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THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ex-golf course 'good fit' for housing plan

Darrell Clem

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A plan to transform a former Westland golf course site into new housing largely geared toward people with developmental disabilities — is being hailed as unique and a boost for the city's north end.

Mayor William Wild called the plan "a good fit" for the long-vacant Hawthorne Valley golf course and restaurant property on Merriman Road, north of Warren. The site has become dilapidated after closing nearly a decade ago.

"It has probably been one of our most visible vacancies," Wild said. "We've been looking for the right thing for that site. This is a unique development that I think will spur future development in that area."

His remarks came after the city and developers of the proposed Hawthorne Oaks site have approved a \$500,000 purchase agreement. The two sides are expected to close on the sale after developers receive approval for a planned

See HOUSING, Page 2A



A rendering of a single-family home, part of the proposed development on the former Hawthorne Valley property in Westland. ٦



A DDOT bus stop is near Livonia's Millennium Park, between Costco and Home Depot. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Local leaders question proposed mass transit plan

David Veselenak hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Could the buses come rolling down major roads such as Eight Mile, Woodward and Grand River again? A new transit proposal for southeast Michigan pitched by Wayne County Executive Warren Evans calls for doing just that.

The proposed plan, pitched by Evans to the Regional Transit Authority right after he attended Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright's State of the City address back on March15, consists mostly of bus lines that run across Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. The plan, if approved by the Regional Transit Authority, would go on the ballot in four counties and be decided by voters.

Gone are the bus rapid transit lines originally pitched in the 2016 mass tran-

See TRANSIT, Page 4A

[•] Telegraph Road in Redford to see construction

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

What's one more road construction project this summer? This time, residents who live in Redford and the west side of Detroit will join in on the construction woes. The Michigan Department of Transportation says it will mill and resurface 2.7 miles of Telegraph Road this year, between Interstate 96 in Redford and Grand River in Detroit. The work will begin April 9 and run through July.

The state says the project, which costs \$3.1 million, will include work such as concrete patching, repairs to

curbs and gutters, improving pavement markings and pedestrian signals and upgrading sidewalks to meet ADA requirements.

As a result of the work, the right lanes on both northbound and southbound Telegraph between I-96 and Grand River will remain closed through the project, which is expected to wrap up in July. During off-peak times, another lane will close.

During nights and weekends, when paving and patching work is being undertaken, three lanes will close in each direction. MDOT says one lane will remain open during the work at all times.

See TELEGRAPH, Page 7A

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Housing

Continued from Page 1A

unit development and site plan.

City officials already have seen the vision of Three Oaks Communities, which bills itself as the nation's first private developer to build entire neighborhoods anchored, but not exclusively for, adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

"I think everyone is on board with it," said Bruce Thompson, Westland planning and building director.

The plan calls for 25 single-family homes and eight condominiums (two buildings with four condos each). Barring any unforeseen glitches, Bruce Michael, one of the Three Oaks owners, said site work and preliminary construction could begin late this year or during the first quarter of next year.

Michael said the Hawthorne Oaks condos are being marketed to families who want a place for their adult children with disabilities to live on their own, allowing them to live as independently as possible with conditions such as autism



Hawthorne Valley is abandoned, but may be developed. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE COM

and Down syndrome.

"We're focusing our marketing efforts on that," he said, adding later, "It gives that adult child a more independent lifestyle than they would have living at home with their parents."

The condos will have a full-time caregiver crew.

Michael said the single-family homes, with one- and two-story plans, would be suitable for parents of the condo residents, allowing them to live close by, or for families who have younger children still at home with developmental disabilities. 7

That said, it is expected that some families who don't have children with disabilities would buy some of the houses — a move Michael said would usher in "a fully integrated community" that would benefit all.

Hawthorne Oaks is patterned after a similar development by Three Oaks in Saline. Called Maple Oaks, it has drawn national attention with a segment on National Public Radio for efforts to build inclusive communities.

Westland's development would be the second of its kind by Three Oaks, but Michael said word of the concept is spreading and demand is increasing. The company is now eyeing areas such as Troy or Rochester Hills.

Meanwhile, Thompson said Westland owns 14.5 acres on the Hawthorne site, which the city obtained through a foreclosure-related tax sale. With the site sitting vacant for years, the restaurant has been the target of vandalism and fires.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclem@hometownlife.com.



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Thousands of marshmallows fall in Westland

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

No, those white things falling from the sky Friday morning at Nankin Mills weren't snowflakes — though it certainly was cold enough that they could have been.

Instead, they were marshmallows, falling from a helicopter to the joy of thousands of people who came to partake in a Wayne County tradition.

Now in its 34th year, the annual Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop brought plenty of youngsters out to the Westland park near Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail for the festivities. Children, many dressed in their winter coats, ran onto the field after a helicopter dropped thousands of marshmallows.

Despite the temptation to devour the sweet treats, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, dressed in his Detroit Tigers coat for opening day, reminded the parents of what all the kids in attendance already knew: don't eat them.

"We're not eating marshmallows," he said. "We're turning them in for prizes."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.



The race to the marshmallows. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Successful marshmallow hunter. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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The race is on, but all you need is one marshmallow to claim a prize. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

WHY BE CATHOLIC? Season 9

The exciting series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 9th season with an outstanding roster of new speakers.

