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## Westland sets meeting on treatment center

### Town hall on opioid recovery facility Sept. 10

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following the concerns raised by residents at the past two city council meetings, Westland officials will host a com-

munity meeting surrounding an opioid recovery facility slated to go at 34290 Ford Road. The spot was formerly a Montana's Steakhouse.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at Westland City Hall. Res-

idents will be able to express concerns to city officials and Dr. Andrea Barthwell, the developer of the project. Barthwell, who owns similar centers, will provide a video presentation before taking questions from the public.

"Because there's been a lot of miscommunication and misinformation regarding this project, we've asked the

doctor that's developing this project to schedule a community meeting with the neighborhood to explain with a little more detail what her plans are," Mayor Bill Wild said.

Residents' concerns have swirled around the facility's planned location,

See MEETING, Page 3A



The Rochette family, owners of Westland Camping Center, are, from left, Irene, Steven, Dave and Kevin. The store is closing after 52 years as Dave retires and looks for some new adventures. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Westland Camping Center says goodbye after 52 years

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was 23 years ago that Dave Rochette was looking for a new adventure.

The Scio Township resident was a vice president for an automotive supplies company and oversaw plenty across two continents. But he decided he needed something different in his life. So in 1997, he and his wife, Irene, bought Westland Camping Center, a family-operated RV shop that prepared area residents to head to the great outdoors.

But now, the Rochette's are ready for their own adventures: the couple decided earlier this year to retire and close the camping center at 1475 S. Newburgh, just north of Palmer.

"Now it's time for me to retire, although I'm not sure I can," he said. "I think I have enough at home to stay busy."

The shop has operated in the same place for 52 years, selling camping equipment and RVs to eager campers all across the region. They've wrapped up the summer season and are in the midst of packing the store up so that merchandise and other assets can be transferred to National RV in Van Buren Township, which bought the center's RVs and inventory. Many of the employees, Rochette said, will also make the move to National RV and continue working in the industry.

The shop has seen plenty of loyal customers over the years, Rochette said. They began to let those customers who store their RV

See CENTER, Page 2A



Westland Camping Center sits on Newburgh Road.

## Canton native releases book on growing up black in America

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just 22 years old, Canton native Marcus Granderson has already graduated from Harvard University, written a book published by Post Hill Press and distributed (beginning Sept. 17) by media giant Simon and Schuster, and sung for audiences that included Oprah Winfrey, Shonda Rhimes, U.S. Representative John Lewis and Rihanna.

So, what is the 2014 graduate of Plymouth High School going to do for an encore?

"I've already started another book, this one fiction," said Granderson, who lives in Queens, N.Y. and works as a speech writer in nearby Manhattan.

Granderson, the son of Mark and Lisa Granderson of Canton, packaged "Timestamp: Musings of an Introverted Black Boy" from a collection of self-scripted social-media posts that stretched over his final year at Plymouth and across his career at Harvard, where he graduated cum laude (with distinction) in 2018.

"I was too lazy to put together a separate blog," Granderson said with a chuckle, "so I used Facebook as my blog. The book is primarily a series of essays I collected from my Facebook posts — some short, some long — about coming of age, race and growing up black in America.

"The term 'timestamp' comes from the fact that all of my posts were stamped with a time and date. A lot happened over this period of time — the Charleston shootings, the election of Trump, social unrest ... — a lot of deep issues that I think everyone can relate to."

A press release promoting Granderson's book delivers a series of compelling hooks that give a hint of what to expect once you open the cover: "I'm desperately in love with two women: Aretha and Whitney. I struggle with a mild form of social anxiety. I sing to myself almost everywhere I go. I'm an ex-chitlins (with hot sauce and ketchup) lover. I've been called an Oreos. I've been stopped by the police while walking home. I'm the descendant of slaves and a Harvard graduate."

"It's not simply a 'black' book, or even a 'millennial' one," Granderson shares. "It's a human book."

Granderson emphasized his deep appreciation for his ancestors who were brought to America as slaves.

See BOOK, Page 2A



## Book

Continued from Page 1A

"They endured so much trauma and still had hope," he said.

During his latter years at Plymouth, Harvard wasn't on Granderson's post-high school radar, he admitted.

"Honestly, I was planning on attending the University of Pennsylvania to study business; I had no intention whatsoever of attending Harvard," he said. "My perception of Harvard people that they were pretentious, stuck-up. I didn't think I would fit in.

"But during the early-application period, I applied to Harvard and was accepted. At the end of the day, I decided I wanted to explore and take a more challenging path.

"Attending Harvard was like a racial awakening for me, which I explain in the book."

Granderson said he found Harvard to be a "weird, strange" place, in a good way, of course.

"My freshman year I joined the

choir," he said. "I got the opportunity to sing for Oprah, Shonda Rhimes and John Lewis at one performance, and Rihanna was in the audience for another. It's like, you just never know who you're going to run into at Harvard."

Granderson didn't formally meet Oprah, "but I did make eye contact with her," he said, smiling.

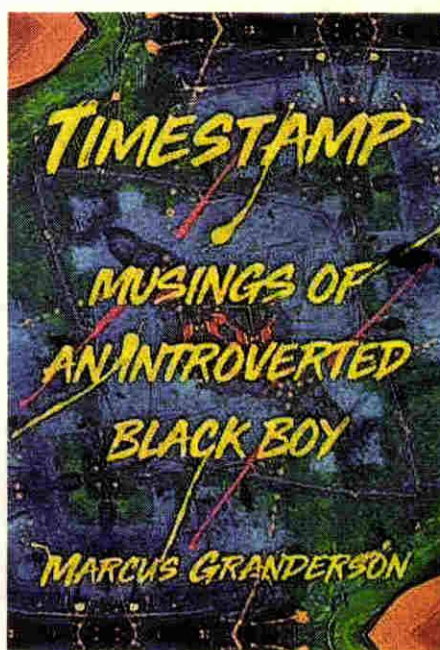
Granderson said he didn't experience "overt" racism while growing up in Canton.

"I'd hear small comments that I didn't realize were subtle racism until I became more racially aware in college," he said. "Overall, though, I enjoyed my experience of growing up in Canton."

Granderson hesitated when asked the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools educators had the biggest impact on him.

"I'm hesitant because I don't want to leave anyone out; there were a lot," he said. "I had a teacher in sixth grade at Pioneer Middle School, Ms. Johnson, who was the Science Olympiad instructor. She was impactful and always offered hope. She's the one I'd make sure to come back and visit once I was in high school.

"My senior year in high school I had a two-hour cooking class — and I love to cook! — and the instructor was Ms. Woodward. It was a beautiful experience."



PHOTOS COURTESY SIMON AND SCHUSTER

The paperback edition of "Timestamp" can be ordered online beginning Sept. 17 at [posthillpress.com](http://posthillpress.com). The cost is \$14.99.

"I wrote it for everyone. And that includes you," Granderson closed on his self-introduction.

Contact Ed Wright at 517-375-1113 or [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com).

## Center

Continued from Page 1A

on the lot of the store know they would not be able to keep storing them, so they could find another place to store their campers. "I've also heard from those customers who have used the facility for years and continue to receive service."

Rochette said they continue to wind down operations, but don't want to leave customers completely the cold if they've scheduled work.

"They've expressed regret that we're leaving, and some have been grateful for the good service they got," he said. "The service, we're finishing up on that."

Mayor William Wild said Tuesday afternoon he had not yet heard the news of the business closing, but said they've been a staple for nearly as long as Westland has been a city.

"They're a small business that's been in Westland a long time," he said. "You always hate to lose your small business because they are the backbone."

The goal of the center has always been to bring families together and give them something to create wonderful memories with that aren't in front of a television screen. That's a goal Rochette was proud to accomplish in the decades the family ran the business.

"Our niche has always been: we're the family camping center," he said. "Our specialty is we sell to families. And that's kind of what our philosophy was when we first got into this."

As for the Rochettes, their plan is to head out on their own camping adventure this fall, visiting all five Great Lakes to see how high the water levels have gotten. He said he plans on taking it slow at first, but anticipates he'll get anxious and want to begin another project sometime in 2020.

"We haven't gone camping in about over a year, and we're going camping," he said. "I figure I can probably get three months of retirement and then I'll probably go do something."

