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FOOD AND DRINK, A4

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## Candy Man: Students tackle 'Wonka'

John Glenn staging musical this Thursday-Saturday

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com

Jacquelyn Schlicht had never even seen "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" before February.

Since then, she said, she figures she's seen it "about a million times."

OK, so maybe not a million times, but that kind of hyperbole might come in handy for Schlicht, the Westland John

Glenn senior who brings the title role to life this weekend when Glenn takes on Roald Dahl's story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir.

When she plays Wonka, Schlicht said, she'll play him more like Gene Wilder in the 1971 original than Johnny Depp in the 2005 "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" remake.

"He's a weirdo," Schlicht said of Wonka. "There's lots of excitement, lots of head snaps. The biggest challenge is the changes in emotions. I'm supposed to be this happy-go-

lucky guy, then there's a song where he's a little bit creepy, and then he's back to excited again. I find it hard to move through all those emotions at once."

Drama teacher Kevin Gidley and his team decided to do "Wonka" earlier this year. They've considered various musicals over the years — they did "Into the Woods" last year — and "Wonka" has always been considered.

This year just "seemed like the time" to do it, Gidley said.



Willy Wonka (Jacquelyn Schlicht) yanks the hair of Violet Beauregard (Payton Kilgore).  
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See **WONKA**, Page A2

## GROUP FORMS IN RESPONSE TO NARCOTICS EPIDEMIC

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com

No community is exempt from what federal officials are calling an epidemic of opioid overdose deaths.

More people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record and the majority of drug overdose deaths — more than six out of 10 — involved an opioid, according to federal statistics.

Families Against Narcotics, a grassroots organization dedicated to eliminating the stigma associated with addiction and providing families struggling with the disease the support and resources they need, has a new Northwest Wayne County Chapter — the first chapter in Wayne County. The first meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 10, at the LifeChurch annex building, 6900 N. Haggerty, Canton.

"Addiction is a family disease and it is devastating our community," said Lauren Rousseau, president of the Northwest Wayne County FAN chapter. "We are losing an unprecedented number of young people to this illness and families need resources, education and support."

Rousseau, a law professor at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, is a longtime resident of Livonia and is personally acquainted with the destruction that heroin can cause. From 2010-12, she said she was legal guardian for a young man, also a Livonia resident, who struggled with heroin addiction and ultimately died at age 19.

"It is a disease with a lot of stigma. People in recovery have a goal, but we also have people trying to make a difference. People will call me," said Cathy Sims Weir, founder and president of the South Lyon area FAN chapter, who lost her 22-year-old son to a heroin overdose in 2014.

The FAN membership includes people and families affected by addiction, concerned citizens, law enforcement and leaders in health care, education, business and religion. Founded in 2007, FAN originated in Macomb County and now has 12 chapters throughout Michigan, including a chapter in Oakland County that is divided into nine regions, each with its own



Judge Kathleen McCann of Livonia's 16th District Court, here hugging a graduate of the recent sobriety court program, said she's personally witnessed the horrors of opioid abuse in her community. She sits on new FAN chapter advisory board.  
JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Davis

monthly meeting.

Judge Kathleen McCann of Livonia's 16th District Court has personally witnessed the horrors of opioid abuse in her community, seeing it escalate to epidemic proportions. She sits on new FAN chapter advisory board.

"As a sobriety court judge, I see the extraordinary pain and effort that our participants expend to finally be free of their dependency on opiates and heroin," she said in a statement. "Unfortunately, I have had to close too many files when parents bring me a death certificate because their child overdosed before we could reach them."

The public and the schools are still not in tune with how pervasive this problem is and how young and vulnerable the

population is that is being targeted, McCann said. "Families Against Narcotics will open another avenue of information, coordination and resources to communities that are very much in need," she added.

The keynote speaker at the first Northwest Wayne County FAN chapter meeting April 10 will be Judge Linda Davis of the 41B District Court in Clinton Township. President and founder of FAN, Davis also chairs Gov. Snyder's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission and is the driving force behind Hope Not Handcuffs, a program that enlists police departments and volunteers to help addicts seeking recovery find immediate treatment. She is a frequent speaker on the subject of addiction and the opioid epidemic.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that more than 52,000 people died from drug overdose in 2015 and approximately 33,000 of those deaths were due to opioid pain pills and heroin. Michigan has been hard hit by the epidemic, losing 1,960 residents to drug overdose in 2015, a 13-percent increase over 2014 numbers.

"There is an enormous need

for more addiction resources and support for families in Wayne County," said Brian Spitsbergen, director of community relations for Growth Works, an adolescent and adult addiction treatment organization in Canton. "I regularly work with young people struggling with this disease and I am encouraged by new efforts to support parents and other family members affected by addiction." Spitsbergen serves as vice president of the new FAN chapter.

Andy Hopson, a Livonia resident whose son Dakota died from a heroin overdose in May 2016, also sits on the board of directors of Northwest Wayne County FAN. He understands addiction better than most — in addition to losing his son to the disease, he's been in recovery from substance use disorder himself since 1991.

"A big problem in getting these families the help and support they need is the stigma surrounding addiction," Hopson said. "Families feel embarrassed and ashamed that their loved ones are struggling with this disease and they isolate and withdraw. What they real-

See **NARCOTICS**, Page A3

## Robofest promotes STEM learning

The William D. Ford Career-Technical Center hosted Robofest 2017 Little Robots, Big Missions on March 30, in a competition that consisted of two rounds.

In Round 1 each team used a fully autonomous robot to play a game called RoboHit. In the RoboHit game the robots are programmed to locate and hit a ping-pong ball resting on top of a water bottle, using a pencil as a bat. Teams earn points when they remove the trash objects, the Lego blocks from the bases and returning to the home base to stop. There is a two-minute time limit.

Round 2 was called the unknown problem and the teams had 30 minutes to reprogram their robot to fix a problem.

The exhibition competition gave each team a chance to show off their creative autonomous robotics project.

Participants included teams from John Glenn High School, Wayne Memorial High School, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, Northville High School, Battle Creek, Novi, Troy and Walled Lake.

The Northville and Battle Creek teams will advance to the state competition.

Robofest is Lawrence Technological University's international autonomous robotics program for students in fourth through 12th grade and college. Student teams design, construct and program their robots to act independently

See **ROBOFEST**, Page A2



COURTESY WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOLS  
Wayne Memorial's Zebra Ball team gets ready to compete at Robofest.



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INDEX Classified..... B4-5 Obituaries..... A5

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# ROBOFEST

Continued from Page A1

and compete for trophies in a variety of competitions. Robofest's mission is to generate excitement among your people for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), develop creativity and problem solving skills, and prepare them to excel in high education and technological skills. For more information on Robofest, visit [www.robofest.net](http://www.robofest.net).

# Game on! Students snare computer contest honors

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

Students from the Livonia Career Technical Center made a strong showing in a computer game design contest at the University of Michigan-Dearborn last month.

Seniors Denise Neamtu and Carson Jonik won second place with their game, "Blubber." The award came with a \$1,500 college scholarship for each. In addition, Xiaolu

Huang, a junior, and Andrew Roskelly, a senior, won an honorable mention with their game, "Sinister School Sim."

All four are mobile apps/game design students at the Career Technical Center, which is part of the Livonia Public Schools.

The March 25 contest at UM-Dearborn, sponsored by the College of Engineering and Computer Science, required students to work in pairs to create a game within three hours. The theme, not announced until competition day, was "Artificial Intelligence: Good or Evil?" Contestants had to use either the Unity or Construct 2 game-creation platforms.

LCTC instructor Melinda Bush said competition in the annual contest is usually tough, but that students from her school



Denise Neamtu and Carson Jonik are honored March 25 for their second-place showing in a computer game design contest at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. With them are Bruce Maxim, left, an associate professor of computer and information science, and Tony England, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at UM-Dearborn and a former NASA astronaut. Carson and Denise are seniors at the Livonia Career Technical Center.

do well. There were around 20 teams participating this year.

"Most schools that win are from math/science academies," Bush

wrote in an email. "Since the inception of the competition, students from Livonia Career Technical Center have done very well."

The game design contest was one of four held at UM-Dearborn the same day as part of the school's 12th annual Engineering and Computer Science Experience. The other contests were in robotics, programming and computer simulation.

Bush's winning seniors will continue their computer studies in the fall.

Carson plans to attend Schoolcraft College to study video game design, Denise plans to attend UM-Dearborn to study computer information science, and Andrew has been accepted to Lawrence Technological University, where he plans to pursue a degree in computer science.

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# WONKA

Continued from Page A1

Auditions took place in early February, and rehearsals started shortly thereafter. The cast features some 30 kids, with another 25 in the crew.

It pleases Gidley, though it doesn't necessarily surprise him, to see that many get involved. John Glenn offers four levels of drama courses, so it naturally draws students who might never give it a thought.

"A lot of kids find a home (in drama)," Gidley said. "It keeps a lot of people in the program, and draws some kids who might not otherwise be part of it. It's another creative outlet for them."

John Glenn graduate Steve Goldberg (Class of 2012) is one of those kids who found a home in the program, so much so that, like the prodigal son, he keeps returning. Goldberg is an assis-



Oompa Lompas are Jessica Mack, Gloria Nolasco, Delshon Klonton, Makena Tabor and Hailee Melow.

tant director on this production.

"These kids really do find a home here," Goldberg said. "It's awesome to see these young actors and to be able to help direct them."

One of those actors is senior Emma Diamond, who plays the idealistic Charlie Bucket. Last seen playing Momma Hooper in "Virgil's Family Reunion," Diamond said she loves the pure qualities

of Charlie's character.

"I really like the character," said Diamond who had seen the movie before auditioning. "He's really genuine person. There's an innocence in him ... and he's so excited."

With more than 20 songs in the production, vocal director Asha Smith, another John Glenn drama club alum, had her work cut out for her. Luckily for Smith, a

lot of the actors are also involved in the vocal program.

"Because a lot of them are so young, their voices are under-developed," Smith said. "We got a lot of kids from the vocal program, so that helps."

Gidley said the timing of the production — they're putting it on in about eight weeks, from auditions to opening night — has been something of a challenge, but it's something all shows face.

"They're all a challenge in their own way," Gidley said. "Putting on a show like this, in such a short time ... we just kind of got it in there."

"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday (April 6-8) at 7 p.m., in the auditorium at John Glenn High School. Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors, \$12 for seniors, and are available at the door.

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**WOODHAVEN**  
AT HOME



# After son's death, Lyon mom helping others

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com

Having graduated from high school, Lyon Township resident Daniel Sims went to Arizona, where he completed technical training for motorcycle mechanics with a nearly 4.0 grade-point average.

It wasn't until he returned home that his family found out that Sims had been using heroin during his time away. He relapsed after nearly four months being clean and, at age 22, died of an overdose in January 2014.

"In high school, my son got caught with marijuana — that's where it started. That's not the case for everyone," said Cathy Sims Weir, Daniel's mother. "He went into counseling and seemed OK. He had his wisdom teeth out when he was in college. The dentist gave him Vicodin — too many, a couple months worth."

With the painkillers prescribed by a dentist, Weir said she thought it should be OK. "I'm embarrassed to say I didn't know what opioids were. I talked to my son — he didn't seem himself," Weir said.

Despite functioning at a pretty high level, Weir said there began to be other signs of a problem with her son. "He would tell me his backpack had been stolen or he'd had a



**SIMS FAMILY PHOTO**  
Mom Cathy Sims Weir, Daniel Sims and his sister Kari Sims. Daniel died of an overdose at age 22, prompting his mom to start the South Lyon chapter of Families Against Narcotics (FAN).

speeding ticket (to get money)," she said. "He started using heroin for economic reasons. He was already addicted. At that point, he held a full-time job. He was very bright and very high functioning. I thought he knew better."