> Weclnesday, April 11th, 2018 7 PM

Fr. William Tindall, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, again headlines a change-up program for *Why Be Catholic* called "Ask the *Pastor*", an opportunity for everyone to ask an informed panel any and all questions regarding Catholicism, its theology, practices, liturgies, or beliefs



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Transit

Continued from Page 1A

sit plan rejected by voters. Instead, the service calls for 15-minute express lines along roads such as Woodward, Gratiot, Michigan Avenue, Grand River and Mound/Van Dyke.

Several 15-minute rush hour express lines would run along several other routes in the four-county area, including:

Eight Mile, between Mack and Grand River 🛛 12 Mile, between Royal Oak and Novi



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🛛 15 Mile, beginning at Harper in Macomb County, running through Birmingham and Bloomfield Township and ending at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi via Haggerty, among other lines

Four express lines would take passengers to Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, with routes beginning at places such as Twelve Oaks Mall, downtown Ann Arbor, the Phoenix Center in Pontiac and Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights. Other express lines would connect places such as Livonia to Ann Arbor; Canton to Ann Arbor; Plymouth to downtown Detroit; Twelve Oaks Mall to downtown Detroit, with another line running from the Novi mall to Lincoln Park and another running to St. Clair Shores.

The plan, dubbed Connect Southeast Michigan, would be expected to raise about \$5.4 billion throughout its lifetime and an additional \$1.3 billion in fares.

The hope from Evans is such a plan could receive regional support from voters, who voted down the last plan in 2016 by about 18,000 votes, with the biggest deficit coming in Macomb County.

Evans, while speaking at the grand opening event for the Amazon fulfillment center in Livonia last month, said transit is something the region needs to pay attention to, especially with industries such as Amazon coming to town.

"We also have to start thinking about transit in a different way," he said. "One of the things we've learned is, to continue to grow is you have to provide the resources for that growth. And we want to see this county and this area grow exponentially in the next few years. People have to think about the idea of transit. "You can't be the worst in the country on transit and the best on everything else. It just doesn't happen that way.'

7

One such local leader who endorsed the plan after it was announced was Westland Mayor Bill Wild, who said he. too, would like to see the plan put to a vote of the people.

"Regional transit is not just about buses, it is about moving this region forward and putting people back to work," he said. "I fully support Evans's goal of placing the plan on the ballot this year. Sometimes leadership means you put your best plan together and just get out of the way to let the voters decide."

Opposition

Most notably opposed to the plan is Evans's counterpart north of Eight Mile, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, whose office released a statement the day the proposal was announced saying it would end up costing Oakland County residents more than the taxes the system would collect.

'The latest regional transit tax scheme concocted by HNTB (a Detroit-based infrastructure firm) on behalf of the RTA is at its core nothing more than the plan voters rejected in November of 2016," the statement

See TRANSIT, Page 5A

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Transit

Continued from Page 4A

reads. "It's a pie-in-the-sky proposal that allows the RTA to reach deep into the pockets of Oakland County taxpayers who will pay 40 percent of the regional transit tab but receive far less than 40 percent of the regional transit services in return."

The plan, if approved as is, would levy a 1.5-mill increase on property taxes across the four counties. That is an increase from the 1.2 mills in the 2016 plan rejected by voters.

County-level officials aren't the only ones expressing concern over the proposal. Several local leaders, especially in western Wayne and Oakland counties, say they have concerns over costs and need for such a plan.

Livonia City Council President Laura Toy, a former state legislator, said she has an issue overall with authorities, saying decision-making is taken out of the hands of elected officials. But she said she has not heard a big cry from Livonia residents clamoring for such an expanded, regional service, especially after the city pulled out of the SMART bus service back in 2005.

"I don't know if I hear a public outcry in our city that says, 'We have to have this to have our businesses run and make our lives easier," she said. "Hopefully, they're going to do some public hearings around on this."

Public hearings could come if the RTA board votes to send it out to the public for feedback. Mario Morrow, a spokesman for the RTA, said the board can vote to send it out for comment, before making some changes to the plan. If such a

plan is then presented back to the board, seven of the nine voting RTA board members must vote to place the question on the ballot. Those seven votes must consist of at least one representative from each county, as well as the representative from Detroit.

The RTA board is next expected to meet April 19, though Morrow said it's always possible the board calls a special meeting to handle the issue sooner.

If it were to make the ballot, Morrow said it's expected it could be put on the general election ballot in November.

Outlying services

In addition to the established lines along major roads in more densely-populated parts of metro Detroit, the outlying townships, villages and cities would also receive funding titled Hometown Services. This would provide fartherout townships and cities, such as Highland, South Lyon, Milford, Walled Lake and Wixom, with funding from the 1.5mill levy to fund transit services that best meet each community's needs. This funding would be about \$50 million in capital and operational funding.

Don Green, Milford Township supervisor, said he's not so sure another transit millage is the answer for his township. It currently utilizes a service called People's Express, which can provide service around the township and region.

To utilize any lines of the new plan, Green said Milford Township riders would need to pay \$8 (\$4 each way) down to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi to just pick up any part of the system.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, on April 11th, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

BULLET PROOF VESTS

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams City Controller

Publish: April 5, 2018



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AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Westland library art exhibit

The Westland Library will again host the Spring Art Exhibition, scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 6-8, featuring the works of art by members of the Three Cities Art Club. More than 20 artists will be exhibiting more than 65 pieces of original art, including works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, mixed media, photography and more.

Everyone attending the exhibition will have the chance to vote for their three favorite works, which will enter them in a drawing for a chance to win a collectable doll (need not be present to win). Go to threecitiesartclub.org for complete list of rules. The artists with the most votes will also win prizes.