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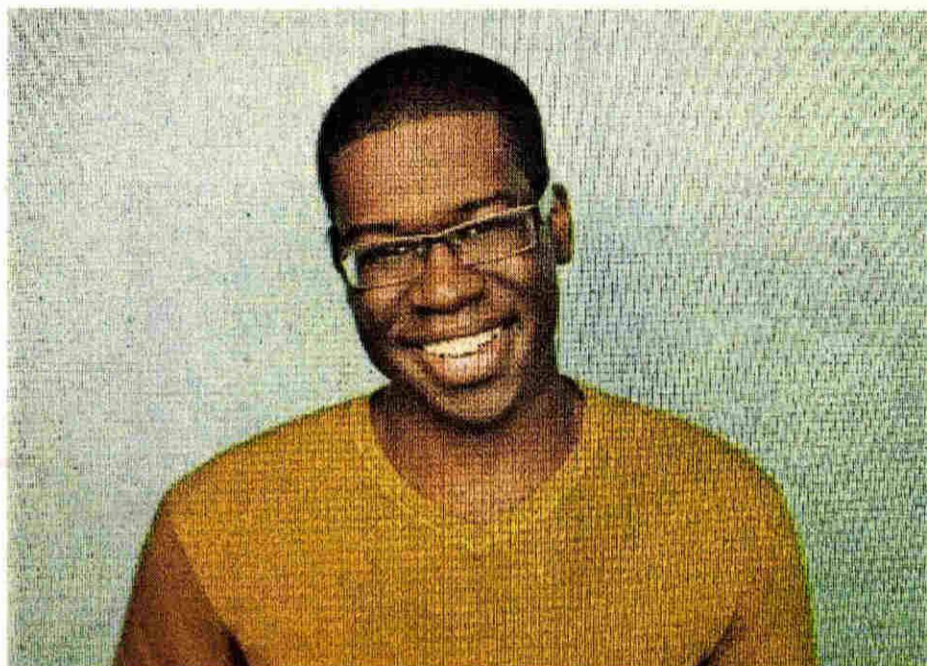
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"I've already started another book, this one fiction," said Canton native and Harvard graduate Marcus Granderson, who now lives in Queens, New York.

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# MJR theaters sold to Belgian company

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The sale of a southeast Michigan movie theater chain with a complex in Westland doesn't appear to have affected its day-to-day operations.

It was announced this past weekend Bloomfield Hills-based MJR Digital Cinemas was being sold to a Belgian company, Kinopolis Group NV, marking the company's first venture into the United States.

The theater chain has 10 complexes, with one being located at 6800 N. Wayne in Westland. Mayor William Wild said he had not spoken to anyone about the sale, but nothing appeared to affect the operations at the 16-screen complex in the city's Shop and Dine district.

"I haven't heard from them directly," he said. "I think it's in good shape. I think it's in good hands."

The movie theater complex opened in 2011 and has seen plenty of visitors come through the doors. It went through a major multi-million dollar renovation last year that saw the addition of recliner chairs, new carpeting and improvements to the lobby.

The sale of the theater chain still requires anti-trust approval. The sale comes after Kinopolis Group NV purchased Landmark Cinemas of Canada. The company says MJR will continue to operate under its current name.



Bloomfield Hills-based MJR Digital Cinemas has 10 complexes, with one at 6800 N. Wayne in Westland. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

"I was very fortunate to build MJR from the ground up into the tremendous theatre circuit it is today," said Mike Michalich, founder and CEO of MJR Digital Cinemas, in a statement. "I am delighted my outstanding supporting cast will continue as part of the larger Kinopolis team to serve our customers with the same high standards my team established and maintained since MJR's founding in 1999. I am comforted such a

high quality operator with shared values will steward MJR into the future."

In addition to the Westland complex, MJR also operates in Brighton, Southgate, Chesterfield Township, Troy, Sterling Heights, Adrian, Warren, Waterford and Clinton Township.

Wild recalled the history of how MJR came to Westland, which was through a cold call to the company from a previous economic development director. That

call led to a staple of the Shop and Dine district and moved the city's economic development forward.

"They do a nice project and they've always been great to the city. They've employed a lot of the area youth," he said. "We wish them well."

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## Meeting

Continued from Page 1A

which is near Eddison Elementary and Garden City Junior High schools as well as the Wildwood Apartments complex. Many who spoke during public comment at the Aug. 19 and Sept. 3 meetings said they support such a facility, they just don't want it in that location.

Many residents raising concerns said they first learned about the center after its approval during the Aug. 5 meeting, after which the time for public comment to sway a council decision had passed.

Before that meeting, the center received prior to the Aug. 5 meeting, the center was recommended for approval by Westland's planning commission and the issue was covered multiple times by local news media.

Wild said he hopes the meeting will clear the air between both parties and allow residents to have a fuller picture of what the facility will be like.

"My hope is that after people learn more about the nature of the business and maybe some of the controls that are in place, they're going to feel more comfortable," Wild said.

Contact Shelby at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448.



A rendering shows the proposed opioid recovery facility at a former Montana's Steakhouse building on Ford Road. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND



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This English manor-style home is brick with limestone trim and features a six-car garage. The roof is slate, with peaks, valleys and dormers. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# Elegant driveway opens portal to English manor-style house

**Judy Rose** Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

This grand and glamorous house might be the layman's idea of what a very rich person's home should look like.

Its living area is larger than 10,000 square feet. It's built of brick with limestone trim. There's a three-arch portico in front, a three-arch screened porch in back and three massive brick chimneys.

The roof is slate, rich with peaks, valleys and dormers. The gutters and downspouts are copper.

The house sits on 2½ acres in Franklin Village's estate area. You enter an electronic gate and travel a long driveway, past gaslight lanterns and a pond with a fountain. You come to the sprawling English manor-style house, shaped like the letter J.

Inside, woodwork and moldings are lavish — heavy ceiling moldings in the

dentil style, foot-wide trim around arches. Some floors are Idaho quartzite; one fireplace wall is golden Jerusalem stone.

"The materials are incredible," said Realtor Meredith Colburn. "All the plaster molding was done by an Italian artisan in residence. There's a two-story library paneled with cherry."

Besides those finishes and more, the house has an unusual room on the second floor — an exercise room that's 46 feet long.

The first owner was a martial arts enthusiast who included it as a *dojo*. That's a traditional Japanese word that means "place of the Way" and is a room for martial arts or immersive learning or meditation, originally attached to a temple.

Of course, a new owner could use it differently — an upstairs family room, games room or crafts room.

See ESTATE, Page 5A

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The formal living room is adjacent to the elaborate front entry at this 10,400-square-foot Franklin Village home that is priced at \$2.95 million.

PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Estate

Continued from Page 4A

The handsome formal living and dining rooms are traditional. The living room has a wide, pillared arch at its entrance and two stories of traditional mullioned windows.

The dining room also has a dramatic arch at its entry with woodwork more than a foot wide and heavy dentil molding around the ceiling.

Next door, the butler's pantry has glass-front cabinets. Beyond that, a large space with one wall of glass arches opens up to nearly 1,000 square feet. This takes in a large hearth room, the kitchen and the breakfast nook.

The stone floors through here are the Idaho quartzite. The big hearth room fireplace is pale yellow Jerusalem stone. The big range is a six-burner Dacor. The three windows over the sink have a Gothic shape and diamond leaded glass.

On the outside wall here, three wide arched French doors go out to the screened porch, where three more brick arches echo their shape. An outdoor

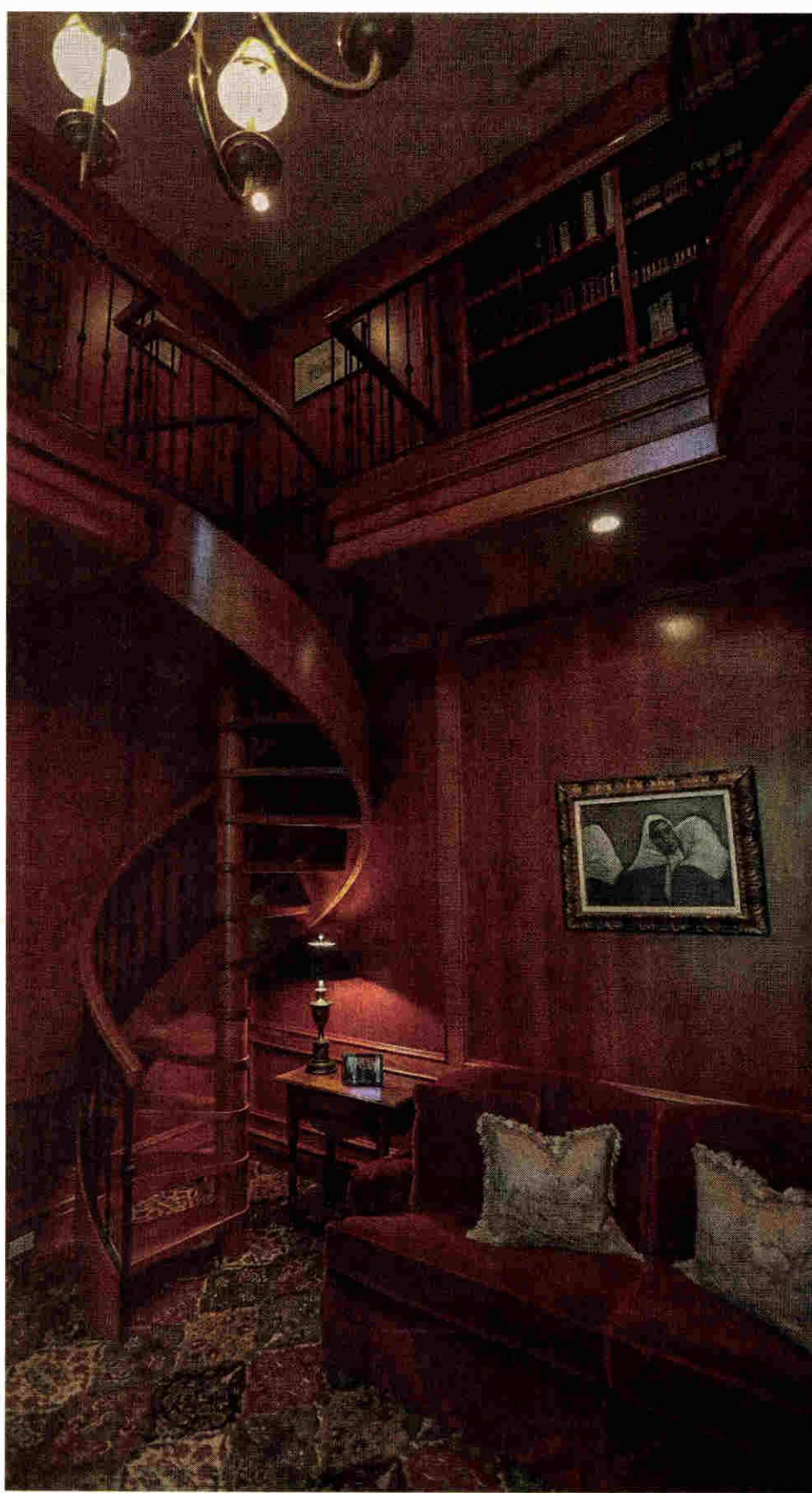
fireplace and a GE Monogram grill are built into a wall of decorative brick.