Two years younger, sibling Kari Sims was also shocked by her brother's addiction.

"I would have never in a million have guessed that my brother would become a heroin addict. We had an amazing childhood, he was incredibly intelligent, gentle, humble, caring, funny," Kari said. "When he was a kid, he was overly cautious, wouldn't ride roller-coasters for fear of them falling apart, made us go into the basement during any storm. Just his whole character was the oppo-

site of what people assume to be the 'stereotypical addict.'"

Kari Sims described her brother as her absolute best friend. "He was the one person I know I could go to for anything. We talked almost every day and he would do anything for me. He'd come over and talk my ear off about random stuff, just to have company," she said. "He'd go along with my silly adventures, even if it didn't really interest him. He was my childhood and should have been my future, too."

Searching for help in the aftermath of Daniel's death, Weir came across Families Against Narcotics on the Internet. "I came across help for the person (who is addicted), but not for the families," Weir said. "Not only does this disease affect the

addict, it has a negative impact on the entire family."

Weir organized a FAN Southwest Oakland County/Livingston County chapter in the South Lyon area and serves as president. Kari Sims is treasurer and serves on the board, along with Weir's husband Gary. There are monthly board meetings with members who are in recovery, addiction treatment specialists, law enforcement and court officials, along with family members.

"Although I personally never went down the path of addiction and I am not in recovery from drugs or alcohol, I, too, am recovering from what drugs did to my family. A lot of times I feel lost, alone," Sims said. "I lost a huge part of my life and I go to therapy because of it. It's a struggle for me and something I face every day waking up, knowing my life is different now."

At the first FAN meeting, Weir said, about 70 people showed up. "That indicated a need. FAN provides hope for other families — we can help each other," Weir said. "Addiction affects all of us — no one is immune. People in mid-life, the elderly, young people. Most start with prescription drugs. I don't think our community is unusual — it's in every communi-

ty. We need something to help support the families and the person in recovery."

Along with losing her brother, Sims lost her father to a heart attack and, six days later, her grandmother died. "I honestly believe it (her father's death) was just from a broken heart," she said. "I thought I was doing the best I could after losing my brother and it spirals into so much more."

In memory of her brother, Sims said she decided to do something nice for others each year on her brother's October birthday and the date he died in January.

"Kindness seems to be missing in this world. I thought that on a day that makes me sad, I could sit and feel bad for myself or I could make a difference and make others smile. It truly helps me make it through the rough days," she said. "Since my brother passed at age 22, I create 22 acts of kindness cards in his memory. I add a \$1 scratch off lottery ticket or note pad, candy, something small. I leave his name, date of birth and passing and a message as to why — something to plant the seed."

The note reads, "Three years ago today I lost my brother to heroin, be kind for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you

know nothing about." Sims started leaving the cards anonymously on windshields, because the first time she passed out cards, she tried approaching people, who had a negative reaction to someone handling them something.

"That kind of says to me that people aren't used to kindness. So after leaving them anonymously, I never really knew what people thought, if it touched them, if people thought it was weird or if it truly brightened their day," she said. "I told myself if by doing this I could reach out to just one person, I'd be making a difference."

One member of the FAN board shared a story about finding a card on the windshield of her vehicle a month after a traumatic time as her son was in rehab.

"I came out of the Home Goods store in Brighton. The card was only on my car. I Googled FAN. My purpose and passion is to de-stigmatize addiction," the woman said, adding that she now also leaves notes on vehicles paying forward in memory of someone she loved.

FAN for the South Lyon area has its open forum the third Thursday of each month at the New Hudson Methodist Church. Contact Weir at CathyDSims@gmail.com.

## NARCOTICS

Continued from Page A1

ly need to do is reach out for help."

Also serving on the new FAN chapter board is Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik.

"Throughout my career, I've learned that the majority of residents living in northwest Wayne County believe that heroin, cocaine and

synthetic drug epidemics are inner-city problems and not a suburban issue," Jedrusik said.

"Eyes are not generally opened to such problems until it affects a personal friend or a family member. Unfortunately, this is a current epidemic that is affecting all of our communities, young people and families."

Kari Sims, treasurer of the South Lyon area FAN chapter and Weir's daughter, said that she

joined to spread awareness, educate and promote/prevent substance abuse.

"I joined to speak up and tell people that our community does have a problem and that it does no one any good to just shove it under the rug. I want to speak up so people don't go through what I did," she said. "I joined because my mom was passionate about helping others and making more people aware, so I joined

to support her. But I also joined to support myself and my passion for helping others. It is, unfortunately, comforting knowing that I am not the only person who is going through this."

It's a way to connect with people who understand the addiction problem, Sims said.

"Also, I wanted to spread the message that there is no such thing as a stereotypical addict. People can't use the ex-

cuse to not educate their loved ones just by saying, 'not my kid or not my family' because it could be anyone," she said.

"The drug epidemic is out of control and more people need to stand up and fight and make a difference and I want to be a part of that fight. These people losing their lives to drugs and alcohol, they leave behind so much. To most, they aren't just a drug addict — they are a sibling,

child, friend. They are somebody whose life has been cut so short."

The Northwest Wayne County FAN Chapter launch meeting April 10 is free and open to all who would like to attend. For more information, go to familiesagainstnarcotics.org/northwest-wayne or email nwwayne@familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

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Chef Polly Brown poses for a photo with students Kelly Zielinski and Austin Hannah.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Schoolcraft makes its mark at Saline culinary program

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

Chef Polly Brown decided she needed a new career path after losing her job several years ago. She then decided going to culinary school was the right move.

Her job in an office got outsourced more than a decade ago, so she decided it was time to head back to school to learn a skill she could utilize in a new career path.

"I said, 'What do I really want to do for the rest of my life?'" she said. "I had cooked my whole life."

Students at Saline High School and in the South and West Washtenaw Consortium taking culinary classes appear to agree she made the right choice.

Brown has assisted at the SWWC, which takes in students from such areas as Saline, Ypsilanti, Manchester and Dexter, for several years. She has several tasks at the school, including doing demonstrations every once in a while, but primarily focuses on preparing students for competition. She's gotten students ready for several competitions, including

ones held at Oakland Community College, where they've won several accolades over the years.

She said she always has a wide array of ingredients available for students so they head to competition prepared.

"They never know which vegetables they'll give them at competition, so it covers a lot all at once," she said. "I try to really open up."

Austin Hannah, a junior at Saline High School, said he's learning these skills not necessarily for a career, but to be better prepared in life, especially after he leaves high school.

"We're in here and we're seeing it all take place," he said. "When I get to college, I'm going to be the man in the kitchen."

### Schoolcraft influence

Much of the teaching at the Washtenaw County high school off Michigan Avenue is pulled from the Livonia two-year college: in addition to Brown's roots at Schoolcraft, the program's director, chef Sam Musto, also teaches at Schoolcraft College.

During his time at the high



Chef Sam Musto stands next to a display featuring several Schoolcraft College chefs hanging in a classroom at Saline High School.

DAVID VESELENAK

school, Musto has overseen the program's growth: for example, a room originally dedicated to child care classes was moved and that space turned into a bakery for culinary students. He runs several programs, including a meal-to-go program designed to sell meals during the school day prepared by students.

Musto said he brought Brown onto staff several years ago because he knew she could

educate the students in a unique way.

"What I was looking for was someone who was good at teaching," Musto said. "I knew she understood the whole component of teaching."

Brown, who graduated from Schoolcraft College in 2006, said the students taking culinary classes at Saline High School come out better prepared in the chance they decide to continue their educa-

tion at nearby Washtenaw Community College or Schoolcraft College.

"Our students who have gone to Schoolcraft have come out very successful," she said. "Because coming out of this program, they have the sanitation piece that Schoolcraft needs, they have the kitchen experience, they've worked with a variety of foods."

And the Schoolcraft College influence isn't just seen in the kitchen, but in the classroom Musto uses as well: an article featuring Schoolcraft College chefs, including culinary department head chef Shawn Loving, hangs by the door of the classroom.

"I keep this right here because I talk a lot about these guys to my (students)," Musto said. "I want the kids to know that I come from Schoolcraft and I want them to know that we have one of the best culinary programs in the nation."

"And I want them to know that that excellence is carried over here."

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### ASK A CHEF: DIANA WOODWARD

There are plenty of chefs out there who know Diana Woodward and credit her for their start in the culinary world. She is the instructor/coach of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Hospitality and Culinary Arts program. In 2016, the team took first place in the Michigan ProStart® Competition, hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association. That was followed by the team's national ranking of second place, out of 48 teams, in the 15th annual National ProStart Invitational. Students also run the popular Rock Cafe restaurant in Salem High School.

About 60 percent of Woodward's students go to the Schoolcraft College program and then on to stellar careers. Woodward graduated from Schoolcraft College in culinary arts and chef training and holds a master's degree in career technical education. She has worked as a pastry chef at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center; as well as the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn and the former cafe bon homme in Plymouth.

**Q: What are the most important spices a chef/cook should have in their kitchen?**

**A:** Salt! Really. That's the one. It's the most important seasoning there is and food isn't the same without it. I can't think of single thing we make



Diana Woodward, instructor/coach of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Hospitality and Culinary Arts program, takes notes while students prepare for a competition.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

in the restaurant that doesn't have a pinch of salt in it. It enhances foods' natural flavor and diminishes overly bitter or sour notes. Its key for pickles, brines, marinades, braises and, yes, dessert.

Spices — meaning bark, root and seeds, not herbs? Other than that, it's up to your taste. The spices you use add dynamic or direction to the food you are making. I like to have a whole nutmeg pod on hand to grate into food (if you haven't tried it, it is so much better than ground) — just a tiny bit. Then comes cinnamon,

cumin, coriander, chili powder, caraway seeds — my favorites all start with a 'c.' When it comes to herbs, I really try to use fresh, not dried. The flavor is more crisp, fresh and defined, I think. For home, I grind fresh herbs in a food processor with a little oil and then freeze the puree in tiny ice cube trays and keep them in labeled baggies. Then I always have a variety of fresh, minced herbs on hand.

See ASK A CHEF, Page A5

## Cooking classes bring out the inner chef

Want to up your foodie image? Check out these cooking and baking classes meant to stir something that inner chef within.

### Experience cooking

Chef Jessica Sweetman remodeled her home kitchen in Farmington Hills to provide a classroom environment to the community to learn the craft of cooking. She welcomes beginners and avid cooks alike to enjoy classes such as Global Street Foods, Mexican Fiesta and Homemade Pasta. Go to [www.experiencecooking.com](http://www.experiencecooking.com) for more information.

### Taste: A Cook's Place

Located inside The Village Workshop in downtown Northville. Mary Spencer, along with assistants, demonstrates all classes unless otherwise indicated with the help of cameras and a 50-inch TV. Classes such as Everything's Better with Bacon And Bourbon, Korean or Mediterranean Cruise Dinner run 6:30-8:30 p.m. and attendees are free to bring a bottle of wine to enjoy with the meal. Go to [www.tasteacooksplace.net](http://www.tasteacooksplace.net)

for more information.

### Sur la table

The national retail store offers classes such as Vegetarian 2.0, Classic Sauces from Scratch and Incredible Homemade Pizza. Various classes offered at is locations in Ann Arbor, Novi and Troy. Go to [www.surlatable.com](http://www.surlatable.com) for more information.

### BAKE! Zingerman's Bakehouse

Everything from legal magic brownies to family BAKE!-cations. BAKE! offers dozens of different bread, pastry and cake hands-on baking classes in its own teaching kitchens located in Ann Arbor. Go to [www.bakewithzing.com](http://www.bakewithzing.com) to learn more.