In addition to hanging art for sale, there will be note cards, refrigerator magnets, matted and framed prints of the artist's work available for sale. This is a wonderful chance to share the world of fine art with the entire family and support local artists. Enjoy refreshments during the exhibition.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway. For more information, call 313-231-3939 or email marilyn meredith@wowway.com. The club website is www.threecitiesartclub.org.

Senior citizen fair

The Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia will host its annual senior citizen resource fair from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 6. There will be more than 40 vendor tables from agencies serving senior citizens in the area. There will also be raffles, door prizes and a hot dog sale.

This is a free event. For more information, call 734-466-2557.

Ss. Simon and Jude garage sale

SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer Road, in Westland will hold a garage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 6. A bag sale for \$3 starts at 3 p.m., when all large items go for half-price.

'Ladies Foursome' at Livonia theater

Livonia Community Theatre will presents "The Ladies Foursome," a comedy by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, with performances scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 7-8 and 14-15. Saturday show time is 7:30 p.m., Sunday is 2 p.m.

All performances are at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for ages 18 and under. Go to livoniacommunitytheatre.org to order online or call 248-252-1940 to reserve by phone. Tickets are also available at the door.

Love of Lace

The Great Lakes Lace Group, Inc., will present Love of Lace from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 21777 Five Mile Road. The event is free and open to the public.

Bring your own project to join the "lace in," see demonstration and exhibits in lace making with bobbins, shuttle and needle. Learn the basics of bobbin lace or fatting. Vendors of lace making supplies and books will be on-site.

For more information, go to www.gllgi.org.

American Legion meat raffle

The American Legion Riders of American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia are having a 2018 spring meat raffle at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 7. Ticket sales begin at 6 p.m.

For an initial \$11, there will be 102 drawings for meat, chicken, pork, beef, etc. Bring coolers to collect your winnings. For more information, call Kathy Couturier at 734-718-9040.

Film screening

The Citizens for Peace will host a free showing of the film "Rooted in Peace" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road. This film follows one man's journey to find peace within himself, the environment and the world. The award-winning film includes interviews with Deepak Chopra, Pete Seeger, Nobel Peace Laureates Desmond Tutu and Mairead Maguire and others. All are welcome.

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

Inspire Theatre auditions

Inspire Theatre, located in the Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road, will hold auditions 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, April 10 and 12, for the upcoming musical "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

The troupe is looking for singers and non-singers ages 13-70. Be prepared to sing "Give My Regards to Broadway." Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. For more information, go to inspiretheatre.com.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. The next meeting, Tuesday, April 10, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, will feature magician Dreygan. For more information, go to http://livonia neighborsandfriends.tripod.com.

Addiction treatment series

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia offers an ongoing series titled "Addiction: What you need to know and what you can do." Classes are scheduled 7-8:30 p.m. the first three Tuesdays of each month through May (April 10 and 17) in Classroom 11.

Focus is on understanding addiction and the impact of addiction on families. No registration necessary. For more information, contact Karen Bonanno at kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org or 734 338-9580.

Piano seminar at Schoolcraft

The Livonia Area Piano Teachers' Forum will host the upcoming appearance of Dr. Helen Marlais and invites piano teachers to attend her presentation "Classical Repertoire Selection and Leveling," set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Schoolcraft College VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, in Livo-

nia.

This is a session on selecting classical repertoire and the essential practice strategies that can be used to create successful and artistic performances. Contact Sharon Gomulka at pianoallegrostudio@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information. ٦

3D Photography Club

The 3D Photography Club will hold its next meeting 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The meetings are free to attend and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

The meeting will include a presentation by George Themelis on taking 3D pictures using a regular 2D camera. For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Livonia Dems Club

The Livonia Democratic Club will hold its next meeting 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at 33150 Schoolcraft Road, Room 104. All are invited.

Also, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 19, the Livonia Democratic Club will present Tim Grimmel, candidate for the U.S. House 11th District, and Laurie Pohutsky, candidate for the state House of Representative for Livonia. The event will be held at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library, 32777 Five Mile Road.

Redford police, fire awards

The Redford Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 33rd annual Police and Fire Awards Banquet, set for Thursday, April 19, at St. Michael the Archangel Cultural Hall, 26355 W. Chicago. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$36 per person for dinner with an open bar. The cost of your ticket sponsors dinner for the honored award recipients and their guest. The awards recipients for each department are chosen by their peers.

RSVP by April 12 to the Redford Chamber of Commerce at 313-535-0960.





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Telegraph Road, near Schoolcraft in Redford, in this 2016 file photo. The road will see construction beginning in April. FILE PHOTO

Telegraph

Continued from Page 1A

Other projects

The work on Telegraph joins a lengthy list of road projects in the region, including work along I-696 throughout Oakland and Macomb counties. While most of the heavy work on that project will take place in Macomb County, which will result in the westbound freeway closing, some work will extend into Oakland County, including through Farmington Hills and into Novi. There will be 10 weekend closures with detours along the road for work in Oakland County, which will include pavement repair, drainage system repair and minor bridge repairs. A public meeting on that work will take place 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Southfield City Hall, 26000 Evergreen.

In nearby Livonia, no state projects are taking place, but several county projects will move forward this summer. Those include work along Inkster Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, on the Livonia/Redford border, as well as the recently-announced Farmington Road project happening just north of Plymouth. That work is one being done by both Wayne County, which maintains the road, and the city of Livonia, which agreed to chip in part of the cost.