The library is especially arresting. It soars two stories high, all cherry, with tightly curled stairs and Gothic, leaded-glass windows. It's on the central hall, across from the formal dining room, and it mirrors that room's elaborate entrance.

At one side of the hearth room, a curving staircase sweeps down to the lower level, where about 2,000 square feet are finished. Most of this is a large 3,000-bottle wine cellar plus a wine tasting room. Their mood is Medieval with stone walls painted white and a narrow arched passway between rooms. There's also a powder room here.

The current owners made one big addition — a private apartment with a private entrance over one of the garages. This is not the standard staff quarters. It's a finely finished 800 square feet.

It has one bedroom, one bath, a lounging room with a fireplace under a built-in TV, a kitchen with granite and stainless steel and its own laundry room. To close off the laundry room, there's even one of today's popular barn doors on a slider.



The two-story library with a spiral staircase is one of the main features in the home. Other notable features include five bedrooms, five and a half bathrooms, and a six-car garage.

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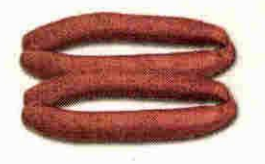

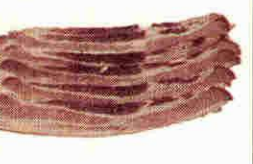
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# Predicting Michigan's peak leaf-peeping time

Elissa Robinson Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fall doesn't officially begin until Sept. 23, but we're already looking forward to all the beautiful colors that Michigan trees bring during those crisp autumn days. SmokyMountains.com has released its annual fall foliage predictions — for across the country and right here in Michigan.

If you're hoping to get the timing right for your visit Up North, here's the breakdown of what to expect across the Great Lakes state this fall.

## Week of Sept. 28

Foliage in the Upper Peninsula and the tip of northern Lower Peninsula will be at near-peak conditions. The rest of Michigan will still be patchy and partial coverage.

## Week of Oct. 5 – Peak season in U.P.

If you're hoping to make a trip to Michigan's beautiful U.P., this may be the week to do it. The entire U.P. — as well as the Mackinac City area — will be at peak foliage. In the upper portion of the Lower Peninsula — roughly north of Cadillac and Manistee — conditions will be at near peak. The rest of the state remains at partial foliage.



Fall colors in 2013 along M-32 west of Gaylord. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

## Week of Oct. 12

This is peak fall colors season for the northern Lower Peninsula, generally north of Cadillac and Manistee. The U.P. is past peak this week and the lower portion of the state is nearing peak.

## Week of Oct. 19 – Peak season in most of lower Michigan

Didn't get Up North for the turning of the leaves? This is peak fall foliage week for most people living in lower Michigan, including metro Detroit.

## Week of Oct. 26

Nearly the entire state is past peak at this point unless you're planning a visit to the New Buffalo area. This tiny portion of the Lower Peninsula (near the Indiana border) will be at peak season for this week.

The website uses millions of pieces of data to predict fall foliage for every county in the country. Some of the data points in the complex algorithm include:

- NOAA historical temperatures
- NOAA historical precipitation
- NOAA forecast temperatures
- NOAA forecast precipitation
- Historical leaf peak trends
- Peak observation trends

Of course, the map was made to help serve as a planning guide and should not be considered 100% accurate.

"Although the scientific concept of how leaves change colors is fairly simple, predicting the precise moment the event will occur is extremely challenging. The major factors impacting peak fall are sunlight, precipitation, soil moisture and temperature. Although we cannot control Mother Nature and ensure 100% accuracy, our data sources are top-tier and each year we refine our algorithmic model achieving higher accuracy over time," said Wes Melton, co-founder and CTO of SmokyMountains.com.

# Citizens Bank plans to close Livonia branch this fall

David Veselenak  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Livonia is about to have one less bank branch this fall.

Citizens Bank is expected to close its branch at 19410 Middlebelt later this fall, said Drew Chretien, a representative of Citizens Bank, during a planning commission meeting last week.

Many of the services would get transferred to the Citizens Bank branch at 28999 W. Five Mile, just east of Middlebelt.

"The high volume of

transactions at the ATM doesn't make the branch profitable," he said. "In order to improve the experience of our customers and our employees, the strategy in certain areas where we have two branches in such close proximity would be to consolidate into one in order to lower our operating costs but still be able to serve the customers."

The closure is expected to take place the afternoon of Oct. 16.

To help offset the issue of closing a branch in the northeast corner of the city, Citizens Bank has

proposed installing a standalone ATM in the parking lot of the Mid 7 shopping center on the southwest corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt.

The planning commission took up the issue of rezoning the southern portion of the parking lot near Jin Wig and Beauty.

It approved the recommended rezoning for the standalone ATM, though not without some concern from one commissioner who was worried about the location of an ATM in the middle of a parking lot and its usage. "I'm still trying to find

a reason that this installation fulfills that can't be taken care of either on your cellphone or at a branch bank or in a retail store," said Commissioner Peter Ventura. "I still can't find a reason to do this."

Chretien said there are plenty of bank customers who prefer to make deposits and withdrawals from ATMs rather than from stores or through a mobile device.

The ATM kiosk would also allow for customers to conduct transactions without leaving their vehicles, which they need to

do at the bank's branch on Middlebelt.

Ventura made a motion to deny the rezoning request to allow the ATM, but it failed without support.

The rezoning was then recommended for approval by a 4-2 vote, with Ventura and Commission Chairman Ian Wilshaw voting no. Commissioner Sam Caramagno was not present at the meeting.

Citizens Bank operates branches in several area communities, including in Livonia, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Westland, Plymouth

Township, Plymouth, Canton, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and South Lyon.

The bank branch has seen plenty of action at the ATM, Chretien said. The ATM at the branch has done 48,000 transactions in the last 12 months, with about \$5.5 million in deposits and \$4.9 million in withdrawals.

The ATM at the branch remaining open on Five Mile east of Middlebelt has a drive-up ATM, Chretien said, which has done about 80,000 transactions the last year. Merging the two would be a large task for that ATM, he said.

"With the closing of the branch, we would like migrate a lot of deposits and withdrawals that came from the drive-up teller window at the Middlebelt branch into customers migrating to the drive-up ATM for that purpose," he said. "We don't want to alienate the people who don't live in the immediate vicinity of the Livonia branch."

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @david-veselenak.