### Healthy cooking at Demonstration Kitchen

Located within Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, classes focused on living healthier are offered in the Demonstration Kitchen. Classes such as Essential Knife Skills, Eliminating Processed Food and BBQ Bootcamp will help you look and feel better

See CLASSES, Page A5



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Livonia Democratic Club meeting**

The Livonia Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. April 12 at the LDC headquarters at 33150 Schoolcraft Road, Suite No. L-02, Livonia. The guest is Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon.

**Lakes Tea Party meeting**

The Lakes Area Tea Party will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, April 10, at Uptown Grille, 100 E. West Maple Road, in Commerce. Health care expert Abigail Noble will discuss the current health care system, Obamacare vs. the American Care Act and Washington's repeal.

**Spring Senior Expo**

Senior citizens, retirees and caregivers can find a wealth of information that's important to them as the Observer & Eccentric presents the 14th annual Spring Senior Expo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 10, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, in Livonia.

The event is completely free to the public. More than 50 businesses, health care providers, insurance companies and legal practices will be on hand to discuss all they have to offer metro Detroit seniors. In addition, there will be sessions with experienced and insightful leaders in elder law, asset management, health care and pain relief.

Speakers include Christopher Berry of The Elder Care Firm, with a presentation on protecting assets from long-term care costs. Rick Bloom, Bloom Asset Management partner and Observer & Eccentric guest columnist, will talk about building an estate plan that fits your situation.

**Mother Truckers**

Tickets are on sale for Better Than Ever Productions third season opener, "Mother Truckers," a comedy by Judith Sapperstein and Gary Murway performed April 5-9 at the new PARC facility downtown Plymouth. Show date is 2 p.m. April 9 at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church St., Plymouth.

**Canton Adopt-A-Road**

The first Adopt-A-Road clean-up date is April 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or maybe even finish sooner). The first one of the year is always the toughest, since litter has accumulated all winter long in the ditches and on the road shoulder. The routes are: Geddes Road between Michigan Avenue and Beck, and Beck Road, between Michigan Avenue and Geddes. Tubs of pickup bags and reflector vests will be located in several spots along Geddes. It's important that we take care of our neighborhoods as much as possible.

**Office hours**

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will host coffee hours in Garden City and Westland with elected officials from the state of Michigan on Monday, April 10. Coffee hour in Westland will be co-hosted with state Reps. Robert Kosowski and Jewell Jones 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 and state Rep. Jewell Jones.

**Widowed Friends activities**

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for Widowed Men/Women hosting Stage Play/Dinner, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Sunday, April 9, 2 p.m., show time and dinner after. A musical play "Hello Dolly" is being presented by the Spotlight Players. Then enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant TBD by number attending. Ticket price for show is \$16. RSVP to Mary Ann at 734-589-8292.

Widowed Friends hosts Dinner/Games from 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 12. Dinner is at 6 p.m. Cost \$16 for buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door, cash only. Corsi's, 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. Stay for games and cards. RSVP 248-357-2183 or 313-274-2950. Widowed Friends

hosts Mass/Dinner, St. Hedwig Church, at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 29, St. Hedwig, (3245 Junction near Michigan) was the third Polish Church established for Polish immigrants in 1902 and now serves as the destination for immigrants from Mexico. Dinner, restaurant TBD. RSVP to call 734-927-0610 by April 20.

Widowed Friends hosts fish fries at the following churches: 4 p.m. April 7, Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, at the corner of Six Mile and Beech; 4 p.m. April 14 at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster.

**A safe internet for kids**

Crossroads Church presents, Creating A Safe Internet for Our Kids: A Special Internet Safety Seminar, at 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 12. Hear from a leading expert about how to help create a safe internet for kids. Visit www.CrossroadsNow.org for more information. Free admission.

**3D Photography Club**

The club will meet from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The meeting will feature a presentation on "Stereoscopic Optical Illusions" by Jay Horowitz, a former NASA scientist who specialized in visualization and virtual reality and is the current president of the Ohio 3D club.

After a refreshment break, the meeting will conclude with the monthly club 3D image competition. 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. For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

**Hilltop Church of the Nazarene**

Hilltop Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerly, north of Eight Mile, has the following services:

**Sunday Schedule:** 9:30 a.m. Classic Worship; 11 a.m. Revive (contemporary) Worship; 11 a.m. Kids Worship; 11 a.m.

teen worship; 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School

**Monday:** 7 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday:** 9:25 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study; 6:45 p.m. Evening Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday:** 6:30 p.m. Little Trikes (Birth - K) and Kidventure (1st-3rd grade) programming; Club 45 for fourth-graders and fifth-graders; Merge Middle School Worship night; Various classes and Bible Study; Alpha class from 6:30-8 p.m. - an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha is for high school to adult. Free English as a Second Language classes!

**Thursday:** 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer and Bible Study; Men's 33 study; Engage (Young adult) small groups and community.

For more information, call 248-348-7600 or go to www.hilltopnaz.org

**Hippity Hoppity**

Join the fun at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center Hippity Hoppity Open House, 15100 Hubbard, from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 9. Enjoy the pool, climbing wall and a variety of gym activities. The gyms will be set up for roller hockey, pickleball, volleyball and basketball. Guests can learn about organizations and businesses in their community. Participating organizations and businesses will be handing out treats to children. Admission is free for the day for residents and \$3 per person for non-residents. For more information, call the Kirksey Recreation Center at 734-466-2900.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church will host an Easter egg hunt from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the church, 321 S. Ridge Road, between Cherry Hill Road and Michigan Ave., Canton. For all children. Hunt for candy and small toy-filled plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church. Have a picture taken with the Easter bunny. For more information, call the church at 734-495-0035.

Man charged in theft of wallet from rec center

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

Livonia police say a Detroit man has been charged with taking a wallet at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center last month.

Police say Kenneth Myatt, 20, was arraigned this week on a larceny after police say he took a wallet from the rec center at 15100 Hubbard.

A 20-year-old Livonia man came to the police station March 10 to report his wallet was taken while he was playing basketball at the rec center. He told police he placed his shoes and wallet on the west wall of the basketball court. When he came back for his belongings, he found his wallet missing.

Police checked with the rec center, whose staff reviewed footage

that reportedly showed a suspect grabbing the wallet. Footage also reportedly showed the suspect earlier in the day obtaining a guest pass at the front desk. Police contacted Myatt via the contact information provided at the rec center and left a message for him, asking to speak to him about the incident.

Police were called March 19 to the rec center on the report that Myatt was there. When police arrived, they spoke to Myatt, who reportedly admitted to them he had taken the wallet, took it to the men's locker room and removed the cash. Police said he told them he left the wallet in a changing area in the locker room. Police said he told them he took the money to help out a friend whose mother had recently died.

He was arrested and taken into custody. He posted bond and is due back in Livonia's 16th District Court on April 25 for his next hearing.



Myatt

ASK A CHEF

Continued from Page A4

**Q: What is your favorite salad to prepare? And what are the ingredients?**

**A:** Warm weather is coming! There isn't much you can't mix together and call it a salad. To make for me to eat for dinner, I use romaine and baby lettuce, grilled corn, strawberries, shaved carrot, chicken grilled with lemon, garlic and basil. I like to make my own fat-free vinaigrette because, really often, people eat salad because they think it is healthy. But add cheese and a little dressing and it's instantly just as high-fat/salt as any other menu item.

Try this: Whisk one tablespoon of cornstarch with one cup of water or juice. Bring it to a boil

and then cool it. Use it instead of oil in salad dressing recipes. To make for a shared menu item (like for a buffet), use roasted red skins with tomato, avocado, spinach and bacon-balsamic vinaigrette.

**Q: Everyone today is in a hurry and making dinner is often left up to chance. What is your suggestion for a quick dinner?**

**A:** During the week, we are never home, so just about everything we eat is made in advance and frozen. My kids are big pasta fans, so every couple of months, I make three to four gallons of marinara with meatballs and sausage and freeze it in quart containers. Then all you have to do is boil pasta and steam some vegetables really quickly. We do the same with stews, chilis, soups — these are our go-tos.

CLASSES

Continued from Page A4

about your cooking game. Go to www.henryford.com and click on Demonstration Kitchen.

**Mirepoix Cooking School**

Located within the Holiday Market in Royal Oak, Mirepoix offers everything from cooking classes to wine tasting parties to private events to bring out the chef in everyone. Look for classes such as Date Night Spain, French Made Easy and Basic Knife Skills. Go to www.mirepoixcookingschool.com for more information.

**The Community House Birmingham**

The Community House offers a wide selection of culinary classes taught by various local chefs. Offerings range from the Wildtree series with Marybeth Zoller, Sprouts & Soufflé with Lucile Palancher to Kids in the Kitchen: Cook Off! Go to https://iis.tchserver.org for more information.

**Cooking with Class**

Cooking with Class, located in Franklin, was founded in 2005 by Deb Buzar with a desire to share her love and knowledge of food, wine and cooking with home enthusiasts in a personal environment. Buzar offers customized, hands-on or demonstration-style cooking classes and cooking parties for adults and teenagers in her kitchen or yours. Go to http://cookingwithclass-

withdebuzar.vpweb.com/ for more information.

**Great Lakes Culinary Center**

The culinary center, located on Nine Mile in Southfield, is an events venue that offers food-service professionals and the surrounding community the opportunity to test the latest kitchen equipment, attend cooking classes and demonstrations and host private events. Most cooking classes include two glasses of wine and a light snack, unless otherwise noted. Look for offerings such as Girls Night Out: Healthy Eats or Sunday



Dinner at Grandma's-German Style. Go to gclculinarycenter.com for more information.

Area cooking classes range from family-friendly to adults-only serving wine.

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SANKOVICH ZIMMERMAN



**WILLIAM F. "SWIVEL HIPS"** Age 92 of Farmington Hills, died peacefully in his sleep Thursday, March 23, 2017. Never has a finer man set foot on this earth. He was born June 5, 1924 in Tacoma, Washington. Mr. Sankovich served as a Staff Sergeant in U.S. Army during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He was a proud graduate of Lincoln High in Tacoma, WA, as well as the University of California, Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Mr. Sankovich joined the Ford Motor Company in 1949 holding numerous positions including Director of Ford Motor Company, South Africa and Portugal, Controller for the Transmission & Chassis and Engine Divisions. He retired as Finance Controller at the Dearborn World Headquarters in 1989 after 40 years of service. He lived an extraordinary life, having beaten Ben Hogan in a round of golf, danced with Ann Sheridan and Bette Davis, and once took over the lease on George Burns and Gracie Allen's apartment in Manhattan. Mr. Sankovich was a longtime supporter of the arts, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Michigan Opera Theater. He was a world traveler, loved cars and classic movies, knew the words to thousands of songs and sang them often. He is survived by three children Linda (Marcia Leadford) Sankovich, Doug (Cheryl) Tomblinson Sankovich, Paul Sankovich, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service is being planned for late June. Expressions of sympathy may be submitted online at www.janowiskfuneralhome.com



**ROBERT O.** April 2, 2017 Age 76 of Wayne. Beloved husband of Ann. Son of the late John "Jack" and Elsie. Brother of the late Jack Jr. He was loved and will be missed by his Aunts and many cousins. Robert was a 1959 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He was a letter carrier in the Wayne/Westland area and retired after 37 years. Funeral services were from the UHT Funeral Home, Wednesday April 5th. His burial took place at Glenwood Cemetery in Wayne. Family is requesting memorial contributions to Wayne High Schools Alumni Association Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com





## Longtime public servant to run for Livonia City Council

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

A familiar face in Livonia politics is seeking a return to public service.

Laura Toy filed paperwork last week to file to run for city council later this year. Toy was most recently on the council two years ago before she was term-limited out. Toy sat out the 2015 election and is eligible to run again this year.