City projects in Livonia include work along Stark, between Schoolcraft and Lyndon, as well as Amrhein, between Levan and Newburgh, in the city's industrial corridor.

In Novi, city work will take place along Taft, between 10 Mile and Grand River, and 13 Mile, between Meadowbrook and Novi roads.

Birmingham will see several projects this summer, including one that's already begun: a quarter-mile of Old Woodward has shut down for a \$7 million project that will run through this summer. MDOT also plans on doing work along Woodward Avenue, between 14 Mile and Big Beaver/Quarton, this summer. That work is expected to finish by mid-August for the Woodward Dream Cruise.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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Wilfred Luoto

LIVONIA - Age 81, was escorted into eternity by Jesus on March 31, 2018. Beloved husband of Diane for 55 wonderful years. Loving father of Wendy (Dave) Johnson and Lee Ann (John) Roe. Cherished grandfather of Austin, Nick, Lindsey, and Jake and great-grandfather of Lukas, Kinley, and Macie. Dearest brother of Elaine (dec Wesley) Hendrickson and Dennis (Randi) Luoto. Will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Visitation is Thursday, April 5 from 4pm-8pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd, Livonia. Funeral service is Friday, April 6 at 11am (instate 10am) at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 W Seven Mile Rd, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Wilfred's name can be made to the Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, or the Wounded Warrior Project.



*These incentives are not valid with any other discounts. Offer is subject to change.



Delores L. Sussex

WARREN - Delores L. Sussex, age 89, of Warren, Michigan died Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Born September 7, 1928 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to the late Carl and Viola Nevins. She

- was an active member of the Newburgh United
- Methodist Church in Livonia. Survived by chil-
- dren Cheryl (Rob) Richardson, Susan (Joseph) Cusmano, Thomas Sussex and six grandchildren.
- Preceded in death by husband Earl in 2016 and granddaughter Lauren.

Visitation and services have taken place at the Harold W. Vick Funeral Home, 140 South Main, Mount Clemens, Michigan on Monday, April 2, 2018. Burial has taken place at Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Contributions may be addressed to wishes of the family. View full obituary at www.vickfuner alhome.com

Jean Koss

FARMINGTON - age 90, died Thursday, March 29, 2018. Loving mother of Debra (Daniel) Rodriguez, Donna (Daniel) Sandoffsky, Robert Koss, Jr., Gerald (Barbara) Koss, William Koss, Patricia (Greg) Luger, Mary Maydew and Thomas (Trudy) Koss; beloved grandmother of 17 and great grandmother of 14; fond sister of Kathleen Chiles. Preceded in death by siblings, William, Yvonne, Carol and Patricia. A Funeral Mass was held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock. Memorial tributes suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

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USA TODAY SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric Media I THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 I 1B (WGRL)



COLLEGE HOCKEY Ohio State's Kearney headed to Frozen Four

Kearney

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brendon Kearney grew up in a maize and blue household, but he decided wearing a scarlet and grey jersey was his best route in college hockey.

The 2013 Northville High grad, a junior forward with Ohio State, will be

COLLEGE HOCKEY

playing in his first Frozen Four when the Buckeyes (26-9-5) take on Minnesota-Duluth (23-16-3) in one national semifinal beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Xcel Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Three of the Frozen Four

son, with Michigan (22-14-3) taking on sists this season. "I think the big thing

conference regular season and tourney champion Notre Dame (27-9-2) in the other semifinal.

And in an irony of all ironies, Brendon's parents, Doug and Julie, both attended the University of Michigan.

"I had a few options," said teams come from the Big Ten this sea- Kearney, who has five goals and 14 as-

for me was just growing up in Michigan, I'd been around Big Ten football my whole life. The hockey conference hadn't been there yet, but when they officially announced the Big Ten was going to hockey, I just felt that's where I wanted to play.'

For Kearney, who came out of juniors

See KEARNEY, Page 2B



AMATEUR HOCKEY

Phantoms' Ellis, Larkin use USHL as springboard

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Max Ellis and John Larkin used Friday night's game against the U.S. National Development Team Program's U-18 hockey team as a measuring stick of sorts.

The 18-year-old Ellis, who hails from Canton, and the 17-year-old Larkin, a Northville resi-

dent who is a junior at Novi Detroit Catholic Central High School, helped the Youngstown (Ohio) Phantoms to a 3-2 U.S. Hockey League win over a collection of Ellis the nation's best young players at USA Hockey



Arena. "I think tonight was good for us," said Ellis, a speedy 5-foot-10, 150pound winger. "We bat-



LAKES

Michigan junior defenseman Nicholas Boka (left) makes a pass during a Big Ten game against Minnesota. RENA LAVERTY | MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

UNLIKELY HERO

Plymouth resident Boka helps Michigan reach Frozen Four

Brad Emons

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Boka

It was a freeze-frame moment in Nicholas Boka's hockey career at the University of Michigan.

The junior defenseman from Plymouth, who hadn't scored a goal all season, found himself in a two-on-one situation with the Wolverines holding a 4-3 lead late in the third period of the NCAA Northeast Regional against Boston University in Worcester, Mass.

"It was a good time for my first," Boka said. "It's pretty big as far as a big game situation ... kind of all the excitement. Dexter (Dancs) made a great pass and I

was lucky enough to put it home, so it



"It's something you dream about growing up, especially ... growing up a Michigan fan."

Nicholas Boka U-M junior defensemar

was pretty special."