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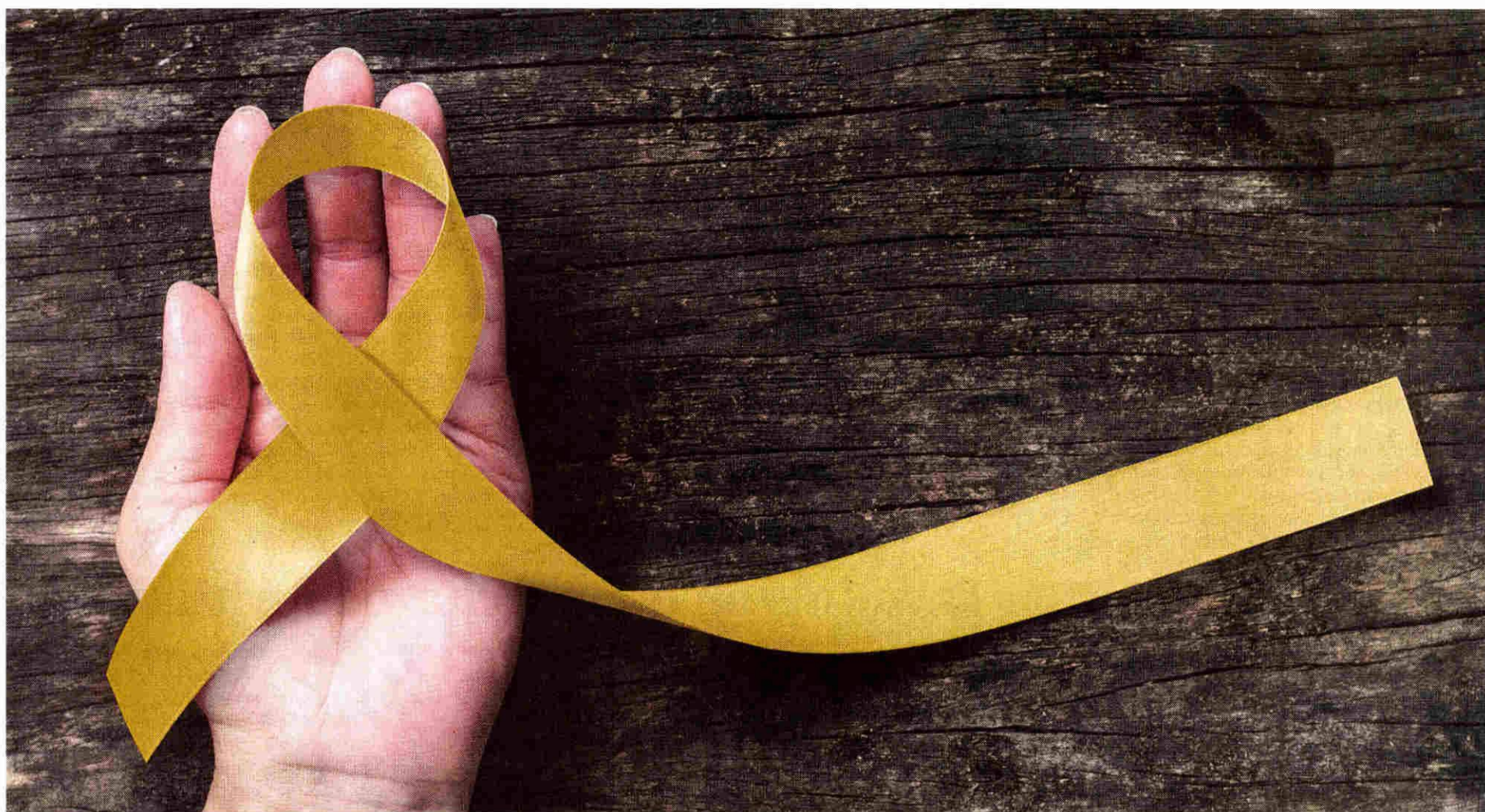
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The yellow ribbon serves as a symbol for suicide prevention. Hegira Health Inc. will host a town hall, titled "Talk Saves Lives," about suicide prevention at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The town hall is in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. GETTY IMAGES

## Company to host town hall on suicide prevention

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Along with the fall colors that September usually brings with it, it is also nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. To better equip the community to fight the 10th leading cause of death among adults and 2nd leading cause of death among teens in the United States, the Livonia-based Hegira Health Inc. is hosting a town hall to teach people how to discuss suicide in a healthy way.

The town hall, titled "Talk Saves Lives," will take place Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Livonia Civic Center Library and is in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. At-

tendees will learn about suicide prevention and be able to ask questions.

"It really is a myth that talking about it will put the idea in somebody's head," said, Melissa Tolstyka, the director of programs for Hegira. "In fact, the opposite is true. Talking about it will alleviate the anxiety that somebody has about having those thoughts."

Tolstyka said common warning signs to look for are talking about suicide, increased physical or mental pain, feeling burdensome, increased use of drugs or alcohol, giving things away, saying goodbye, depression, anxiety and withdrawing from others. People may be at risk if someone close to them died by suicide or if they suffer from mental illness.

Because of these factors, Tolstyka said it's important for people to seek mental health treatment. Though there can be a stigma around going to therapy, Tolstyka said it can help if people are encouraged to go.

"Being supportive is really important," she said. "A lot of people don't like to go alone or, if they do go alone, they feel like they're going to be judged or whatever the case may be. So having someone walk in there with them and come into the room is fine."

Tolstyka compared therapy to going to the doctor's office when you're sick.

"When you have a toothache, you go to the dentist," she said. "When you have chest pain, you go to the emergency room. Why would you do the same

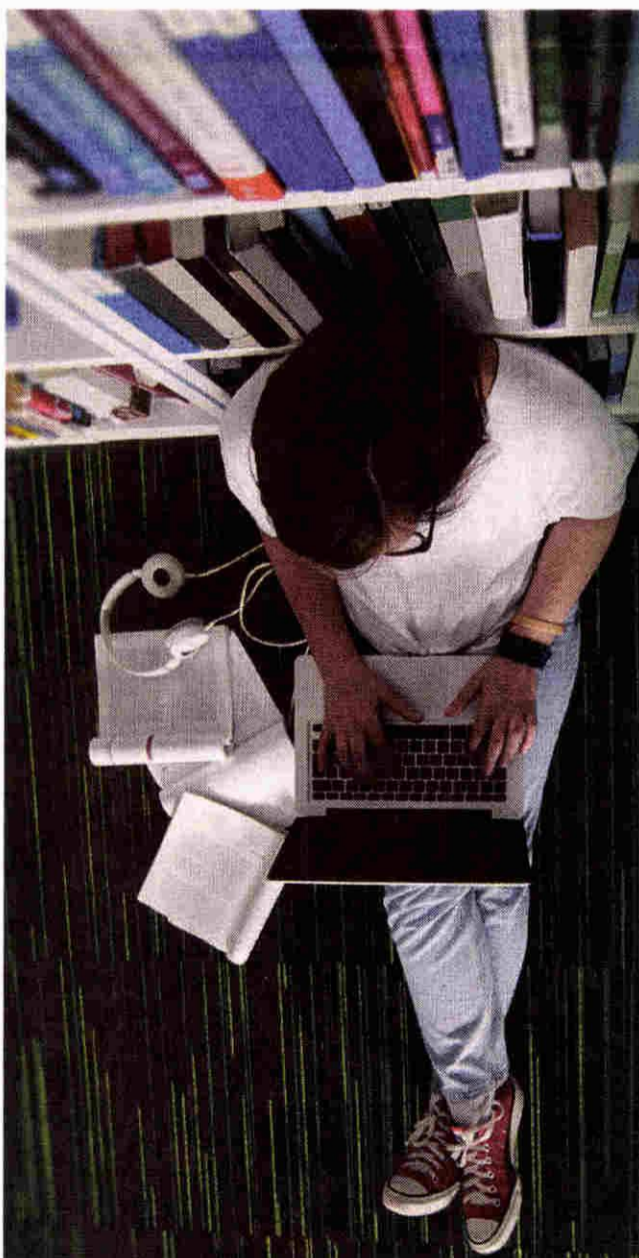
thing for anxiety or depression?"

Tolstyka said she and her coworkers hope "Talk Saves Lives" can equip people to help those around them. They're hoping the 1,400,000 annual attempts, 18 of which were completed in Livonia last year, can be brought down to zero.

For those who can't make it to the event, Tolstyka noted that Hegira offers Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training for free.

If you or someone you know struggles with suicidal thoughts, Wayne County's lifeline is 1-800-241-4949, the National Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255 and the Crisis Text Line can be reached by texting HOME to 741741.

Contact Shelby at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448.



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Mrs. Wilson founded the Helping Individuals Go Higher (HIGH) Program to combat homelessness among Wayne State University students. "Students shouldn't feel trapped into making a choice of survival or success," she said. "The HIGH Program was established to provide resources that assist students facing challenges as they pursue their education."

Today, the HIGH Program provides resources like housing support, transportation, child care assistance, textbooks and school supplies, which help students stay on track to graduate.

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To learn more about the HIGH Program and to make a contribution — of any size — visit [highprogram.wayne.edu](http://highprogram.wayne.edu).



## Mission Point Livonia nursing home to replace St. Jude center

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After delays because of tax issues, the proposed Mission Point Livonia nursing home is moving forward with approval from the Livonia City Council.

Mission Point will replace the St. Jude Nursing Center, at 34350 Ann Arbor Trail, which will be torn down and replaced. Both facilities are owned by Mission Management Services.

The development was sent back to committee at the council's July 8 meeting because St. Jude owed more than \$344,000 in real property taxes to Wayne County. The company also had a pending bankruptcy hearing with the county at the time, which took place July 15 and granted the company an extension until Oct. 15.

"I'm not comfortable moving forward with a petition where there's money being owed to the city as well as the county with a pending bankruptcy hearing, which is supposed to be in mid-July," Councilman Brian Meakin said July 8.

Council members felt comfortable moving forward Aug. 26 because progress is being made on that front. The council approved the project, 7-0.

The plans, as they stand, would rebuild the facility with a second floor. A rehabilitation facility and other updates would be made, as well.

While construction is being done by Livonia Healthcare Real Estate LLC, St. Jude's 64 beds would be put in escrow and the 53 current residents will be discharged to other nursing facilities in the area. This will be overseen by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

## Unregistered gun found during Livonia traffic stop

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia police say they recovered an unregistered firearm after a routine traffic stop.

Police were patrolling the area around southbound Merriman at Schoolcraft when they saw a vehicle with a cracked windshield.

After running the license plate number, police discovered the car was uninsured, and an officer pulled the vehicle over into a parking lot in the 31600 block of Plymouth.

The driver, a 22-year-old female from Detroit, gave

police her information. They then discovered she had one suspension on her license and was arrested.

Police also checked the information of the passengers in the car, including a 24-year-old Detroit man. The man had some warrants in other communities. While searching the car, police discovered a 9mm Glock 48 firearm. The Detroit man told police the weapon was his and that it was registered to him, though police found it was unregistered when they ran it in their system.

The vehicle was impounded and the two were taken to the police station for processing. The firearm was tagged as evidence.