She said she's gotten plenty of feedback from city residents asking her if she was planning a return to the city council.

"Basically, people have called me over the last year and a half and have talked to me about different things," she said. "They call me all the time and say, 'Are you going to run again?'"

"It makes perfect sense for me to go back."

She said she believes her experience in the city is something she'd like to lend as Livonia moves forward with various projects, including the discussions coming over the city's master plan. Holding more meetings with neighborhoods and residents is another priority for Toy, as well as discussing what to do about the number of rats in the city.

"We need to get out to our residents, because people are still worried about that issue," she said.

Toy, who has been an owner of Cardwell Florist in Livonia for several decades, also currently works as chief of staff for state Sen. Judy Emmons, R-Sheridan. Toy has been a public servant for several decades, having served in the Legislature in Lansing, as the Livonia



Toy

city treasurer, as a city councilwoman and as a Schoolcraft College trustee.

With Livonia's population living longer in the city, Toy said she wants to continue to reach out to groups such as seniors and be more in tune with their needs.

"Let's get in depth more of what their needs are," she said. "I think sometimes people forget that's what we're here to do, is to serve people with the dollars that we have."

Toy joins current council members Cathy White and Jim Jolly, along with challenger Gerald Perez, in the race as of this week. Four seats are open on the council later this year, those held by White, Jolly, Councilman Brian Meakin and Councilwoman Maureen Miller Brosnan. Meakin is eligible to run for another term, though Brosnan is term-limited and cannot run for the council this year.

The filing deadline is 4 p.m. April 25 for anyone looking to run for council. The dropout deadline is 4 p.m. April 28. The deadline to file as a write-in candidate is July 28 for the primary and Oct. 27 for the general election.

If more than eight candidates file to run for the race, a primary will take place Aug. 8 to bring the total to eight. The general election is Nov. 7. The top three finishers in November will each receive a four-year term; the fourth-place finisher will receive a two-year term.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

## Councilman: City needs attention



Kevin Coleman  
GUEST COLUMNIST

News trucks are once again converging on our city and it's not for good reasons. During my first couple of years in office as a city councilman (I was elected in 2013), Westland rarely saw negative headlines and we were running a balanced budget. Then in 2016 and again this year, news stories covering scandals, wrongdoing, store closures and violent crime have become an almost bi-weekly occurrence.

The recent firing of five Westland librarians who were trying to organize a union (which they have a right to do and are protected by law) has again brought our city into the negative news cycle. Only fueled by this apparent union-busting move, the circus atmosphere of city meetings is made worse by the attention brought forth about the various scandals that have gone on during the past couple of years.

Why are things changing and why is Westland

being covered in such a negative light? My opinion, and based on what I've learned by serving as your councilman, is that this is a direct result of the hiring and appointing of friends, family and political-allies rather than experienced professionals to work on our residents behalf.

I don't mean all city employees (we have many great ones) but enough to create problems. It's a common issue that plagues many city governments, but when Westland is on the news in such negative ways over and over again, we know we need to take a closer look.

Current Mayor Wild has only ignored these issues or claims that he "didn't know." I'm not satisfied with that response. Westland residents deserve better and

we can do better. They deserve experienced employees to work for them and they deserve to live in a city that doesn't have to deal with the negative reputation created by these unnecessary "scandals" and "controversies."

I understand that he is becoming interested in regional politics and has run for, and expressed interest in running for, other higher offices. I respect those ideas but let's please keep the attention focused on a city that needs it — we are currently running an over \$1.2 million operating deficit, have taken on a lot of debt and have 26 percent less police on staff at a time when violent crime seems to be more and more common.

I stand with the Westland Library and that means supporting library services and librarians. I am waiting for the mayor and library board to do the right thing and fix their mistake — even if it doesn't always look good to admit you were wrong.

If this doesn't happen soon, I am considering a budget amendment proposal which could be adopted by City Council to exercise its authority over the library's finances and take the necessary steps to make it right. Library Board President Mark Neal, a retired fire chief, has tried to label those that have concerns about the many problems at the library as out-of-town agitators. This is not true, as the majority of those who have protested, spoken up and contacted me about it are Westland residents.

I have examined the situation very closely and can see that people are getting tired of the insider-politics that only drags our city down and onto the prime time news. To all my neighbors in the city — during these difficult times, Westland needs our attention.

Kevin Coleman is a Westland City Council member.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Make Garden City great again

In declaring his candidacy for a fifth term, Garden City Mayor Randy Walker said, "There's still a lot to be done."

Really? After eight years, why haven't you done it? Why would four more years matter?

Walker has taken our city down to Inkster's poor financial shadow. We have high water rates and high property taxes. Home values are still low. We have a special street light assessment while 75 percent of our streets need repair.

About 100 businesses closed with more than 50 of those businesses on Ford Road.

And who can forget how Walker earned his continuing reputation as "The Pizza Mayor" after the night of his last swearing in November

2015. He refused to allow the residents who were foreclosed upon to comment at that public meeting. Some contended that they weren't properly notified. Facing a packed audience, Walker said comments couldn't be heard because pizza was in the oven at Albert's on the Alley and the elected officials all needed to head over there for the victory party.

Both Walker's and four council seats are up for election this November. The November ballot will include a special election to fill the remaining term — ending November 2019 — of Councilman Jim Kerwin, who recently died.

Petitions to seek placement on this year's ballot are due April 25 and must contain at least 75 signatures. We need residents to run for these offices. Our city's future depends on it.

I can only support Councilman Mark Jacobs for re-election. He questions the mayor and other council members on

topics of interest. He votes no with his information and wants to see the city rebound.

The remaining council members are "yes" women.

Residents are still paying for a \$15 million lawsuit lost by the city when Councilwoman Jaylee Lynch was mayor. The city could have settled for \$880,000. We are still being charged more than \$140 each year on our taxes for payments of \$1.7 million per year for years to come.

Councilwoman Pam King, a Realtor, has brought little forward thinking to her position.

Councilwoman Patricia McKarge, a former Garden City parks and recreation director, lacks objectivity often being more of an advocate for employees than for the residents.

Residents, please consider running for an office to help Garden City rebound. I will support anyone who wants to help Garden City rebound. Together

we can make a difference.

Al Buckner  
Garden City

#### Fight opioid addiction

Opioid addiction is on the rise, and effects more than just those who are addicted. The Westland Police Department would like the public to know about the Families Against Narcotics, (FAN), chapter that has been formed in Wayne County.

"Families feel embarrassed and ashamed that their loved ones are struggling with this disease, and they isolate and withdraw. What they really need to do is reach out for help." Andy Hopson, a Livonia resident who lost his son to the opioid epidemic.

The organization is dedicated to eliminating the stigma associated with addiction and providing families struggling with the disease the support and resources they need.

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik is an advisory board member of the committee, whose members include other members of law enforcement, concerned citizens, families of those affected by addiction, and leaders in healthcare, education, business, and religion.

The first meeting of the Wayne County FAN chapter is scheduled to take place on April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Life-Church Annex located at 6900 N. Haggerty Road in Canton. These meetings are open and free to the public.

If you need help, please take advantage of this free program. For more information, visit [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org)

Alfred Brock  
Wayne

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**GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SERVICES**

**Good Friday Service**  
April 14 at 12 noon

The Adult Choir and Drama Team of Meriman Road Baptist Church Present  
"The Day He Wore My Crown"  
by David T. Clydesdale

Good Friday, April 14 at 7pm  
Saturday, April 15 at 7pm  
Free Admission

**Easter Sunday Worship Services**  
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FRANKLIN TO HOST EVENT

## College recruiting myths on docket

Recruiting Realities' Jack Renkens has can't-miss message April 19 for students, parents and coaches

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

The college recruiting game sometimes is a dirty one, but Livonia student-athletes and their parents have a unique chance to get the clean scoop about what's in it for them.

In his presentation "The Realities of College Athletic Recruiting," Jack Renkens, a motivational speaker and author from Recruiting Realities, will break it all down at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, in the Livonia Franklin auditorium.

The free presentation, which will last about 50 minutes, is for student-athletes from Franklin, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Stevenson — as well as parents and coaches.

Renkens, a former college coach, will tee off on a couple of important trends, including about parents who are unrealistic and critical of coaches.

"This event has been at Churchill in recent years," Churchill athletic director Marc Hage said. "We have Jack visit

us every four or five years. It is beneficial because he gives parents a very realistic perspective about the both the recruiting process and where their child actually fits into it — and if they even do.

"Also, he tells parents how to proceed if it is their child's desire to pursue collegiate opportunities."

According to a press release, Livonia Public Schools made the investment to the community "to provide our student-athletes and parents with information about playing college athletics.

"This event is designed for every high school parent and their student-athlete. If your son or daughter truly has aspirations to play at the college level, this is a 'can't-miss' event."

Two popular myths that Renkens will debunk are that only top athletes should consider college athletics and that they must hold off until junior year of high school to start revving up their communications with recruiters.

According to Recruiting Realities,



RECRUITING REALITIES  
Jack Renkens, a motivational speaker, author and former college coach, will break down the realities of recruiting April 19 for Livonia district student-athletes.

those myths are as follows:

» Myth 1: That the time to gear up recruiting efforts is late in the junior year. Reality: The best time to start is freshman year.

» Myth 2: Only the top athletes can expect to get opportunities. Reality: There are great schools all over the country looking for good athletes, good students and good kids right now.

The first five coaches that Renkens

meets April 19 will receive a complimentary copy of his latest book.

For more information, go to the website recruitingrealities.com.

Also, interested people can contact Recruiting Realities vice president Lucy Cohen at 800-242-0165 or email lucy@recruitingrealities.com.

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CYO SOFTBALL

## NIGHT COURT

Judge Mike Gerou's 'day job' is at 35th District Court, but he relishes coaching Good Counsel softball

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

As a judge or softball coach, Mike Gerou loves holding court.

Not only is Gerou a longtime judge at 35th District Court in Plymouth, but he also guides and directs young people in another way — as the new varsity softball coach at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Whether wearing his black robe inside the courthouse or his green and gold Crusaders garb out on the softball field, he loves to connect and communicate.

"I don't even know if they know," Gerou said when asked in his trophy-laden chambers about whether any of his players knows he's a judge in his day job. With a hearty laugh, he jokingly added that "in a few years they might."

All kidding aside, Gerou couldn't wait to get his new team out on the practice field at Farrand Elementary School in Plymouth to practice everything from bunting to sliding.

The Crusaders open the season with games Saturday against Dearborn Divine Child and Sunday against Livonia's St. Michael Catholic School.

He's no stranger to coaching softball, having founded and coached the successful program at All Saints Catholic School in Canton. In a three-year span there, his teams went 29-1.

Travel teams have benefited from his coaching over the years, including renowned programs such as the PC Pride and Livonia Storm.

And in 2015, he was the junior varsity coach at OLG. He had to give it up for a season last spring, because it was his daughter Elaine's final year of col-

lege softball at Schoolcraft and "I didn't want to miss her games."

Helping the kids

Now that he is the Crusaders varsity coach, does Gerou worry about having enough time what with his duties at 35th District Court? He said he'd find a way to make it all work because he flat-out loves coaching the sport.

"Nah, I'm type A, terminally type

See GEROU, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite recovering from recent shoulder surgery, Our Lady of Good Counsel softball coach Mike Gerou (above) enthusiastically plays catch with a Crusaders player during practice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Even when Mike Gerou is in his judge's chambers at 35th District Court in Plymouth, an overflowing trophy showcase reminds him and visitors about his "second" career.

PREP SOFTBALL PREVIEW

## Patriots ready to hit ground running

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

As far as Livonia Franklin softball coach Brittany Grys is concerned, last season was a mulligan for her and the Patriots.