The goal came with 3:42 left as Michigan went on to a 6-3 victory over the Terriers to earn its first Frozen Four berth since 2011.

Michigan head coach Mel Pearson played tongue-in-cheek in describing Boka's third career goal.

"I think I made the comment, 'First of all, what was he doing up there in a one-

goal hockey game?'" the second-year coach said. "And secondly, why Dancs passed him the puck because he had no goals? And Dancs has 12 or 13 goals. So a little surprised, but it's a huge goal in the game. That was really the backbreaker and sealed the win for us."

The Wolverines (22-14-3) will now

See BOKA, Page 2B

tled hard. We were hard on them, didn't give Larkin them any respect and I



think it means big points in the standings, so it was a good game for us tonight. We got them tomorrow (the U-17), so we want to send a message real quick."

The Phantoms took care of business again Saturday night at the Cervelli Center with a 6-1 win - this time over the U-17 team - as Ellis collected a goal and assist.

See PHANTOMS, Page 3B



The Phantoms' Max Ellis (left) gets tangled up with U-18 goalie Drew DeRidder. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY



Boka

Continued from Page 1B

face top seed Notre Dame (27-9-2) in the national semifinals beginning at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Xcel Center in St. Paul, Minn. The two teams split their four regular-season meetings.

Boka, who played two seasons with the U.S. National Team Development Program before going to Michigan, recalls watching the 2011 NCAA championship game in St. Paul. That's when Minnesota-Duluth, which will play Ohio State in the other Frozen Four semifinal, defeated Michigan, 3-2, in overtime for the title.

"It's something you dream about growing up, especially being as close as I am to Ann Arbor and growing up a Michigan fan," Boka said of the Frozen Four. "I remember watching that game and wanting to be in that game."

Michigan has won eight of its last nine games and appears to be peaking at the right time.

"I wish I could tell you, but I don't have the magic formula for you," Boka said of the team's late-season surge. "I think around Christmas time was when we really started pulling together, trusting in each other and our systems. I think there's kind of a belief, too, that we had, especially after struggling last year (going 13-19-3). I think we kind of learned from that. It's really hard to be a good team, but I think we put the work in."

In 38 games this season, the 6-foot-1, 200-pound Boka has the one goal and six assists and ranks second on the team with a plus-15 rating.

"He's played, I think, extremely well the second half of the year," Pearson said. "There's a correlation between our team being really good the second half and Nick Boka playing well. And we've had a number of guys, but Nick is one of those guys whose game has really risen to the occasion. Maybe the numbers, the points don't show it, but obviously the plus-minus does. He's a good skater, he can go back, bring the puck out. And you need that against good teams to relieve some pressure and Nick's done a good job."

The 20-year-old Boka, a psychology major in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, was selected 171st overall (sixth round) by the Minnesota



Michigan junior defenseman Nicholas Boka was a sixth-round pick by the Minnesota Wild in the 2015 NHL Draft. RENA LAVERTY | MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Wild in the 2015 NHL Draft.

Recruited by longtime U-M coach Red Berenson, Boka was an immediate contributor as a freshman, notching 10 assists with a plus-17 rating in 38 games.

As a sophomore, he had two goals and two assists in 34 games as the Michigan players transitioned to a new coaching staff under the direction of Pearson, who had spent the previous six years at Michigan Tech.

Boka said he is getting more opportunities to play on the power play and earning more of Pearson's trust.

"I'm just sticking to my game, playing (as a) two-way, shutdown kind of defenseman and that's what I do best and that's what I'll kind of continue to do," Boka said. "I think I'm a pretty emotional player and I've always been. Mel has helped me a lot to kind of reel it in. There's a time and place for it. In these big games, they're all very emotional, so there's going to be a lot of highs and there's going to be a lot of lows, so if you stay even keel, it really pays off in the end."

Boka, who played in the Compuware Midget Minor junior ranks before joining the U.S. NTDP, sometimes has to tone down his play to be effective.

He admits he gets his fire from his dad Don, a physical education teacher at Livonia Franklin High School who played college football at Ferris State.

"Nick's all in," Pearson said. "He wears his emotions on his sleeve. Sometimes, the emotions get the better of him, but we've talked about that, quite frankly, and he's been honest enough about it. He wants to win and he's so competitive. Sometimes, you've just got to relax and play the game a little bit and not worry about what I call 'the noise' and worry about things you can't control. But you'd rather have a player like that and calm down a little bit instead of having to kick him in the rear end to get him going. And Nick has no issues there. He's been a pleasure to have on our team and has been a real good player here the second half."

Last May, Boka's younger brother Lukas, a right wing for the Windsor Spitfires of the Ontario Hockey League, hoisted the coveted 2017 Memorial Cup, Canada's top junior hockey trophy. Lukas, a team captain, had 15 goals and 25 assists in 64 regular-season games this year and is currently involved in the first-round of the OHL playoffs.

And nothing would be more satisfying for Boka than to hoist an NCAA championship trophy next week in St. Paul for another freeze-frame moment.

"I'm really excited, especially with the guys we have here. ... I think we can do something really special," Boka said.

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@ hometownlife.com.

Kearney

Continued from Page 1B

with the Chicago Steel of the USHL, Ohio State was the right fit.