## Farmington doctor charged with fraud

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has charged a Farmington doctor with fraud, claiming she charged for procedures she never completed.

Dr. Ban Mechael, 56, faces two counts of Medicaid fraud-false claim and one count of medical records-intentionally placing false information after Nessel said Mechael billed for phantom and unnecessary therapeutic injections and infusions, as well as submitting claims for medical work that supposedly took place while she was out of the state. The charges were announced via a news release sent Friday afternoon.

"Those who think they can get away with health care fraud, take note: there are many eyes and ears out there on the lookout and you will be caught and

held accountable," Nessel said in a statement. "It's not worth it."

The AG's office said an investigation that took place in 2016 and 2017 led investigators to discover Mechael was billing for more services than could actually be completed. They also found she would bill for services while she was out of the country, the department announced.

An online search for Mechael points to her operating a doctor's office in Livonia.

She was recently arraigned by in 54B District Court in East Lansing and was granted a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond by District Judge Richard Ball. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 13.

If convicted, Mechael faces up to four years in prison.

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



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## Hackers steal Carl's Golfland shopper info

**JC Reindl** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hackers from Singapore, Germany and Romania have stolen credit card information for online shoppers at Carl's Golfland, a representative for the retailer said last week.

The hackers did a "brute force" attack to gain unauthorized access to the retailer's computer system,

snatching customers' names, addresses, credit card numbers, card expiration dates and CVV security codes.

The hacking occurred from March 25 until July 14, when the retailer became aware of the data breach and notified the U.S. Secret Service.

The retailer, with locations in Bloomfield Hills and Plymouth, also is asking customers to call their card company to have a "fraud alert" placed on their card.



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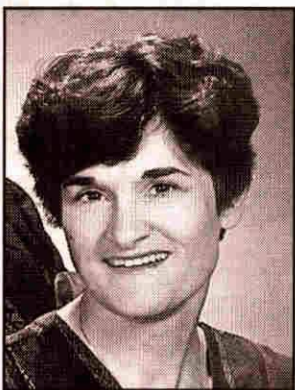


# Obituaries

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## Elizabeth Marie Aragona (Noone)

LIVONIA - Oct 10, 1937- August 23, 2019  
Elizabeth passed away peacefully at home after a long illness.



Elizabeth was born in Indiana and was one of 10 children. She is preceded in death by her siblings, Patty, Kate, Bill, Vincent. She is survived by her siblings, Michael, Anne (Tom), Maggie, Mary (Jim) and Susie (Bob).

Elizabeth was married to the late Roland Aragona for 42 years and they had 5 Children. Cathy (Tom), Roland (Ana Lee) Liz (Jim), Angela (Dave), Theresa (Joe). 7 Grandchildren, Sarah (Dave), Jeffrey, Anthony, Joey (Kristin), Andrea, Abby (Garret), and Matthew.

Elizabeth was a dedicated teacher spending most of her career in the South Lyon School District. She was an avid sports fan, lover of history and diehard Democrat.

The most important thing in her life was her family. She loved them deeply and without reservation. She will be missed very much.

A memorial service will be held on Friday September 27, 2019 at 11 am at St. Genevieve Catholic Church 29015 Jamison St. Livonia, MI 48154 with a luncheon to follow.



## Dorothy Bleimeister Balogh

PLYMOUTH - Passed away August 2, 2019, at the age of 90. Beloved wife of the late Tivadar. Dear mother of Melissa (Tim) Waidley and Margaret (Mike Bishop) Balogh. Devoted grandmother of Clara, Hope, Gwendolyn and Zoltan and caring sister of the late William. Visitation at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley) Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10 am until the time of her Memorial Service at 11 am. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at [www.griffinfuneralhome.com](http://www.griffinfuneralhome.com)



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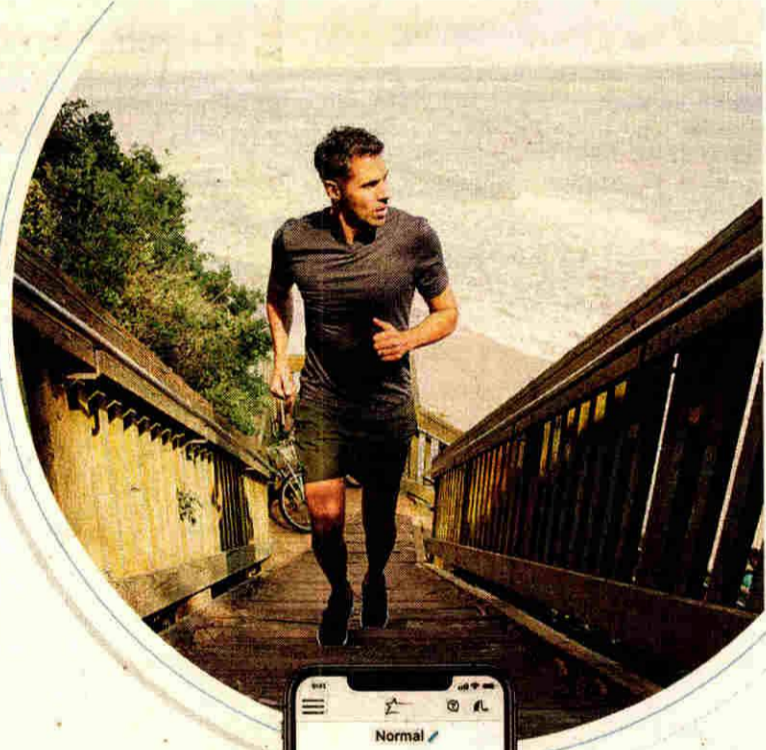
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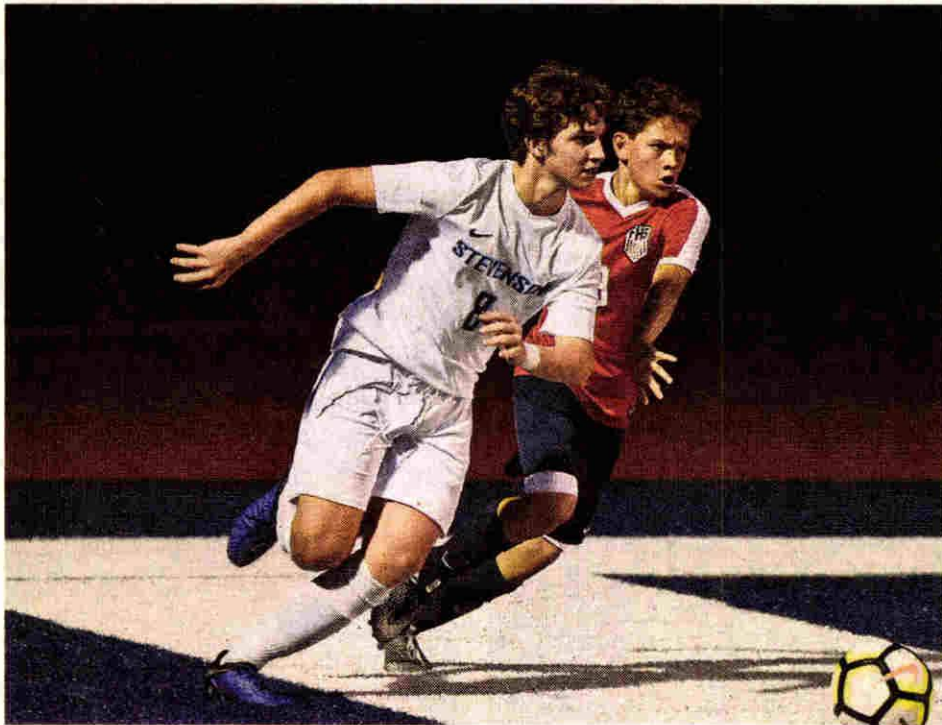
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# Sports

STEVENSON 6, FRANKLIN 0



Stevenson sophomore forward Reece Brown attempts a pass during a 6-0 win over Franklin on Tuesday. TOM BEAUDOIN

## Spartans extend early dominance

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Stevenson has had a hot start to the 2019 season.

The Spartans have outscored opponents 20-3 in the first four soccer games of the season, shutting out teams in their past three games.

That success continued Tuesday night as Stevenson rolled to a 6-0 road victory against Livonia Franklin for the Spartans' fifth straight win.

But it was not in the traditional way. Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker gave two defenders — junior Drake Van Dike and junior Josh Tragge

— an opportunity to play outside back. For both, it paid off, as Tragge scored a goal off a header and assisted another, while Van Dike scored a goal he was not expecting to see.

"None of us would have expected that at the start of the game," Van Dike said. "I definitely didn't see it coming until the ball was right in front of me."

With an injury to senior midfielder Griffin Brown, this is the kind of production the Spartans head coach wanted to see.

"We have a lot of weapons, and it seems like it can be different guys every night," Shingledecker said. "People just

See SPARTANS, Page 2B

SEAHOLM 41, FERNDALE 6

## Maples capitalize on mistakes

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Seaholm head coach Jim DeWald left Maple Field Aug. 29 thinking about his team's two first-quarter turnovers and the opportunities missed early in the game.

But the scoreboard behind him told a different story as the Maples forced six turnovers, earning its first win of the season, handily defeating Ferndale, 41-6.