Grys was hired to take over the team shortly before the 2016 season began, which didn't give her sufficient lead time to work with players. The Patriots finished 9-29, falling in the district finals to Garden City.

But in Year 2, she expects things to be much more settled.

"The team will be more competitive this year especially with league games," Grys said. "Last year's close-to-season hire date didn't leave much time to work in the off-season before tryouts and games.

"The off-season workouts have made a huge impact with the team and leadership already this year."

Franklin will look to make noise in the KLAA South Division with a trio of team captains leading the way.

Those include senior catcher and power bat Brooke Garbarino, senior infielder-outfielder Melissa Ferrier and junior pitcher-shortstop Miyah Smith.

"Miyah was our starting shortstop last year," Grys said. "We will utilize her glove again this year but she will be our starting pitcher after stepping up and taking on a critical role for the team."

Also back and expected to be key

See FRANKLIN, Page B2



TOM BEAUDOIN

A key returnee for the Patriots is Miyah Smith, shown during a 2016 game.

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## PREP SOFTBALL PREVIEW

## Patterson will mix and match with Cougars

Garden City softball lineup will feature interchangeable parts early in season

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Yes, the Garden City Cougars have some all-state-sized holes to fill, thanks to the graduations of shortstop Kaylen Glenfield and outfielder Amber Swisher.

And don't forget that all-conference catcher Mikaela Smolar is now at Schoolcraft College.

But veteran head coach Barry Patterson isn't fretting too much, because the Cougars also



TOM BEAUDOIN  
Alissa Turnbull will do some pitching for the Cougars.

have some pretty good players coming back from the 2016 team that went 23-16 and won a regional title.

"We're going to be competitive," Patterson said. "Depth-wise, I think we're probably as good as anybody in the league if you look at 1-to-10 in the lineup."

The defending Wayne Westland Athletic Conference Red Division champions boast a balanced lineup, as well as strong defense and pitching. Those components usually result in victories.

"We have a couple returners coming back to the outfield who are going to catch it well for us," Patterson said. "I feel pretty comfortable about

that."

He listed those outfielders as seniors Britta Radtke and Alea Montgomery and sophomore Megan Glaser.

Patterson also can call on junior Kamryn Dunham to log time in the outfield, when she isn't helping out at the catcher's position.

On the mound will be junior starter April Rudolph, who already has two seasons in the circle under her belt.

"(Rudolph) started as a freshman and as a sophomore, so she has a lot of game experience," Patterson said. "Not an overpowering pitcher, she locates the ball well, doesn't walk people, gives us opportunities to be in

every game.

"She doesn't get a ton of strikeouts, so that's why it's real important that we catch the ball behind her."

Also ready to share the pitching load are senior Alissa Turnbull and junior Aubrey Boston.

Turnbull will start somewhere in the infield most of the time, although Patterson said he is still trying to determine which players will play where.

Also in the infield mix are power-hitting senior Alicia Ascencio, junior Natalie Billings and even Radtke, not to mention junior newcomer Amanda Kesson (also vying for the starting catcher's job).

If Kesson isn't catching, behind the plate will be freshman Emma Gausden, senior Shelby Casey or Dunham.

Radtke, Montgomery and Glaser will be the main outfielders, but Patterson has several options when needed.

Those players who might help out in the outfield include juniors Olivia Polak, Cortni Mowrer, Amy Portner, Kesson, Dunham, sophomore Libby Spears and freshman Siena Sanchez-Condash.

Both Spears and Sanchez-Condash also can chip in at infield positions.

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## WOMEN'S WORLDS

## It's on to semis for U.S. Women's National Team

American top Finland to advance in tourney

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Although the ice was tilted toward the Finland goal Monday night — with a wide edge in scoring chances — the U.S. Women's National Team found itself in a 3-3 tie with 11 minutes left.

Needing a victory to ensure a spot in the semifinal round of the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championships at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, center Hannah Brandt and her linemates sensed the urgency and opportunity.

"We knew it was going to be a battle going into it and we knew that after they got that third goal that we were going to need another one to win the game," said Brandt, who scored the winning goal in Team USA's 5-3 victory. "So our line looked at each other. We said, 'We got the next one.'

"It was pretty soon after that third goal that they got that we came back and were able to put one in. It was nice that we were able to get it back quick and our line was itching for a goal."

With the win, the U.S. moves on to the semifinal game set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday against the winner of Tuesday's Russia-Germany preliminary round match-up. Also Thursday, at 3:30 p.m., Canada will square off against either Finland or Sweden.

## On the net

To the deciding goal, U.S. defenseman Gigi Marvin threaded a pass from the left corner to Brandt charging in front of the blue paint.

As Brandt lunged forward, she mustered enough on the re-direct to slip the puck past Finland goalie Noora Raty, who kept her team in it with a 35-save performance.

"I just went to the net and Gigi found my

stick," Brandt said. "I really just had to get enough on it and it trickled in."

But the victory was not yet signed, sealed and delivered. The U.S. needed to kill off a subsequent five-on-three situation for a span of 1:35.

There were several factors behind the penalty kill.

Goaltender Alex Rigby (21 saves), who wasn't tested as much as Raty, came up with several timely stops.

On defense, Farmington's Megan Keller out-muscled Finland forwards for possession of the puck behind the net. And players such as forward Kendall Coyne seemingly were everywhere to get in shooting lanes.

Clinching the win, before 1,368 fans, was an empty-netter at the 19-minute mark by Jocelyne Lamoureux.

"No. 1, we had Rigby, who made some big saves," U.S. head coach Robb Stauber said.



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY  
Team USA's Kendall Coyne (right) congratulates goal-scorer Hilary Knight.

while, the game was up for grabs.

"I did mention to the players that we've all been in games like this before where you look up at the shot clock," Stauber said. "It can be lopsided. But on the other hand, the score matters. It's not just shots on goal."

"So we've all been in games like that before and, the critical thing is, when it is lopsided, that you still come out on top."

## Group effort

One of the key performers for the U.S. was forward Hilary Knight, who scored two of her team's three power-play goals.

"It helps to have a veteran presence whenever you're a team in a big tournament on a world stage," Knight said. "But I think the beautiful thing about our team is that we can get everyone going."

"And when we get everyone going, (we're) tough to stop."

Knight, however, added that although the atmosphere in Plymouth has been "fun," it would be even better with more spectators in the seats.

"I'd like to see more fans," Knight said. "But the fans are fantastic and I'm looking forward to a bigger crowd next time (in the semifinals)."

The U.S. also is assured of playing Friday, either in the bronze medal game (3:30 p.m.) or gold medal game (7:30 p.m.).

Also scoring for the U.S. was Coyne, on a power play at 3:33 of the second period, to snap a 1-1 tie.

Amanda Kessel's shot from the left circle was blocked, but the puck caromed over to Coyne near the right post. She collected it and jammed it home.

Tickets remain on sale at the USA Hockey Arena box office or online at 2017women-sworlids.com.

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## GEROU

Continued from Page B1

A," Gerou said, laughing again. "I'm a driven person. But I'm really passionate about coaching softball. I like coaching kids, I love the game of softball and it's a great opportunity to impart life's lessons to these kids.

"Not only (about) hard work, but that putting in the extra effort pays off. Also, attention to detail, setting lofty goals, believing in yourself, believing in your teammates, putting a plan in place and every day you work to get better and better."

At any rate, he doesn't have far to travel from the courthouse to adjacent Massey Field, where the Crusaders play home games.

"It's a great opportunity," Gerou said. "The city of Plymouth takes care of Our Lady of Good Counsel. It's a fabulous field to play on."

Gerou said he was "honored" to be asked to take over the team, composed mostly of seventh- and eighth-graders. Last year, the Crusaders had a rough go of it (1-8-1) against Catholic Youth Organization opponents in their initial foray into varsity play.

"Some of the girls were saying they didn't know if they liked softball anymore, that sort of thing," Gerou said. "So I ran into Mike Riordan (Circuit Court of Appeals judge) and said, 'Hey, if anybody'd be looking for a coach, let me know.'"

"I'm very excited to do so. I get a chance to coach a lot of the girls I coached two years ago. There's some new ones as well, but I'm excited for the opportunity."



## THE GEROU FILE

**Who:** Mike Gerou, new varsity softball coach at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

**He's a vet:** Gerou previously coached at OLCG in 2015, heading up the JV softball team. He helped found All Saints Catholic School in Canton and was softball coach there for several seasons.

**Community leader:** The Canton resident is president of Catholic Youth Organization athletics at All Saints, has coached various community youth sports over two decades (including several nationally ranked fast-pitch softball teams) and was the first president of the Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association.

**Meet the judge:** Gerou was elected in November 2002 to serve as a 35th District Court judge in Plymouth. He remains in that position.

**Meet the coach:** He has an extensive background as a travel softball coach, including successful stints with the PC Pride, Livonia Storm, Queens of Diamonds and Michigan Strategy.

**Meet the Crusaders:** His first OLCG varsity team includes players Sydney Marx, Madeline Stone, Zara Post, Clare Baker, Nikita Moore, Olivia Haass, Sophia Hogan, Rachel Paulin, Sarah Ellsworth, Fiona Riordan and Maria Plencner.

**Coaching staff:** Helping out Gerou will be OLCG main assistant coach Karyn Paulin, along with team manager Karen Baker. Daughter Elaine and son Nolan also will be helping out as assistant coaches. His oldest son is Miles.

**Home games:** The Crusaders will play home contests at Massey Field, a softball's throw away from Gerou's chambers.

## Don't worry

His first goal is for players to get just as excited about playing softball. Gerou intends on making sure they play hard and not be

afraid of throwing to the wrong base or dropping a pop fly.

"I've been coaching kids sports for 20 years, fast pitch softball for about a dozen years," Gerou said. "I think a

girls is, come spring and the ground's still hard — and they haven't ever done this before — they're afraid to slide," he said. "If you can't slide, you're never going to run the bases aggressively, so they bought some sliding pads. In our indoor practices, we've done extensive work on sliding."

Whether those sessions will help the Crusaders rack up wins and victories remains to be seen.

## Game of life

But Gerou is more interested in coaching up kids so they can add to a different kind of victory column. He wants them to be respectful and go about their business the right way.

"We have two team mottos," Gerou said. "One, we respect everybody. We respect our teammates, we respect our opponents, we respect the coaches, the umpires, the parents. And we fear no one."

"The other team motto is every day, in every way, we're getting better and better. As long as we're seeing improvement every day, things just take care of themselves. We'll be OK."

Meanwhile, according to Gerou the judge, there is another underlying reason it is essential for young people to have a purpose and a place to be.

"If they don't get anything else out of this, find something in life you're passionate about," Gerou said. "Just pursue your passions."

That's what Gerou does and he has no intentions of slowing down anytime soon.

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## FRANKLIN

Continued from Page B1

contributors are junior first baseman Sarah Iler and junior outfielder Tara Trujillo. The coach said both Iler and Trujillo are outstanding hitters, combining for power and average.

The Patriots also boast junior returnees Emily Johnson and Alanah Kirwan.

"They will be an effective combo for us both in the infield and outfield," Grys said. "They already have visible improvements from last season both offensively and defensively."

A promising group of varsity newcomers also have the second-year coach optimistic about this season.

Sophomores Haley Bennett and Aubrey Wiacek and freshman Maddison Reynolds "bring new energy to the team and will be key players for us. For being newcomers to the team they are stepping up and giving the returners some major competition in all areas of the game. Haley will also see time behind the plate."

Helping out in the pitcher's circle will be junior Jordan Berger and sophomore Lauren D'Angelo.

"Lauren has a strong bat and will be utilized in the lineup frequently," Grys said. "Both girls put in consistent work in the off-season to improve consistency and speed in their pitching."

