5	2	8	3	1	2	6	7	9
2	7	2	8	9	9	1	6	3
6	8	1	2	2	3	7	9	5
9	5	3	4	6	1	8	2	2

CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

G P H V U Z A M T A D H E S I V E K S W
G N S A O R I G A M I M C L Y H N S A I
R H I C R F Y E K I S T Y S I O A T L Q
O T W T I E U B L E E D C Q A P E N K B
G E R Y T S P W B O W I O O M R Z G P H
Z S I Y K O S M F Z M I S O C K O C E V
D L S U T V L O E A I N C O T C C E U G
P M L O Q A I B R T R K L F A O O P L P
O C B Y B B O E U S H O A D A T L E G A
R I G Z H M C G F R R L R M S L R G S
C L D B F P E M E A K H Z S D A C K T
D Y Z Z C G A C Z S Z D C K S R G C T E
B R G N T K A Y R Q T A T R K T A E U P K
D C N R B Z P B M T B A O E C B P A K
Y A I A F I G P Q I E L T I N A R G A I
E T D P U P N L L C L Z S L C F V I L P
Z L A I Y Q A D A I M L W S I C R A F T
A E E L C G Y I I Z Q C A B L G V S P Z
V F B C S W L D N N E U C C S P U N C H
S K P E K N I F E T G H E Y L O H G Y V

WORDS

- ACRYLIC
- ADHESIVE
- APPLIQUE
- BASECOT
- BEADING
- BINDING
- BLEED
- BLOTTING
- CALLIGRAPHY
- CARDSTOCK
- CERAMICS
- CLIP ART
- COLLAGE
- COMPASS
- CRAFT
- CREPE
- CROP
- EMBROID
- FELT
- GLAZE
- GLUE
- INK
- KNIFE
- KRAFT
- OILS
- ORIGAMI
- PAINT
- PAPER
- PASTE
- PUNCH
- SCISSORS
- STARCH
- STENCILS
- TEMPERA
- WATERCOLOR

Crossword Answers

ALAS ABASE OSE SPREAD
RACK ROUST NED PUENTE
TRATIN GWHEELS REPLAN
EDITMENGU EASE FIBRILL
RITTS SUNGIC CAUGLOVERS
DREI LAMN LETGO OVENS
JUMPERCABLES ORE ENDE
SEISMIC RES MOIST
STEPAN SADDLEBAGS
USLA ENO GINA MALLIA
THINGS THAT COME IN PAIRS
LOWER CHER ANO SETH
LEGWARMERS KORBBUT
MOORE GEL ONSHORE
AMTID BRO ROLLERSKATES
REINIT ADPEE TNN NODS
FAL SEETIASHET
SERIALS TODAY USERBASE
LUGOSSI QUOTATIONMARKS
ERASED BUT TONY'S LEIS
DELETE EST TOGAE LAME

Word Search

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Car Report

RAV4 HAS GOTTEN GOOD AT HOLDING DOWN TOYOTA'S STAKE IN COMPACT UTILITY VEHICLES, A CRUCIAL SEGMENT



By Dale Buss

RAV4 has always been one of those vehicles that a great car company absolutely needs but doesn't talk about: a high-volume nameplate in the sweet spot of a crucial segment

of the American market that pleases a loyal ownership base year after year and picks up enough new customers to remain vital to the brand.

In the case of RAV4, Toyota practically invented the compact crossover with the first version of this utility vehicle in the mid-1990s. And it's still a huge player in the segment with a fourth-generation RAV4 that has been around since 2012.

Toyota made a bunch of improvements last year to help keep RAV4 a leader in a segment that has grown tremendously around some of



The rear is flexible for passengers and cargo.

the early players like RAV4, as sport-utility vehicles now have become the majority of the U.S. vehicle market, flipping the situation with sedans from just a couple of years ago.

And fittingly, RAV4 remains one of Toyota's biggest sellers. Almost at the volume level of the best-selling Camry and Corolla sedans, RAV4 is by far Toyota's best-selling truck or SUV, selling almost double the level of the much bigger Highlander, for example. And it has survived atop the brand's ute lineup while others — the short-lived Venza, for example, and FJ Cruiser — have disappeared.

RAV4 sold at about a 3-percent higher level in the first two months of this year than a year earlier.

an impressive achievement for such a mature model in a flattening overall market and going against a proliferation of newer compact SUVs from competitors. The vehicle long has competed head-to-head with the equally venerable Honda CR-V, but new entries include the Mazda CX-5 and Hyundai Tucson.

The RAV4 is a car-based SUV with five seats, with no third row offered in this generation, and either front- or all-wheel drive. It's got pretty middling performance and relatively utilitarian styling, but like most Toyota's, RAV4 has a great reputation for reliability, practicality and comfort.

Yet Toyota hasn't been standing still. For 2017, Toyota added a long list of active-safety equipment as standard on every model. What the company calls Toyota SafetySense consists of forward-collision warning, lane-departure alert, lane-keeping assist, adaptive cruise control, and automatic high-beam headlights.

Also, Toyota has added a new, higher-priced top-level trim, Platinum, for 2017, priced at \$35,690 for a front-wheel-drive version and \$1,400 more for all-wheel drive.



RAV4 is Toyota's best-selling utility vehicle.

This upper-crust version includes a monochromatic exterior and luxury features including heated steering wheel, power lift gate, and a 360-degree-view camera system.

RAV4 was popular from the get-go because Toyota figured out how to create a spacious and versatile interior that is able to fit in people comfortably, as well as a lot of stuff — or even both at once. The rear-seat area allows plenty of legroom and headroom and, unusually in SUVs even today, it reclines. There is a low lift-over height to the cargo area through the hatch, making it easy to put bulky or heavy items in the hold.

At 38 cubic feet with the back seats up and 73 cubic feet with the seats folded into the floor, RAV4 provides ample space that seems more characteristic of a larger vehicle

on the outside.

And when it comes to performance in the areas where it counts most with daily drivers — noise levels, smoothness and handling — RAV4 is exemplary of Toyota's considerable accomplishments in these areas.

Where RAV4 falls a bit short of competitors is in some performance areas. For instance, with 26 mpg combined mileage, some newer rivals do better than RAV4's fuel economy, though it's still very respectable for any SUV.

And the standard 2.5-liter, four-cylinder powertrain is fair to middling at best when it comes to peppiness. The all-wheel drive version consumes 8.4 seconds getting from zero to 60 mph (A hybrid version does it a tad more quickly.)



RAV4 is powered by a 2.5-liter, 4-cylinder engine.

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