Seaholm forced and recovered five fumbles and recorded one interception in its 35-point win, scoring one of six total touchdowns on a recovered fumble in the end zone by junior defensive lineman Caden DeWald.

"They turned the ball over early, and we took advantage of that, and I think that got them out of their game plan," Jim DeWald said. "Our kids did what they needed to do to win the game in the first half."

Seaholm junior running back Jackson Vance opened scoring with a 13-yard touchdown run to the right, missing the extra point to take an early 6-point lead.

After Caden DeWald's fumble recovery,



Seaholm QB Caleb Knoer fights for yardage during the Aug. 29 game. TOM BEAUDOIN

junior quarterback Caleb Knoer started to find some holes in the opposing Eagles' defense, finding both junior Miles Mentag and senior Alex Lonze for scores.

Ferndale scored its only touchdown

midway through the fourth quarter when quarterback Joe Lewis Estell threw a 29-yard pass to Kelvin Lileton, his only completion of the day on seven pass attempts.

Here are three takeaways from Sea-

holm's 41-6 victory against Ferndale.

### Caden DeWald starts strong

Caden DeWald believes that Seaholm has the best defensive line in the entire OAA. At least after the first game, the Maples seemed to have the numbers to back it up.

Seaholm forced five fumbles against Ferndale, limiting the Eagles to just over 3 yards per carry. Of the 28 total run plays, only four of them were for more than 10 yards.

"That just shows that we are the best and no one will sustainably drive on our front four," Caden DeWald said.

He said this game was a confidence boost not only for the front four, but for him personally. The junior recovered two fumbles in the 35-point win, falling on one in the end zone for the second touchdown of the game.

The defensive line also showed pressure up front against a run-first Ferndale offense, forcing six incompletions on seven pass attempts.

In terms of hearing what Caden DeWald said, hearing the confidence of

See SEAHOLM, Page 2B

## Stevenson tennis team wins city championship

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson boys tennis team took home the Livonia city championship last week, beating both Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin in the all-day tournament.

The Spartans came in first place in six of the nine flights, winning at No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 singles and No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 doubles.

Churchill won No. 3 singles, No. 1 doubles and No. 2 doubles, while Franklin was shut out.

"It was great to win our fourth city tournament in a row," Stevenson coach Don McCathney said. "I am very proud

of our entire team, but the singles flights especially played great today. Corwin Kim, J.P. Marvin, Ethan Kovie and Anthony Lamacchia all played well.

"Our doubles line up was challenged but had a solid day also. Our first time players (Eli Franklin, Alex Lind, Craig Douponce and Derek Oller) really stepped up. We have a great rivalry with Churchill and Franklin which really exhibits a high degree of sportsmanship. (Churchill coach) Denise Berg and (Franklin coach) Tom Muller really do a great job with their teams."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



The Stevenson boys tennis team won the Livonia city tennis tournament title. MARIE MARVIN

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# Churchill boys soccer holding footgolf fundraiser Sept. 28

**Colin Gay**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

To honor the school's 50th anniversary, the Livonia Churchill boys soccer team will hold a soccer-golf fundraising event at the Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth on Sept. 28.

This event will help raise money for each of the Churchill soccer teams.

In the Charger Cup Footgolf Outing, teams of up to six people will play 18 holes of golf, using a soccer ball and the participant's foot instead of a traditional golf ball and club.

According to the release, participants must bring their own size 5 soccer ball and may not wear cleats.

Along with prizes for the winning teams, Churchill will award participants for the longest kick/drive, the team that lands closest to the pin and the team with the most spirit.

The event will also have 50/50 and basket raffles, with all proceeds benefiting the soccer teams.

Registration will be \$30 for adults and \$25 for both seniors and youths 17 and under.

For more information and to register, visit the Charger Cup Footgolf Outing event page.

Reach Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com), 248-310-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



The Churchill boys team's soccer-golf fundraiser at the Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth benefits the school's soccer teams. BILL BRESLER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Spartans

Continued from Page 1B

step in and do jobs."

Facing Franklin goalkeeper Jaedin Glenn, who had recently been brought up from the junior varsity team, the Spartans feasted in the first half, scoring four goals in the first 40 minutes to secure the victory before halftime.

Stevenson freshman midfielder Nico Bunda opened the scoring in the 14th minute with a goal from the right side, followed up shortly after with a header by Van Dike.

"We're a really good team this year," Bunda said. "I feel like people are going to be scared of us."

The Spartans ended the half with a scoring spree and scored two goals in the final three minutes — a 20-yard floater by junior defender Adrian Rakipi and a header by Tragge.

Franklin head coach Chris Burnette knew the talent that Stevenson had, and he felt that his defense was well prepared for what the Spartans would bring.

"For the first 30 minutes, I thought it was a really good game," Burnette said.



Stevenson freshman midfielder Nico Bunda attempts to find an opening Tuesday against Franklin. He would score the game's first goal. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

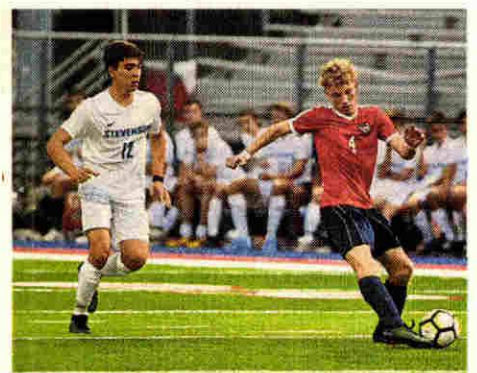
"We kind of fell apart a bit."

After allowing four goals in the first half, the Patriots defense settled down.

But late in the second half, Stevenson senior defender Ryan Maisonville found senior forward John Evangelista in stride for goal No. 5, and Bunda hit his

second goal of the day, assisted by sophomore forward Reece Brown to give the Spartans its second-straight game of at least six goals scored.

Van Dike said that this performance proves that Stevenson is very well-rounded, and that scoring is always a



Senior defender Ryan Maisonville gets in position.

team effort.

What Shingledecker wants to make clear is that these first five wins are not the height of the season.

"We don't want to peak right now. We are just trying to build a rotation, everybody getting a good understanding of their roles," Shingledecker said. "This is really just us trying to build an identity of who we are."

Reach Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com), 248-310-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Seaholm

Continued from Page 1B

one of his defensive linemen, Jim DeWald laughed and shook his head.

"Who's son is that?" he asked jokingly.

### Offense shows its identity

Knoer knows the offensive identity of this Seaholm team. In a similar vein as the offense the Maples were facing, it is run-first.

"Just shove it down," Knoer said. "Our goal is to tire them out and not get tired ourselves. So our goal was we play four quarters and hope that they are not able to finish the four quarters."

Both Knoer and senior running back Chaz Strecker led the team with eight carries each, while sophomore back Jacob Vance had seven rushes for 61 yards, tying Strecker's game high.

However, Knoer and the Seaholm offense knew when to use the pass to their advantage.

Head coach Jim DeWald said he saw the Ferndale safeties coming downhill extremely hard, showing a blitz. In response, the Maple offense called two play-action passes in the red zone.

Each one worked as Knoer finished with two passes on two attempts for 19 yards and two touchdowns.

The junior quarterback said after the game that the play-action looks Seaholm gave Ferndale adds an extra wrinkle to the offense moving forward.

"As a primary run offense, a lot of people don't expect us to pass," Knoer said. "It makes teams think more about what we are going to do, keep them on their feet, so they don't just stack the box."

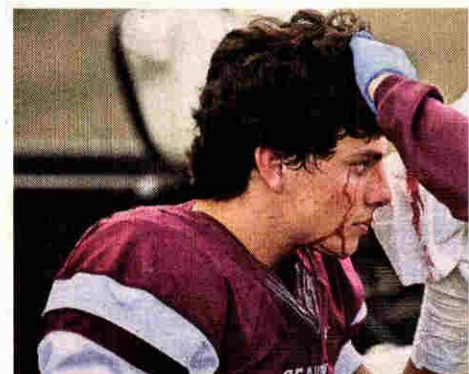
### Setting the tone

A deciding win in the opening game of the season can set expectations extremely high for the remainder of the season. After Seaholm's 35-point win against Ferndale, it seems that is exactly what happened for the Maple players.

"It boosts our morale like crazy," Knoer said. "These guys, they called us out, they asked to play us, and we came out here, we showed them what we can



Seaholm sophomore Jacob Vance and senior Chaz Strecker (44) bring down Ferndale running back Kelvin Lileton during the Aug. 29 game. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Junior defensive back Miles Mentag gets medical attention on the sideline.



The Maples recover a fumble in the end zone, one of five recoveries and six turnovers they compiled against Ferndale.

do, and we proved to the whole league. We showed we can compete and we have the talent for a winning team."

While head coach Jim DeWald said his team got "lucky" after turning the ball over twice in the first quarter, his

players seemed fired up, ready for the next opponent.

Caden DeWald said Seaholm had something to prove early in the season.

"To show people that we are the Maples and we will dominate any team that

faces us," he said.

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# Oil price swings won't burn 401(k)



**Ken Fisher**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

One week oil is spiking as Iran attacks tankers in the Strait of Hormuz – threatening to wreck the global economy. The next month, oil drops because tariffs allegedly whack Chinese demand and – you guessed it – wreck the global economy. Tune out these scare stories. They're both bricks in this bull market's wall of worry.