Providing versatility will be sophomore catcher-outfielder Olivia Napier, while junior utility player Ashley Kent returns after missing last year due to shoulder surgery.

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GIRLS SOFTBALL

# Area WWAC teams eye improvement

Check out the preseason outlook for Redford Union, Redford Thurston and Livonia Clarenceville

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

For Redford Union's Randall Taylor it can only be categorized as a maiden voyage in his coaching career.

The varsity boys basketball coach is now in charge of the varsity girls softball program taking the reins over from Debbie Fittrakis, who stepped down following three seasons.

"It's a new experience, a new journey and it's my first opportunity with the girls," Taylor said. "It's totally different than coaching the boys. With the girls I've learned they're more receptive and they follow directions. They love it. They've been showing up and working hard."

Last season, RU was eliminated in the Division 2 district tournament by eventual state semifinalist Livonia Ladywood, 15-0, in three innings.

The Panthers lost two key players to graduation in Cashmere Jones and Kioyanna Hardin, but have several players returning led by senior first baseman Kaitlin Bastianelli, who Taylor says, "can hit and field it pretty well."

Another key returnee is senior shortstop-second baseman Sophie Kanar, who "can hit and play all over," according to Taylor.

Meanwhile, Danna Mejia, an infielder and outfielder, is the best returning junior joined by Lindsey Pfirrmann (pitcher-infielder), Brianna Clapham (pitcher-utility) and Destini Sylvester (outfielder-infielder). Sophomore Caitlyn Kenney will also add depth at catcher, but can also play in the infield and outfield.

Jordan Bryant, a freshman infielder-outfielder, also shows prom-



RU's top returnees include (bottom) Caitlyn Kenney, Destini Sylvester (top left) and Brianna Clapham.

ise. "She's a travel player and by the time she's a senior college scouts will be all over her," Taylor said of the ninth-grader.

RU will be playing up in the Blue Division of the Western Wayne Athletic Conference challenged by the likes of Garden City, Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

"We're just hoping to come out and compete and lay a foundation for the program," Taylor said. "We want to get these girls playing at a high level, and playing hard every day, and we'll build from there. We haven't a chance to scrimmage with the weather and everything. We've only had a couple of chances to go outside and practice."

**Clarenceville**

New coach Ed Young takes over the Trojans'

program after Joe DeCaire stepped down after 18 seasons.

Young has coached on the summer travel circuit with both the Romulus Top Flyte and Canton Thunderbirds. He was also an assistant coach at Romulus High from 2009-2013.

Clarenceville (5-19) lost Kylee Hammond to graduation, but returns seven players from a year ago led by sophomore third baseman Erin Koss and sophomore second baseman Mary Hammond.

Other returnees include sophomore pitcher Emily Schmidt, who will be the No. 1 starter, junior outfielder Shelby Smith, junior catcher Skyler Srock, sophomore utility Autumn Farr and sophomore catcher Shannon Bullock.

Junior Ashley Kato, a transfer from Redford Union, will provide depth at pitcher, first base and

outfield.

The Trojans have also added two promising freshmen in Skylin Shourd, a shortstop, and Cassidy Galvin, who can play a number of positions.

"Skylin is fast and has a good arm, she can hit and slap," said Young, who is carrying 23 players, including 17 on varsity. "We also have what we call an 'athlete' in Cassidy. She's run track, played volleyball and basketball, and she's very good at softball, and she's never played. It's her first year and she's already in the starting lineup."

Clarenceville will compete in the Red Division of the WWAC along with Romulus, Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Dearborn Fordson, Redford Thurston and Dearborn Heights Robichaud. "I always set goals high and I'm expecting to win the division," Young



First-year Clarenceville softball coach Ed Young returns sophomore second baseman Mary Hammond (right).

said. "That's what I've set the goal for this year is to win the division. But that's as far as we can go this year because we're short on pitching."

**Thurston**

Third-year coach Scott Gray hopes to build off last year's 6-4 finish in the WWAC's Red Division.

The Eagles, who went 7-7 overall, lost three players to graduation including starting pitcher Rachel Pegouske, shortstop Chelsea Williams and left fielder Kianna Shephard.

"We lost three valuable pieces, but we have a nice core coming back, and with our freshmen, it's one of our better groups," Gray said. "Romulus finished first in our division and we tied Crestwood for second, so this year we hope for more of a turnaround."

Junior third baseman-catcher Ivory Mamo, a two-time team MVP, is back for her third season starting after hitting .636 and .705 the past two seasons. She was also the team's RBI leader.

Other key returnees included senior center fielder Ronay Peguies (.500), senior first baseman Sydney Taylor (.380), senior catcher-utility Gillian Drake and senior left fielder Angel Williams.

Among the promising sophomore newcomers to the varsity include Andrielle Davis (shortstop), Devan Robinson (second base) and Makayla Hinz

(outfield-first base-DH).

Leading the freshman class is pitcher-first baseman Laura Korff, whom Gray says has "the most velocity and control," along with pitcher Jane Dillon.

"Our biggest problem since I've been coaching at Thurston the last three is that we don't have our textbook pitching prospect," Gray said. "The last two years I've had a couple of girls that could get the ball over the plate. Pegouske kind blossomed to where she knew where she could get herself out of trouble, but we've never had a quality 55-to-60 mph throwing pitcher. Most of our kids have had to piece meal it together because they haven't been doing it very long."

Other freshman prospects include Devon Roe (infield-outfield), Julia Miller (pitcher-outfield-infield), Heavenly Yarber (outfield-second base) and Briana Sterbenz (pitcher-utility).

"My biggest thing that I hang my hat on, and that I tell the kids all time, is that you have to get it over the plate and let the other team hit the ball, then we can put them out," Gray said. "Our defense is pretty solid when we can put the ball in play. And our bats usually come through for us. We've hit some pretty good pitcher. We're hoping to take another step forward. I'm hoping we can give Romulus a run for their money at the league leader spot."

IIHF WOMEN'S WORLDS

## Keller is enjoying time with Team USA

Farmington native's defensive stalwart

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com

Megan Keller is having the time of her life playing hockey.

The 20-year-old Farmington native couldn't be happier playing in the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championships right in her own backyard. Keller is displaying her world-class defensive skills for the U.S. Women's National Team in front of many familiar faces this week at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

"I have quite a few family and friends who have come to the games, my immediate family and the people who just live around here and grew up playing in Honeybaked," said Keller, the only Michigan player on the 23-person roster. "The hockey community is so small and so tight-knit that you kind of recognize everybody and get to know everybody."

Keller and her USA teammates wrapped up the annual tournament's preliminary round with a perfect 3-0 record after hanging on to defeat Finland, 5-3, in a tough game Monday night. The Americans recorded shutouts over arch rival Canada (2-0) and Russia (7-0) in their first two games.

Keller didn't register any points in those three games, but has played

strong as a tall, lanky defenseman who brings a physical presence to the team. The 5-foot, 11-inch



Keller

left-handed shooting Keller also plays an important role as a penalty killer and logs power-play time.

"The one thing I try and use to my advantage is my size and my stick," Keller said. "It really helps me out when people are coming down one-on-one. That's something you want to use to your advantage. You want to see the ice and get the puck quickly to your teammates and that is always a great trait to have."

**Coach: Megan is 'solid'**

USA head coach Robb Stauber, a former goalie at the University of Minnesota in his first year guiding the team, said Keller fits right into the system.

"As a staff we spend time evaluating our 'D' after every game and it's been really good. Our 'D' has been solid and (Megan's) a big part of it," said Stauber, who has been involved with the women's national team in some capacity since 2010. "The greatest thing about Megan is, any athlete is going to (make mistakes), it's not a perfect game. And she has great instinct when something doesn't go her way, how she can



Megan Keller (5), a Farmington native, is playing in her third world championship as a member of the U.S. Women's National Team.

recover.

"Incredible instinct to, 'Oh-oh, I'm going to stop, I'm going to return and I'm going to figure out how to make this play better that didn't go the way I wanted it to.' That's her instinct. Where, there are some people that maybe make a mistake, and they go 'Darn.' And then it's too late. It's got to be just automatic return, and that's what she does so well for us.

"I assume she picked that up from when she was a kid, you know? She's a gifted player."

Keller attended Our Lady of Sorrows elementary school and Dunckel Middle School before graduating from North Farmington High School in 2014. She was introduced to hockey by her older brother Ryan who played at Novi Detroit Catholic Central High School and then in college at Michigan State

University from 2012-16.

Keller said she played the game as a youngster with Ryan and his friends and later learned to defend herself while playing recreational hockey on the Farmington Fire and Livonia Knights boys teams up through the pee-wee level. She eventually played with the girls teams in the well-known Honeybaked organization.

"Neither of my parents played hockey, but a few of the kids in the neighborhood did and that's when my brother started playing," Keller said. "Of course, being the younger sister, I wanted to do everything he did. And that's kind of how I got started in hockey. We always played mini-sticks and roller hockey out in the street. He was always nice enough to let me tag along.

"Playing with the boys

and with Honeybaked really helped me improve my skills. And, I think it brought out the physical part of the game by playing with my older brother. You have to learn quickly to hold your own and that's one thing that I'm thankful for, that he let me tag along with him and his friends. That really helped me hone my game."

**Honing game at BC**

Keller's hockey career has blossomed at Boston College where she recently completed her junior season.

In her first three years at the Jesuit Catholic school in Chestnut Hills, Mass., Keller was named First-team All-American twice and earned First-Team Hockey East all-star honors twice. As a freshman she made the Hockey East All-Rookie Team, as a sophomore she was voted Hockey East's best defenseman and this year she won the prestigious Cammi Granato Award as Hockey East's top player.

Keller is one of BC's leading offensive players having registered 115 points in three years with 26 goals and 89 assists. She led the Eagles this past season with a plus-36 and was second in penalty minutes with 28.

"I think just the opportunities that I had playing around here in Michigan and playing for Honeybaked helped me get to Boston College which has a great hockey program," said Keller, who is working on a communications major. "Boston College has helped me develop as a player."

That development continues with USA hockey.

Keller played in the IIHF's 18-under women's world championships in 2014 and then was promoted to the U.S. Women's National Team in 2015. In her two seasons with the national team, she's registered three goals and three assists for eight points in the world championships. While Keller does not score as much with the national team, she has earned a regular spot in the defensive rotation.

Quite remarkably, Keller has thus far not lost a game in the world championships with the national team. She was a member of both the 2015 and 2016 teams which captured gold medals. Including this year, the U.S. women have won 17 straight tournament games.

"It was always a dream of mine to play (for the women's national team)," Keller said. "It's definitely something I've been working towards throughout my hockey career."

"This is an amazing opportunity and an honor to be able to play with the women's national team. To represent your country and play for a gold medal, especially in your own country is something special. I hope we can get it done and I look forward to the upcoming games."

Keller and her teammates next play 7:30 p.m. Thursday against Germany in the semifinals.

If the USA women defend their world championship, Keller will be accepting her third gold medal in front of family and friends in the city where she learned to play the game. What a cherished memory that will be.



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 neighborly deals...

**Estate Sales**

**ESTATE SALE**



**Assorted Items**  
 all kinds of things...

**Wanted to Buy**

BUYING Older Motorcycles, road & dirt bikes & ATVs. Running & Non-Running Condition 810-775-9771

**General**

**BRIDGEPORT OPERATOR/INSPECTOR** with experience on a Brown & Sharp CMM. Precision Detail Shop. We offer full benefits. Send Resume to: [fortune@aol.com](mailto:fortune@aol.com) or fax: 248-669-9022

**Healthcare-Dental**

**Dental Hygienist Part-Time** for general dental office in Novi. Experience is preferred. Email resume to: [trsun@franksondas.com](mailto:trsun@franksondas.com)

**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST** Individual proficient on computer with good phone skills to answer multi-line phone and schedule appts. South Lyon area. Knowledgeable of Dental insurance desirable. Fax resume: 248-437-0115

**Home for Sale - In State**

**WESTLAND** House for call Home 3 bdrm brick colonial, 2 full BA's, kitchen w/dishwasher, fam rm, deep 300' yard w/above ground pool, 2 car GA \$75,000  
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**Community Announce**  
 announcements, events...