"I just think the first time I stepped in Columbus, it was home," said Kearney, who just turned 23. "The campus was unbelievable, the staff there was something I really jelled with. They understood me as a player and were going to do their best to put me in the right situations. Just a combination of all those factors led me to go to OSU." Although his parents still have a rooting interest in Michigan, they'll be all in for the Buckeyes in St. Paul. It will be only OSU's second trip to the Frozen Four. The last time the Buckeyes made it was 1998.



changed almost fluidly throughout the year," Kearney said. "I think just it goes game by game with my role, technically. That's something I've always done as a player and to be able to do whatever it takes to help the team win and stay in the lineup."

The all-academic Big Ten performer, who is majoring in finance, started skating at age 2. He also played lacrosse and baseball growing up, but decided to con-

"They were behind me 100 percent," Kearney said. "My parents, my family, will root for Ohio State hockey only. It's been good. They know it's been all good for me for the right reasons, academically, athletically, the coaching staff ... it all fit and they couldn't be happier."

Ohio State is 5-0 against Michigan this season and 1-4 against Notre Dame.

"It's weird, because I think a lot of those Notre Dame games could have probably gone the other way," Kearney said. "You could probably say the same with the Michigan games. With those teams, I think all three of us match up really well. It's a bounce here and there and, in a lot of those games, it could have gone either way. It's definitely nice to see them have to battle it out and we like the opportunity to go in against a team in one of the stronger conferences in college hockey and kind of stack up against them."

Ohio State captured the Midwest Regional last weekend Allentown, Pa., against Princeton (4-2) and Denver (5-1). Minnesota-Duluth advanced by upending Minnesota (3-2 in overtime) and Air Force (2-1).

"I just know they have some young, really talented players," Kearney said of Duluth. "I think their style of play is a little bit different than a lot of the Big Ten teams. I haven't dug too deep in how they play or what systems they run, I just know they're talented and like to push the pace up and down the rink."

Ohio State has won nine of its last 10 games and seems to peaking at the right time.

Northville resident Brendon Kearney has helped lift Ohio State to the Frozen Four in St. Paul, Minn. OHIO STATE ATHLETICS



Brendon Kearney has been a part of five Ohio State wins this year over Michigan. OHIO STATE ATHLETICS

"I think what makes this team special is just how close we are," Kearney said. "I think we've shown we can play with any team, any style. And that's because we trust one another. We know lines one through four, it doesn't matter if we're matching up against their lines one through four. Anyone on our team can play anyone. There's a trust there that really allows everyone's confidence to grow and maybe to even achieve more as a team."

Kearney has evolved into a Jack-ofall-trades forward for the Buckeyes. As a freshman, he had nine points on four goals and five assists in 27 games. During his sophomore season, he finished with 10 points on three goals and seven assists in 33 games.

"Versatile is the word that comes to mind about Brendon," OSU coach Steve Rohlik said. "We have put him in a lot of different situations this year - left wing, right wing, center. He brings consistency - you always know what you're going to get from him every night."

This season, he is tied for fifth on the team with a plus-14 rating.

"As far as my role, it's pretty much

centrate on hockey.

Kearney came up through the Honeybaked program, winning back-to-back national championships in 2010-11. He was captain of Honeybaked's U-18 team in 2012-13 tallying 28 points in 26 regular season games. During his senior year at Northville, he also got a call-up from the U.S. National Team Development Program (19 points in 25 games).

He was an alternate captain for the Chicago Steel in 2014-15, scoring 18 goals and adding 14 assists, before signing with OSU.

In the summer prior to enrolling at OSU, Kearney worked for his uncle's local sign company.

"They needed guys to take apart their old signs, recycle the scraps and help around the shop and office, little, tedious work," Kearney said. "They were kind of getting overwhelmed with some of the orders coming in. It was just more something kind of used to pull in a little extra cash for college. It was heavy labor at times. It almost served as a workout from time to time."

Only three years later, Kearney finds himself just two wins away from an NCAA championship, a Michigan kid growing up and now playing for the Buckeyes.

"Honestly, it's still pretty surreal, like it hasn't had much time to let it sink in," Kearney said. "I kind of almost don't want it to sink in until the end of the year. (I'm) trying to focus on Duluth, but it's something, obviously, every team works for. And the time and effort we've put in this year ... just to be able to see us get this far and, hopefully, even further is tremendous because, in my time here, we've always been a team that's worked hard, maybe haven't gotten to our full potential. But this year, making the Frozen Four, we've definitely reached that and show what we're capable of."

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Salem grad Dierker to play in Vietnam

Zachary Shore Special to Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Four-year Madonna University men's basketball standout Chris Dierker will continue his playing career overseas after the Salem High grad was selected first overall recently in the Vietnamese Basketball Association draft.

Dierker, whose mother Lien Dierker grew up in Da-Nang, Vietnam, was one of 134 players eligible for the draft and was taken by the 2016 league

champion DaNang Dragons.

Dieker is just the third player to be drafted first overall and he couldn't be more excited to land with the Dragons. "Being able to play pro ball in Viet-



nam will be a great experience," Dierker said. "A coach from one of the teams in the league has been talking to me for a

while now and told me about the opportunity to play overseas and, possibly, join the national team. Getting the chance to play in a country where my mom was born and raised and being able to experience their culture will be awesome."

It provides Dierker, who has never visited his mother's native land, a unique opportunity to not only continue his playing career, but also get to know the country in which his mom grew up.

"Being selected first overall in the draft by DaNang was exciting, especially since that is where my mom grew up," Dierker said. "The coach and some of the members of the team reached out to let me know what their team is about and talked about how beautiful the city is and the fact that is is surrounded by beaches and mountains, which will be cool to live in."