Tariffs I've addressed in this column before. Even with subsequent escalations, all threatened and newly enacted tariffs since 2017 total just 0.3% of global GDP. Too tiny to render recession. Firms skirt many of these tariffs. America's soaring Vietnamese and Taiwanese trade shows the sidestepping effect. Relax.

Consider Iran. Today's fears seem stuck in the 1970s, when the Arab oil embargo contributed to worldwide shortages, stagflation and a ghastly recession. We presume Iran has the power to gyrate prices now by remembering that huge influence back then.

But times changed. Yes, the Strait of Hormuz is a critical oil chokepoint. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates one-fifth of global oil consumption passes through it daily. If it shuttered, prices, which are set globally, would soar. But Iran probably can't shut the Strait alone. While its seizure of a British tanker stole headlines, that is one ship among many traversing the Strait daily. The U.S. and British navies effectively ensure safe passage for the vast majority.

Then too, this isn't Iran's first time threatening traffic. The 1980s "Tanker War" between Iran and Iraq hit scores of oil transports. But prices didn't jump. Not only was it a fraction of total traffic, but oil production grew outside the Middle East, offsetting the tiny impact.

That's the history we're repeating now – not the 1970s. In the 1980s, the supply offset came from Europe – the North Sea.

Now, it comes from U.S. shale fields including Texas, New Mexico and North Dakota. According to BP's annual oil re-



America consumes lots of oil. GETTY IMAGES

port, U.S. production soared by 2.2 million barrels per day in 2018 – the largest, single-country rise ever. The EIA sees domestic output jumping another 1.36 million barrels this year. Unlike producers elsewhere, U.S. rigs can pump profitably at lower prices, thanks to massive efficiency gains.

And if I'm wrong? If prices soar? Again, this isn't the 1970s. The days when high oil prices could wreck our economy are as gone as disco and bell-bottoms. Our economy is far less energy-intensive now, thanks to the service sector's ascendance. In 1970, heavy industry was 32.1% of annual output, versus 65.5% for services and 2.4% for agriculture. Now? Heavy industry is just

18.5%, while services are a mighty 80.7%. Services simply use less energy than factories. But even manufacturing has cut energy use in recent decades through enhanced efficiency.

Yes, America consumes lots of oil, and it gets lots more GDP for each barrel of oil consumed. In 1990, we got \$13.7 million in inflation-adjusted GDP from every thousand tons of oil consumed. Now, it's \$23.8 million.

Services' rise debunks one other lingering oil fear: that last year's weaker demand outside China, India and America reflects a weakening world. In reality, it simply reflects weaker manufacturing – widely discussed and priced in. Meanwhile, services kept the global

economy growing reasonably. They still do now. All this reminds me of 2015 and 2016, when oil plunged to \$26 per barrel. Yet GDP in the U.S. grew all the while, rising 2.9% in 2015 and 1.6% in 2016. Only oil-reliant nations hit the skids.

So don't sweat oil's swings. They're false fears that are priced into stocks now. Fear of false factors or tiny negatives is always bullish. The bull market continues.

*Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments and is No. 200 on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher. The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.*

## ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

# Internships a must-have for college grads



**Johnny C. Taylor**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

Johnny C. Taylor Jr., a human-resources expert, is tackling your questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society.

The questions are submitted by readers, and Taylor's answers below have been edited for length and clarity.

**Question: Do I really need an internship to get a job after I graduate?**  
– Anonymous

**Johnny C. Taylor Jr.:** With employers reporting a skills gap among job candidates, an internship has moved from nice-to-have to a must-have for grads.

Even though we are in a tight labor market, it's still competitive. Having a career-related internship is very valuable in demonstrating that you are a strong candidate, HR professionals say.

To be the strongest candidate possible, you'll want to get work experience or an internship while in school. An internship:

- Builds your resume. Hiring managers are much more likely to give your resume a second look if you have had an internship.

- Confirms your interest. An internship gives you the opportunity to try out your chosen career path and confirm it is the right fit for you. View this opportunity as an information-gathering exercise and ask for a variety of work projects that give you a wide breadth of experience. Taking in as much information as you can will help you home in on what you like and don't like about the profession and will provide clues as to whether you want to focus on a particular topic area within that profession. (For example, a law student might decide he or she wants to focus on entertainment law after helping an associate with a case in that field.) Experience as an intern also guides you in decision-making about the academic classes and electives that support your defined ca-



Having a career-related internship is very valuable in demonstrating that you are a strong candidate. GETTY IMAGES

reer path.

- Allows you to network, network, network. Work experience provides a great opportunity to meet people in your career field. Those you meet can serve as professional references.

- Helps you develop power skills. A common complaint among recruiters is that new graduates often lack power skills – relating to communications, critical thinking, the ability to deal with complexity, teamwork and problem solving. Having an internship shows you've had exposure to a real-world environment where you've likely developed those skills.

Internships can be paid or unpaid and can earn academic credit. One big benefit over other work experience is internships often come with mentoring and other professional support.

However, not every student has access to an internship, and many cannot afford to work without pay.

The good news is, what matters most to hiring managers is work experience that complements academic studies, whether that's a paid or unpaid internship, a summer job, or work during holi-

day breaks.

**Q: How can I persuade my company to acknowledge a federal holiday of cultural importance like Martin Luther King Jr. Day?** – Antonio

**Taylor:** You'll need to get buy-in from business leaders. As with any proposal, you can do that by communicating the benefits of the suggestion and how it meets the company's business objectives, as well as outlining the costs.

Show, for example, how it would send a positive message to the company's diverse employees and clients, as well as broaden its customers base.

About 40% of employers observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday on the third Monday in January. In persuading your company to follow suit, consider:

- How marking the holiday reinforces your company's values. Tie the holiday to your company's values and spirit of inclusion.

- The benefits of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Valued by employees of all generations, CSR shows that the company cares. When employees

are engaged with their work and have pride in their company, they have a greater sense of fulfillment.

- The positive effect on the brand. By highlighting a widely supported holiday, a company signals to potential hires that a respectful and supportive workplace culture is paramount. When viewed in a positive light, a company can more easily attract qualified workers, and a commitment to inclusion can open a business's marketplace to new communities and customers.

As you build a case, be prepared to:

- Offer details. Are you suggesting the company coordinate a day of service connected to the holiday? Such a tie-in would engage employees' philanthropic interests, provide an opportunity for community involvement and create a corporate narrative that demonstrates the company's values.

- Get HR and like-minded colleagues involved. Set an example for inclusivity by seeking guidance from HR – which develops the yearly holiday schedule and coordinates a company's community service projects – and including coworkers who share your interest.

# Basements are moving up in the world

## Finished space is a must

**Andria Cheng**  
Special to USA TODAY

Mary Weichert, a real estate agent in Chatham, New Jersey, for 20 years, has seen a shift in expectations for finished basements. They're no longer just a nice-to-have feature for your home — they're a must-have if you want to put your house on the market.

"Buyers expect to come down to the basement and open up to a nice room," Weichert says. "They like their basement to be additional living space."

With this change, the basement is moving beyond its traditional role of storage or laundry space and expanding to everything from a suite with guest bathroom and kitchenette to a home theater or office.

"It really is a space that should be developed," Weichert says.

Nearly three-fifths of homeowners say their top reason to remodel a basement is to "add features and improve livability," according to the most recent basement remodeling impact study by the National Association of Realtors and National Association of the Remodeling Industry. More than four-fifths of homeowners say they "have a greater desire to be home" since finishing their basements.

"People are putting more money into the basement," says Dennis Gehman, owner of a design remodeling company in Harleysville, Pennsylvania. His firm gets inquiries about basement projects about once a week and completes about five to six a year.

### Keep water out

With the basement below ground, the No. 1 thing homeowners should do is make sure the area is professionally waterproofed, Weichert says.

Weichert also advises installing a dehumidifier to keep moisture out.



Basement projects can be done on a variety of budgets. Dennis Gehman, owner of a design remodeling company, has done projects between \$40,000 and \$250,000. PHOTOS BY HORUS PHOTOGRAPHY

### Brighten it up

Lighting is a critical component of an inviting basement, so industry experts advise plenty of recessed LED lighting as well as accent lighting or side table lamps. Homeowners can replace existing small windows with larger ones to let in more natural light.

Good lighting will make a basement "feel like a natural living space," says Lucy O'Brien, an interior designer in Philadelphia.

Mirrors, as well as metallic or any other "highly reflective" wallpaper on the ceiling, also are good tricks to reflect light and liven up a basement space that's "usually dingy and not very interesting," she says.

If homeowners want to make their ceilings feel higher, they can skip a dropped ceiling and leave the electrical wiring and existing structure of the wood beams exposed and paint them white, Weichert says.

"That would give you the illusion of a higher ceiling," she says. "You go with a very industrial look with exposed ceiling. You want everything as light and bright as possible."

### Vinyl flooring

Even though carpet traditionally has been used for basement flooring because it's "softer and warmer," Gehman says luxury vinyl plank or vinyl tile flooring is "taking off."

"It looks really good and it's pretty inexpensive compared with tile or wood," he says, adding that most of the vinyl flooring comes with a lifetime warranty for residential use.