**Special Notices**

**Garage-Tag Sale**

WESTLAND - April 7-8, 8-3pm  
 7833 Hillcrest Blvd., household, lots of scrapbooks, stamping, craft items.

**Careers Jobs**  
 new beginnings...

**Engineering & IT**

**CAREGIVER:** Need caring staff to provide community based training and activities during the day for gentleman with disability. \$11.50/hr per hr. 734-678-9595

**Medical Assistant, FT**  
 Busy family practice, Livonia. X-ray experience, helpful, flexible hrs.  
**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST, FT**  
 CATHY KENDELL 9460@GMAIL.COM

**Real Estate Rentals**  
 great place to live...

**YPSILANTI:** Huge Yard 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2000 Built ranch, eat-in kitchen w/appliances, privacy fenced yard, CA, \$69,900  
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**PUBLIC VEHICLE AUCTION**  
 APRIL 20 2017, 10 A.M.  
 ROSS TOWING  
 21340 TELEGRAPH RD.  
 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033  
 248-356-6011

**Adopt Me Pets**  
 find a new friend...

**Domestic Pets**

Dog, Black Lab, Male, 1 yr old, AKC registered, \$400obo, call or text (313)695-9942

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 Apply in person at:  
**BENSON'S BUILDING SUPPLY**  
 25018 Plymouth Rd., Redford, (313) 538-9300

**Real Estate Homes**  
 starting fresh...

**Home for Sale - In State**

**DETROIT** Old World Charm 3 bdrm bungalow, plaster cave ceilings, LR & Din rm, huge master bdrm, barn, 1.5 car GA \$2,000  
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**Transportation Wheels**  
 best deal for you...

**Autos Wanted**

2003 GMC IGD0T13512818147  
 2005 TOYOTA 1NKBRR32E652403713  
 2004 CHEVY 2G1W158K2691199135  
 1998 FORD 1F7M2U34EAW2A28632  
 2003 CHEVY 2G1W157KX39314564  
 2004 CHEVY 2G1WF52E449304192  
 2001 BUICK 1G4HP54K914254318  
 2003 FORD 2F4M2A51493B475846  
 2008 CHEVY 2G1WB58K481319675  
 2001 PONTIAC 1G2NE57181A642458  
 2004 FORD 1F4YU0316K4A7159  
 1998 MERCURY 48V2355P7N142503  
 2014 CHEVY 1G1PCS5B3E7127169  
 2004 MAZDA 1YFP80C345N30240  
 2002 ACURA 19UJA5660A002453  
 2000 DODGE 1B3E54C9YD810659  
 2003 DODGE 1D4H58D35F556442  
 2001 HONDA 1HGCG544X1A058503  
 2005 FORD 1FAFP34N15W285928  
 2007 PONTIAC 1G2ZG58N274209294  
 2000 FORD 1FAFP34N15W285928  
 2002 HONDA 1HMC54482C017922  
 2001 CHEVY 1G1F1F3F43728897  
 2002 CHEVY 1GNDT13552187374  
 2003 PONTIAC 3G7DA03E435609769  
 2005 BMW 5UJFA1357L712890  
 2016 DODGE 2CARDCG5G270743  
 2005 CHEVY 1GNET165456170532  
 2002 CHEVY 1GNDT135522465058  
 1999 PLYMOUTH 1P3E146C7XN880329  
 2004 HONDA 2HGFG1281H4554636  
 2004 CHRYSLER 2C3HD36M4H4959315

**Garage-Tag Sale**

WESTLAND - April 7-8, 8-3pm  
 7833 Hillcrest Blvd., household, lots of scrapbooks, stamping, craft items.

**EBAAI seeks Proj Mgr** to delegate tasks & coordinate team level assignments w/ 40+ emps spanning multiple time zones including China, Finland & US. Create testing processes adhering to auto SPICE, susi standards ramts. The prod tested by the emps managed by the Proj Mgr are primarily car containment units. The product contains state of the art features like Bluetooth Connectivity, Navigation, Mobile apps, interfaces to tuner including satellite radio & media playing. No foreign languages rare to perform duties. Bach Electrical & Comp Eng or foreign equiv + 2 yrs exp rel occ. Domestic/int'l travel rare; Job location Farmington Hills, MI resume to: [Elektrab@AutomotiveAmericas.com](mailto:Elektrab@AutomotiveAmericas.com) 37000 W 12 Mile Road, Suite 112, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331 Job ref # PM001.

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 To apply or visit our website at: <http://www.northvillemi.com>

**Real Estate Home for Sale - In State**


**DETROIT** Old World Charm 3 bdrm bungalow, plaster cave ceilings, LR & Din rm, huge master bdrm, barn, 1.5 car GA \$2,000  
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**Transportation Autos Wanted**

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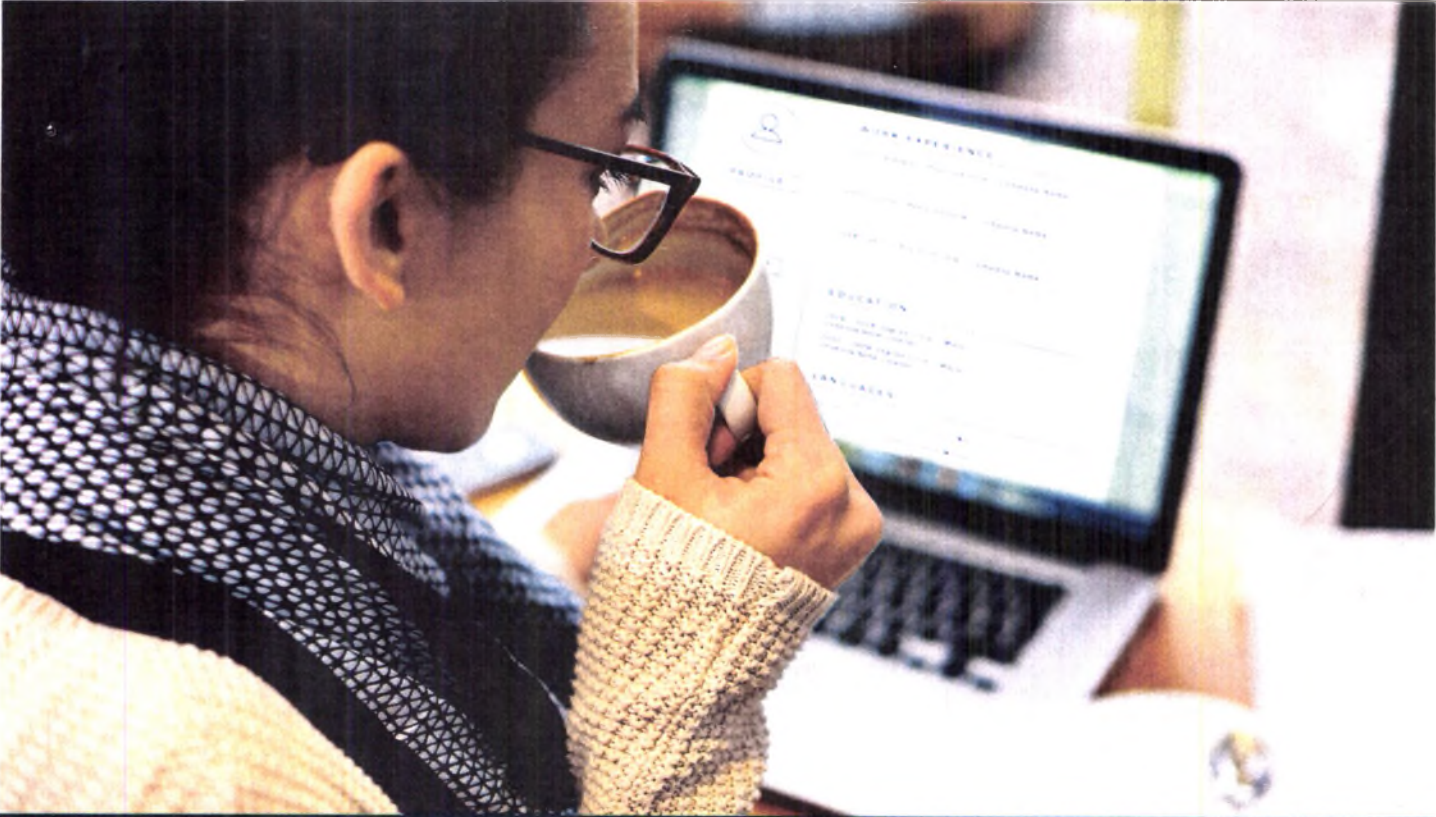


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**INKSTER** Huge Yard 3 bdrm brick ranch, updated BA & Kitchen w/dishwasher, partly finish bsmr w/ov, 1.5 car GA: \$36,000  
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