Dierker, who red-shirted his freshman year, spent five seasons on the Madonna campus and will graduate in May with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry.

Dierker leaves as MU's career leader in rebounds (908), while also ranking first in rebound average (7.4) and offensive (304) and defensive (604) rebounds.

"Playing at Madonna gave me the opportunity to work with many great coaches and a group of guys who were all about getting the most out of everyone, both on and off the court," Dierker said. "I have grown a lot over the last five years at Madonna and am very grateful for the opportunity they gave me."

He finished his 122-game career with 1,483 career points, which ranks seventh all time. In 2016, he set the single-game record with 19 rebounds and scored a



career-high 29 points.

"The entire program is excited for Chris and this opportunity before him," MU coach Noel Emenhiser said. "I'm proud of what Chris has done, both on and off the court. He's been a great representative of Madonna basketball and he's left a great and lasting impact, not only on our program, but on the school as well. I'm excited for him to be able to continue playing at the pro-

See DIERKER, Page 4B

Phantoms

Continued from Page 1B

Larkin, meanwhile, also had an assist as the second-place Phantoms improved to 31-18-5-2 in the USHL Eastern Conference.

In 54 USHL games, Ellis has 14 goals and 20 assists for 34 points. He is in his second year with the team.

"I think this season I've taken a step in my confidence," Ellis said. "Just tried to be better than last year and just every day try and improve my game. I think my 200-foot game I've tried to improve on. Playing defense a little more, I think, has been my goal this year. Tried to be a 200-foot player, play in all situations is a big thing for me."



Chris Dierker was the No. 1 pick overall in the recent Vietnam Basketball Association draft. KELLY CIESLAK | KEEPERBYKELLY.COM

Youngstown coach Brad Patterson has seen Ellis evolve during his second year with Youngstown.

"He's been tremendous for us," Patterson said. "He's always been a very, very good player. And I think that the areas of his game that people really looked at were his offensive instincts, his shot, his skating, all that sort of stuff. I think that stuff has really come around and, specifically this year, is his play away from the puck ... you can really put him in any situation. He competes, he's hard on pucks, he gets his nose above it and he's hard to defend."

End-to-end speed has always been Ellis's forte.

"You have to be able to skate in today's game and Max has always had that," Patterson said. "I'd be lying if I told you that I think we've made him a better skater by any means. He's had that skill set. But he knows how to use that when he's not out there using it 100 percent of the time, because he can pick his spots. He can beat defenders by doing it and it's hard to defend."

Ellis is headed next season to Notre Dame, which is in the Frozen Four this weekend against Michigan, Minnesota-Duluth and Ohio State.

"For Notre Dame, I think it was the tradition, the coaches ... when I went there, everything felt right," Ellis said. "It's going to be an awesome time for them in the Frozen Four."

Ellis, who attended Dearborn Divine Child High before heading to live with a billet family and finishing high school in Youngstown last season, has adapted quite well being away from home.

"It's good. There's not much to do, but it's fun hanging out with the boys," Ellis said. "What led me to Youngstown was the coaches, the atmosphere as well. I tried out for the NDTP and didn't make it. Youngstown was there. It was the best option for me no matter what and it's been the best for my development."

The 6-2, 180-pound Larkin is an affiliate player for the Phantoms who has also played primarily this season with Compuware's U-16 Midget Major AAA team,

He has appeared in 11 USHL games, with a goal and three assists, and will assume a larger role with the Phantoms as they approach the playoffs.

"At one point four weeks ago, we were down to four (defensemen)," Patterson said. "He stepped out of U-16 hockey and you wouldn't have known. He played against Waterloo one series, Omaha the following series – so two of the top teams in the West, if not the entire league, he stepped in. He's physical, he jumps into the play ... everything you want in a defenseman, Youngstown's John Larkin (right) tries to pry away the puck from Patrick Giles of the U-18 team. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

he's been able to bring to the table in a limited practice and development time for him. He's been in and out with the proximity of his high school being here. But he's fit right into the team and he's done a tremendous job and he's going to be a big piece moving forward."

Despite the jump into the USHL, considered the nation's top junior league, Larkin has been able to adjust quickly.

"I was playing U-16 and, obviously, it's not the same speed or skill, so you have to hop in and get your legs moving, get used to the speed," Larkin said. "And once you get used to the speed, you start building confidence and it's a lot easier to play with these guys and make plays that were able to us in U-16 and bring them up to this level."

Larkin took regular shifts on the back line for the Phantoms during Friday night's victory over the U-18 squad, which sits in first place in the USHL Eastern Conference with a 38-17-0-1 record.

"You look at their roster on paper ... you're thinking they're going to dominate you, but once you get out there, you just realize they're just hockey players like you and you play with anybody once you put your mind to it," Larkin said.

Larkin is committed to Ohio State. He also had interest from Western Michigan, Michigan, Harvard and Union (N.Y.) College, but the Buckeyes won out.

"(Ohio State) had interest in me at Youngstown at mini-camp," he said. "They set up a visit for me, went down there and it was just unbelievable. Everything was was first class. The coaches ... they just showed me how much they wanted me there. The effort they put into that visit and just everyone there was the right fit and the right place for me to be."

And in two years, Ohio State will be getting a more seasoned and versatile player.

"I like to play a two-way game, just as strong in the offensive zone as the defensive zone," Larkin said. "I feel like the first couple games of the year, you've got to stay back more defensively, stay back a little more, but I've kind of transitioned more into my offensive game that I'm able to play. I'm just a strong two-way defenseman."