Hardwood isn't recommended for a basement because of moisture that may lie underground, he says.

### Flow with the house

Approach decorating your basement as you would the rest of your house.

"Add textiles, pillows and that warmth that you'd put in your upstairs living room," O'Brien says.


If a house's design is open concept, homeowners should follow the same plan for their basement, Weichert says. People "want to walk downstairs (and) feel it's an extension of the first or second floor."

### What's your budget?

Gehman, who has been in the remodeling business for decades, says his company has handled basement projects that range from a kids' playroom for less than \$40,000 to a furnished home theater in an 1,800-square-foot space outfitted with a bathroom and bar. The price tag for that? About \$250,000.

"Talk with your contractor or designer to decide what budget you have," he says. "Start with your dream and work back down. Maybe do phase 1 here one year and phase 2 the following year."

The midrange of basement remodeling projects costs an average \$71,000 nationwide, according to Remodeling Magazine's most recent Cost vs. Value study on basements. It estimates that homeowners could recoup 70% of their costs when they sell the house.



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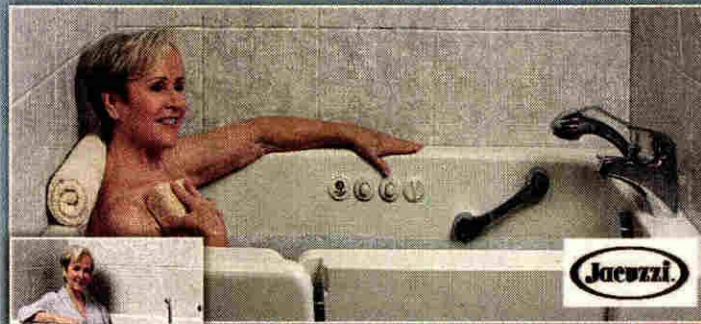
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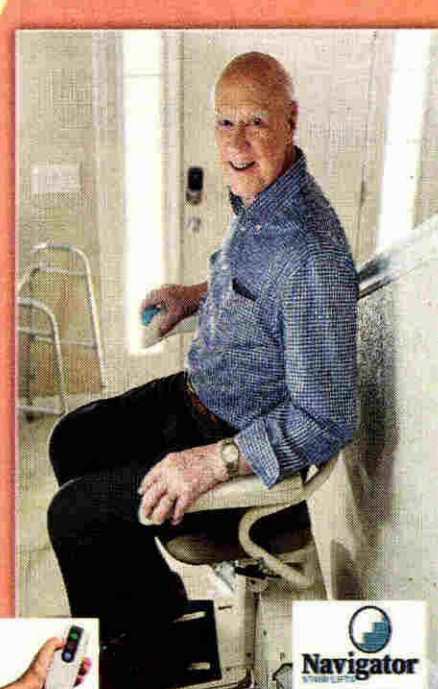
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**CITY OF WESTLAND**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland's Department of Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186, on or before **September 20th, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

Renovations to: 7740 Donna

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams  
 Controller

Publish: September 8th, 2019

LO-0000353422 3x2.5



**CITY OF GARDEN CITY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on the following agenda items.

1. Signage for a new commercial building – 29600 Ford Road (Parcel #: 35-007-03-0012-001). The applicant is proposing to install signage on a recently approved new commercial building in the Central Business District (CBD) zoning district. The applicant is seeking variances from the Sign Ordinance including Section 154.606 of the Garden City Zoning Ordinance. The applicant is proposing to exceed the standards of the Sign Ordinance including the installation of three (3) building mounted signs the total area of all signage which will exceed the maximum allowed by the Sign Ordinance.

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the applications and supporting materials may be examined at the Building Department Offices in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the hearing.

Published: September 8, 2019

LO-0000353395 3x3.5

**CITY OF LIVONIA**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**AGENDA**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**

September 24, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
 Livonia City Hall – Gallery (5th Floor)  
 33000 Civic Center Drive  
 Livonia, MI  
 (734) 466 2259

**APPEAL CASE NO. 2019-09-38:** The Salvation Army, 5550 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192, seeking to erect three wall signs upon a commercial building on property located on the north side of Plymouth (33600), between Farmington and Stark, resulting in excess number of wall signs.

**APPEAL CASE NO. 2019-09-39:** Joshua and Doan-Trang Walker, north side of Dowling (36468), between Ann Arbor Trail and JoAnne, seeking to erect a white vinyl six-foot-tall privacy fence without the approval of the east neighbor adjoining this property. Privacy fences require the approval of the adjoining property owner. Also, the fence is being proposed in both side yards, which is allowed only to enclose a side entry door up to the midpoint between the front and rear building line. No side door exists on either side of this home.

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

Publish: September 8, 2019

LO-0000353317 3x3.5

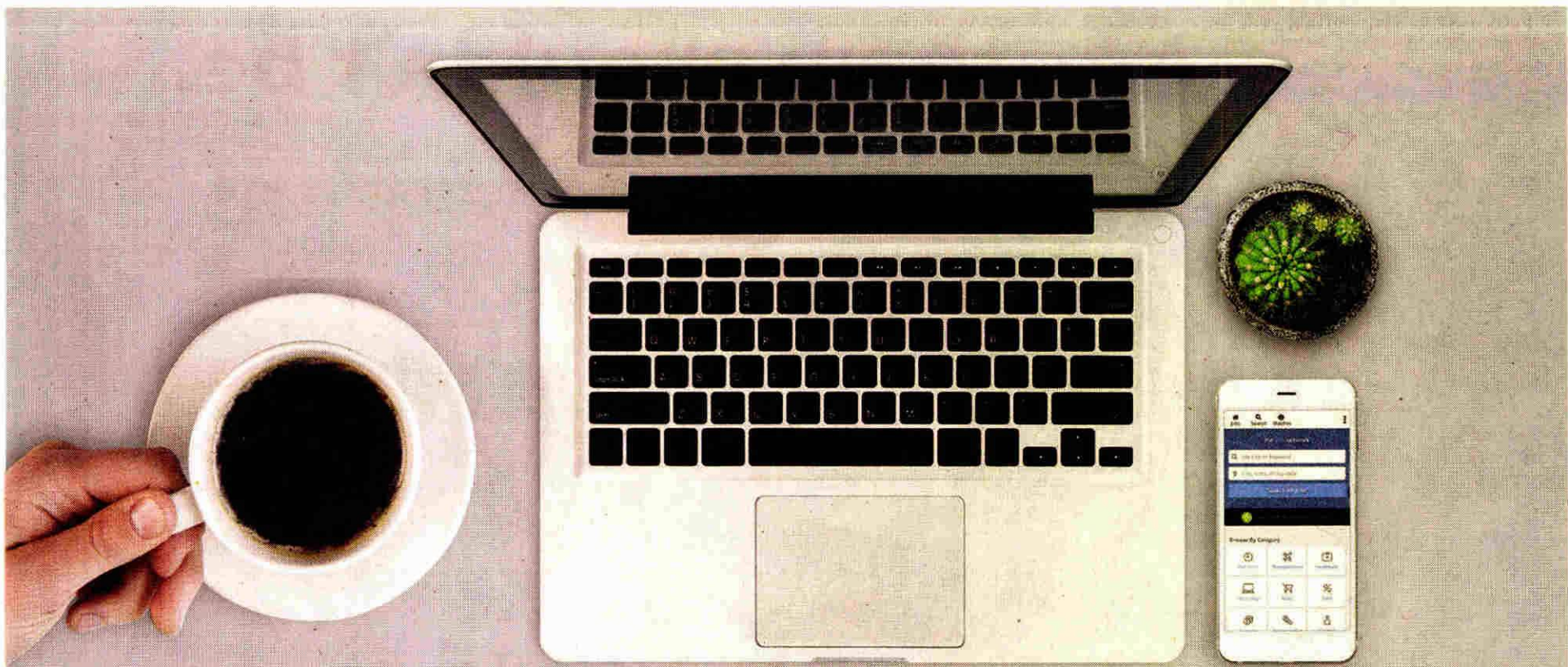
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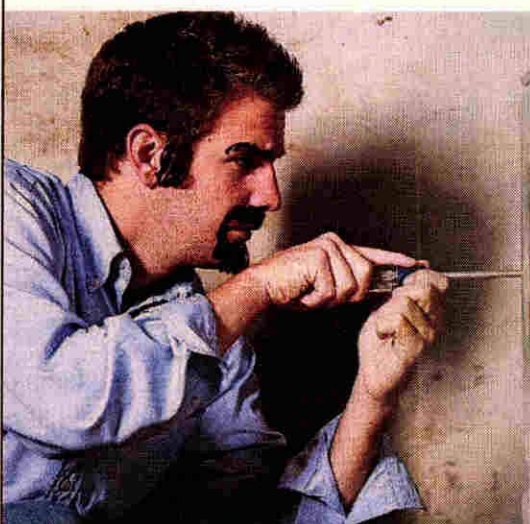
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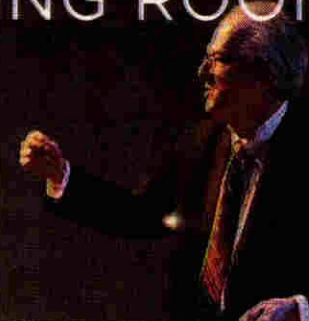


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