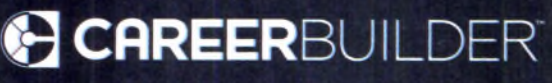
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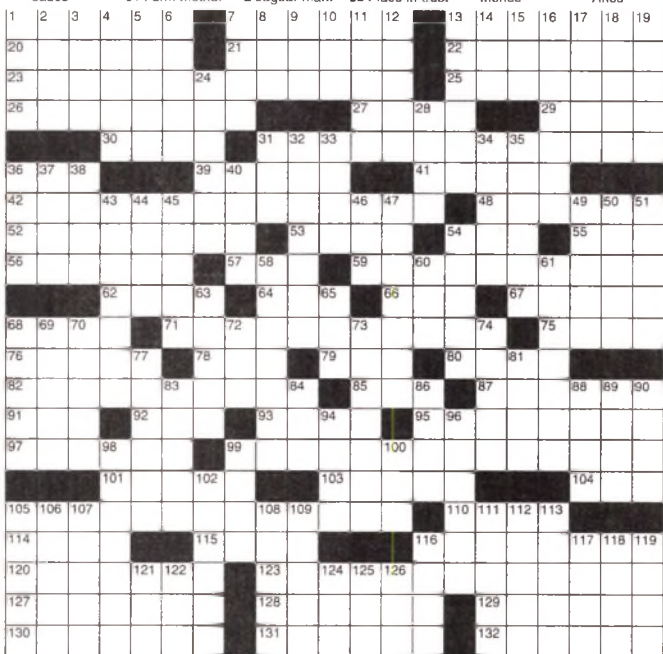
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Phase
  - 7 Animals with two legs
  - 13 Eyelash makeup
  - 20 1960s space program
  - 21 Earhart in a cockpit
  - 22 Hires
  - 23 218 or more seats in Congress [BROWN]
  - 25 Simple tunes
  - 26 16th-cen. nun of Avila
  - 27 Bird of New Zealand
  - 29 Magazine for a fashionista
  - 30 "SCTV" bit
  - 31 Heart-tugging facet of a media story [SIMONE]
  - 36 Oral health org.
  - 39 Wed
  - 41 Heighten
  - 42 Verses using visual devices [GABRIEL]
  - 48 Golden Arches sandwiches with barbecue sauce
  - 52 Person held in custody
  - 53 — dieu (prayer bench)
  - 54 Seoul's region: Abbr.
  - 55 King in Nice
  - 56 Certain Greek
  - 57 "— dare?"
  - 59 2010 Kevin Spacey film [MITCHELL]
  - 62 Sleuth's tidbit
  - 64 Hailed car
  - 66 Bus.
  - 67 Wrist wear
  - 68 Cod or koi
  - 71 Romanian tennis great [SEDAKA]
  - 75 Letters after wyes (or an apt alternate title for this puzzle)
  - 78 Up — point
  - 79 Dieter's target, often
  - 80 Dr. — (1990s TV therapist)
  - 82 Substantial number [CALLAS]
  - 85 "— iron bars a cage"
  - 87 Salad staple
  - 91 Farm mother
  - 92 Solder stuff
  - 93 Gulf republic (only mine)
  - 95 Switchboard worker
  - 97 Balkan republic
  - 99 Warning message [BENNETT]
  - 101 Lover boy
  - 103 A bit warm
  - 104 Bovine call
  - 105 Setting of hearings for minors [DION]
  - 110 — lat-lat
  - 114 Algerian port
  - 115 Punim's month
  - 116 Lover's tune
  - 120 Ocelot, e.g.
  - 123 Supporting vocalists (or an apt alternate title for this puzzle)
  - 127 Jack of fitness fame
  - 128 Wisdom goddess
  - 129 Ogle
  - 130 Climbed, as a rope
  - 131 Not so fat
  - 132 Disco effect
  - 1 Oohs and —
  - 2 Jaguar mark
  - 3 Look sulky
  - 4 Nobody — (only mine)
  - 5 Store assistant
  - 6 Marisa of Hollywood
  - 7 Cabo's peninsula
  - 8 "I believe," to texters
  - 9 — diem
  - 10 Wallach of Hollywood
  - 11 NFL great Mike
  - 12 "Know what I'm —?" ("Get it?")
  - 13 City north of Mecca
  - 14 Vocalist
  - 15 USMC
  - 16 Provider of dishes
  - 17 Quick-tooled bebop, say
  - 18 Film rolls
  - 19 Thing of use
  - 24 Sagacious
  - 28 Sim and muscular
  - 31 Mod
  - 32 Idealistic
  - 33 Painter Jan van der —
  - 34 The Bard's — of Athens
  - 35 Place in trust
  - 36 "Black Ice" rock band
  - 37 Active sort
  - 38 Stud fee?
  - 40 It's a must
  - 43 One behind a batter
  - 44 Oman's currency unit
  - 45 Blah feeling
  - 46 Muscle jerk
  - 47 Wince at, e.g.
  - 49 Mad as heck
  - 50 Lawn bowling game
  - 51 Many Purjabis, religionwise
  - 54 Mail station
  - 58 Nauru and Fiji's area
  - 60 Pirate realm
  - 61 Guy playing bebop, say
  - 63 John at the piano
  - 65 Purse for short
  - 68 Shril flutes
  - 69 Dazzled
  - 70 T-bar user
  - 72 Bettor's slip
  - 73 Less cloudy
  - 74 Diner
  - 77 Allotment
  - 81 Whig's rival
  - 83 Florida city
  - 84 Capote, to friends
  - 86 Rice-A —
  - 88 Thing split in fission
  - 89 Dog in Oz
  - 90 Dunkable treat
  - 94 Aleutian island
  - 96 San Diego ball team
  - 98 Actor Fraser
  - 99 Not single-sex, as a school
  - 100 Decide (to)
  - 102 Jubilant
  - 105 Lower cheeks
  - 106 — the Hitite
  - 107 Vocalist Frankie
  - 108 Rebels' ring
  - 109 Sermonize
  - 111 Seed cases
  - 112 Basic belief
  - 113 Fury
  - 116 Argue (with)
  - 117 Streamlined, for short
  - 118 Uncolorful
  - 119 Punta del —
  - 121 Channel for Jake Tapper
  - 122 Meth-ender
  - 124 Third of a dance move
  - 125 Writer Kesey
  - 126 Article in Arles



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

**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!

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

## MEDICINE WORD SEARCH

**WORDS**

ABDOMINAL INSURANCE  
ACETAMINOPHEN LIVER  
ACID MEDICINE  
ACUTE ORAL  
ANTIBIOTICS OTC  
BLOOD PHARMACY  
COMPLETION PLAN  
COVERAGE POISON  
DISSOLVE PRECAUTION  
DIZZINESS PREGNANCY  
DOSAGE PRESCRIPTION  
DURATION PULSE  
EFFECT REFILL  
EXPIRATION REFRIGERATE  
FINISH SUBSTANCE  
GENERIC SYRINGE  
HERBAL TEASPOON  
INJECT WEIGHT

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

**Crossword Answers**

ASPECT BIPEDS MASCARA  
APOLLO AMELIA ENGAGES  
HOUSEMAJORITY DITTIES  
SITTERS KIWIS HILLIE  
ADA SKITTISHUMAN INTEREST  
UNITTE PAISE  
CONCRETEPOETRY MCRIBS  
DETAINEE PRIE KORROI  
CRETAIN CASINOJACK  
CLUE CAB CEO WATCH  
FISH ILIENASTASE ZEEES  
TINKER TOA GUT KATZ  
FAIRAMOUNT NOR TOMATO  
EWE TIN IRAN OPERATOR  
SERBIA CAUTIONARYNOTE  
BIOMECHOTERID MOOD  
JUVENILECORUPT BRATA  
ORAN ADAR SERENADE  
WILLOCAT BACKUPSINGERS  
LALANNE ATHENA LEERAT  
SHINNED LEANER STROBE

**Word Search Answers**

ACUTE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
BLOOD  
COMPLETION  
COVERAGE  
DISSOLVE  
DIZZINESS  
DOSAGE  
DURATION  
EFFECT  
EXPIRATION  
FINISH  
GENERIC  
HERBAL  
INJECT  
INSURANCE  
LIVER  
MEDICINE  
ORAL  
OTC  
PHARMACY  
PLAN  
POISON  
PRECAUTION  
PREGNANCY  
PRESCRIPTION  
PULSE  
REFILL  
REFRIGERATE  
SUBSTANCE  
SYRINGE  
TEASPOON  
WEIGHT

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.99	0	3.125	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.375	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.125	0	3.375	0
Lenderful.com	1326443	lenderful.com	4.125	0	3.25	0
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.375	0	3.5	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.25	0.25	3.5	0

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Classroom 10

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City of Livonia - 03/13/2017 Regular Meeting Synopsis

**Present:** Jolly, Bahr, Meakin, Brosnan and Kritzman  
**Absent:** White and McIntyre  
Items were received and filed.  
**#89-17** Approving minutes of the 1,819th Regular Meeting of Council on February 27, 2017.  
Vice-President Kritzman stated there is an X-item that will be discussed following tonight's Agenda.  
**#90-17** Referring the subject of employee wellness to the Committee of the Whole.  
**#91-17** Authorizing final budget adjustments for the Fiscal Year ending November 30, 2016.  
**#92-17** Accepting the bid of Sci Floor Covering for carpet installation at the Livonia Senior Center.  
**#93-17** Granting permission to co-sponsor Red, White and Barbeque Event at Greenmead.  
**#94-17** Accepting bid of ID Enterprises for design, three proofs, editing, printing and sorting of the "L" Magazine.  
**#95-17** Approving increase in senior golf rates for Fox Creek, Whispering Willows and Idyl Wyld.  
**#96-17** Authorizing purchase four (4) Toro Zero Turn Mowers.  
**#97-17** Authorizing purchase four (4) John Deere TH 6x4 Turf Vehicles (Gators).  
**#98-17** Authorizing one-year extension of the contract with Michigan Joint Sealing, Inc. for 2017 Joint and Crack Sealing Program (Contract 17-D).  
**First Reading** was given to an ordinance adding Chapter 110 (Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability) of Title 2 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.  
**#99-17** Waiving City's Noise Ordinance to allow a car show with a DJ at 30200 Plymouth Road, March 25, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**#100-17** Suspending the rules for procedure.  
**#101-17** Authorizing an emergency purchase of one 2016 Pierce Ascendent 107' PUC Aerial Quint Truck.  
**Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.**  
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.  
**Susan M. Nash**  
Livonia City Clerk

Published: April 6, 2017

NO. 3026

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 110 (GREENLEAF COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY) OF TITLE 2 OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 110 is hereby added to Title 2 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, which Chapter shall read as follows:

<b>Section 2.110.010</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Section 2.110.020</b>	<b>Appointment of members—Compensation</b>
<b>Section 2.110.030</b>	<b>Election of officers</b>
<b>Section 2.110.040</b>	<b>Meetings—Rules of procedure—Accounts</b>
<b>Section 2.110.050</b>	<b>Powers and duties</b>
<b>Section 2.110.060</b>	<b>Other commission services</b>
<b>Section 2.110.070</b>	<b>Conflicts with other departments</b>
<b>Section 2.110.080</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
<b>Section 2.110.090</b>	<b>Annual report required</b>

**2.110.010 Established.** A commission to promote energy efficiency, conservation and environmentally friendly practices is established, to be known as the "Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability".

**2.110.020 Appointment of members--Compensation.** The Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability ("commission") may consist of up to seven (7) members appointed by the mayor pursuant to the provisions of Section 2, Chapter V of the City Charter, to hold office at the pleasure of the mayor. The director of public works or the director's designee shall be an ex officio member of the commission. The members of the commission shall receive such compensation as may be allowed by resolution of the city council.

**2.110.030 Election of officers.** The commission shall elect annually a chair, vice chair, and secretary. The commission shall prescribe the duties of such officers.

**2.110.040 Meetings—Rules of procedure—Accounts.** The commission may hold six (6) meetings per year during odd numbered months, shall designate the time and place thereof, shall adopt its own rules of procedure, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The chair of the commission may call a special meeting with the approval of the director of the department of public works ("director") or the director's designee. A majority of the members appointed to the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business. Proper record of accounts shall be kept of the receipts and expenditures of all money in accordance with established city procedure.

**2.110.050 Powers and duties.** The powers and duties of the commission which shall be exercised and performed as herein provided in accordance with the law and ordinances of the city, shall be as follows:

- A. Recommending environmentally friendly policies, practices, and procedures relative to air quality, water management, energy consumption, green buildings, transportation and connectivity, trash and recycling, land use, and neighborhoods;
- B. Assisting in the evaluation of the adequacy of existing services of public and private agencies that are actively engaged in promoting environmentally friendly practices, education and development in the city;
- C. Advising the mayor, city council, and director of public works regarding findings of the commission;
- D. Recommending action to the mayor and city council in the best interests of the environment; and,
- E. Providing information to the community regarding the commission's aims, functions, findings, and recommendations.

**2.110.060 Other commission services.** The commission shall, if requested by the mayor or city council, perform any other services that the mayor and/or city council deem advisable for the promotion of environmentally friendly practices.

**2.110.070 Conflicts with other departments.** Nothing herein contained shall be presumed to infringe upon the powers and duties of the mayor, city council, or any city department or in any way relieve any other city department of its responsibility under the terms of the Charter and ordinances of the city or under the law.

**2.110.080 Compensation.** The members of the commission shall receive such compensation as may be allowed by resolution of the city council.

**2.110.090 Annual report required.** On or before March 31 of each year, the commission shall submit in writing to the mayor a summary of the goals and objectives that it seeks to accomplish that year. The commission shall, on or before December 31 of each year, make a written report to the city council and mayor relative to the work of the commission during that year. The report shall be certified by the executive secretary, placed on record with the city clerk, and published in such manner as the city council may direct. The commission shall also make such other reports as the mayor and/or city council may require from time to time.

**Section 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 3.** Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Monday, March 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Susan M. Nash, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.

Dennis K. Wright, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney  
Dated: March 28, 2017

Published: April 6, 2017

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