Larkin, who carries a 4.0-plus grade-point average, plans to finish the semester at CC before heading to Youngstown full time next season.

"Not only is he a tremendous hockey player, he's a tremendous student," Patterson said. "Here with the Midget schedule, which is very rigorous, you miss a lot of time ... he's done very well. He misses the odd day. I think the school and the teachers, when you have a student like that, you're a little more lenient as far as, 'Hey, as long as your getting your work done' and, obviously, he does that to a 'T."

Patterson is not only counting on Larkin next year, but this year as well.

"I think he'll be with us down the stretch here, so we'll be seeing a lot of him now," Patterson said. "Obviously, you look to next year, but I think right now, if you ask him and even though he hasn't been with us a long time, he wants to be a part of us for a long run here this spring."

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MILLENNIUM GIRLS CAGERS **FINISH UNBEATEN**



For the first time in school history, the South Lyon Millennium Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team capped a perfect 10-0 season with a victory March 14 over previously unbeaten Muir Middle School in Milford. Members of coach Paul Eibler's team were Ashley Jo Hardesty, Ava Miller, Isabella Grant, Clare Loveland, Sophie Propps, Colette Maurer, Rihanna Shimmerhorn, Alyssa Melquist, Anna Sanders, Kennedy Clary, Izzy Soloman, Sienna Daily, Ashley Visneak, Emily Kandet, Katherine Wesner, Jodie Kamdoum, Joyce Kamdoum and Lana Mac. STEPHANIE HARDESTY

Dierker

Continued from Page 3B

fessional level after graduating with honors this May. I know he'll make a big impact, not only on his teammates, but also the community of DaNang."

Dierker knows there will be some challenges when it comes to playing and living in a new country on the other side of the world, but he's ready to face those challenges head on.

"Going over there is going to bring many new experiences, but it will be interesting getting used to their language and being able to communicate," he

said. "It's going to take some time acclimating to a new climate - it's hot and humid over there during the summer and living across the globe will be an adjustment, but I'm excited to show what I can do."

п

The VBA was established in 2016 as the first professional basketball league in the country, whose aim is to provide all players of Vietnamese descent with the opportunity to showcase their talent and passion for basketball.

Contact Zachary Shore at zshore@ madonna.edu.

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PREP BASEBALL

Northville opens with windy win

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With an earlier than usual start to the high school baseball season, Monday's wind-swept contest between Northville and host Plymouth came down to which team showed the least amount of rust.

The Mustangs, last year's Division 1 state runners-up, emerged with a 6-3 victory in a match-up of teams in the newfangled Kensington Lakes Activities Association - Northville is in the Gold Division, while Plymouth is in the Black.

Northville outhit Plymouth, 8-4, and managed to come through with more clutch safeties than the Wildcats could muster. Junior Nicholas Prystash was the Mustangs' spark-plug, going 3for-4, scoring four times and stealing three bases.

Also big for Northville were senior

catcher Billy Flohr (2-for-3, double, three RBIs) and senior Alex Garbacik (2for-3, two RBIs). Earning the win in relief was senior Jordan Shaffer.

For the Wildcats (0-2), outfielder Anthony Sharkas went 2-for-3, scored once and drove in a run. The only other hits were by Logan Dziadzio and Evan Good.

Northville got off to a quick 1-0 lead against Plymouth starting pitcher Kai St. Germaine when Garbacik laced a two-out single to center to bring home Prystach, who opened the game with a base hit.

Garbacik made it a 2-0 game in the third, when he doubled to again score Prystach.

Plymouth scored two unearned runs against Northville starting pitcher Jonathan Michalak.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



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	Any questions should be directed to the Construction Manager's office.
BID DOCUMENTS:	Bid documents will be available on Tuesday , April 03, 2018. Contractors can purchase drawings at their own cost or review at the locations listed below.
	Instructions to bidders, scopes of work / bid categories, bid forms and construction schedules will be issued the week of April 09 , 2018 .
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REVIEW:	Braun Construction Group 39395 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 100 Farmington Hills, MI 48331 (248) 848-0567 FAX: (248) 848-1039
PRE-BID MEETING:	A pre-bid meeting will be held on April 10, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. local time at Clarenceville School District – Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI 48152. Attendance at this pre- bid meeting is required for all interested bidders.
QUESTIONS:	Questions are to be submitted in writing to the construction manager until the end of business Tuesday, April 10, 2018. They can be faxed or emailed to Evan Braun at <u>ebraun@brauncg.com</u> . Questions directed to the Owner or Architect will be grounds for dismissal.
PROPOSAL GUARANTE	CE: A bid bond executed by a U.S. Treasury Listed Surety Company in favor of the Owner or a cashier's check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the base bid payable to Clarenceville School District shall be submitted with each proposal.
RIGHTS RESERVED BY THE OWNER:	The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, waive any informalities, accept any bid when, in the opinion of the Owner such action will serve the best interests of the Clarenceville School District consistent with competitive bidding requirements, award the Contract to other than the low bidder.
NON- WITHDRAWAL:	All bids shall be held open and irrevocable for a period of sixty (60) days from the Due Date.
SIGNED:	Owner's Representative: Mr. Dave Bergeron Assistant Superintendent 20210 Middlebelt Road Livonia, MI 48152 (248) 919-0253
Publish: April 1 & 5, 2018	LO-0000340589 3x15

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