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Company scraps Phoenix Mill restaurant

Part of Plymouth location to become office space

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Changes are coming to the original plans for redeveloping a historic mill in Hines Park. Originally, the Phoenix Mill at 14973

Northville Road in Plymouth Township was to house both a banquet center and a restaurant after its restoration is complete. But changes in the landscape due to the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the mill's new owners to change some of those plans.

The banquet center will remain, but the planned restaurant will not go forward, said Greg Donofrio with Critical Mass, the company which purchased the mill. Instead of the restaurant on the upper level, that space will be leased for professional offices for a landscape architecture firm.

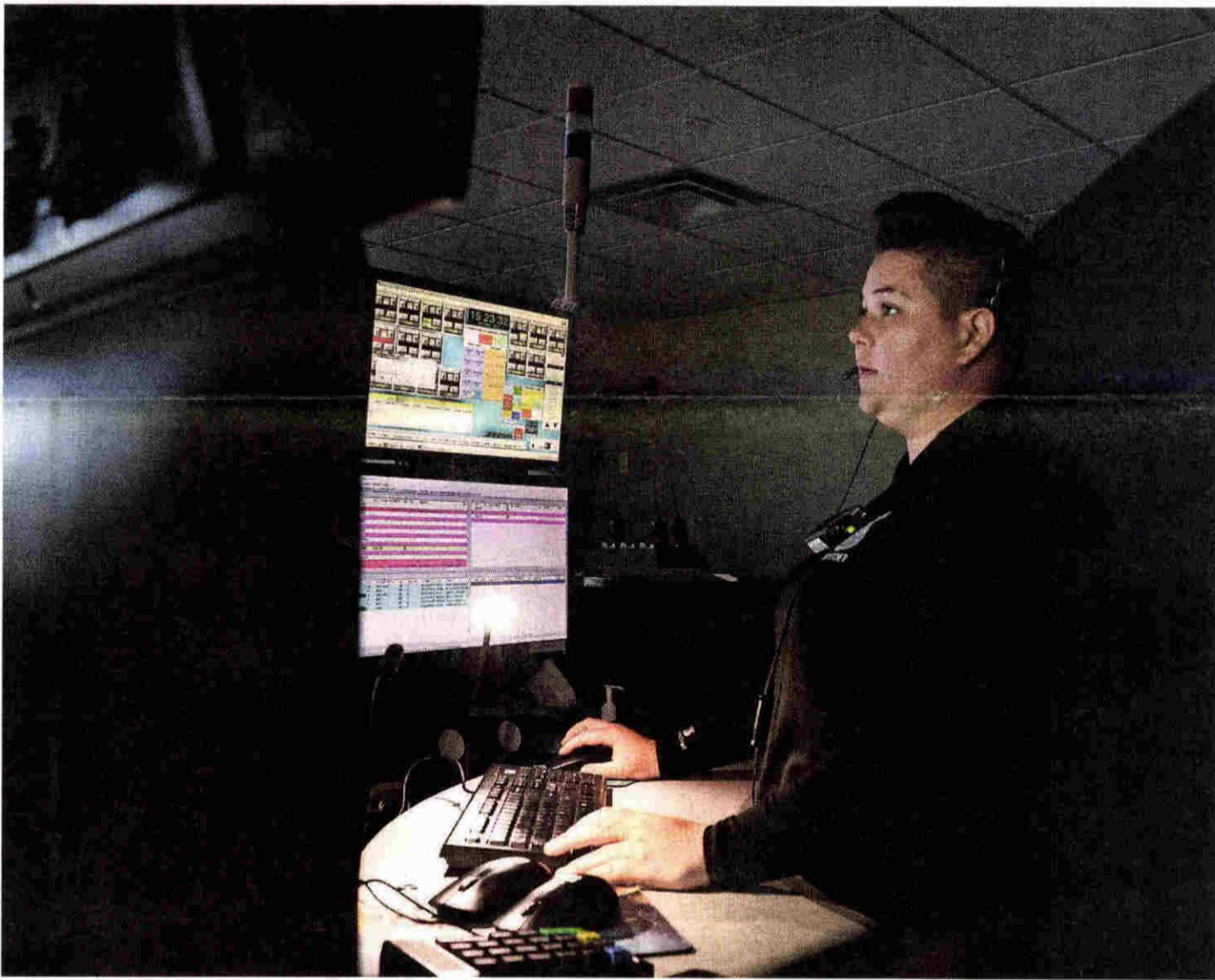
"Unfortunately with COVID, the restaurant tenant pulled out so we had to

build that space upstairs," Donofrio said.

Donofrio said some space will remain available upstairs, including a small area that could be used by the company running the banquet area. That could allow for visitors to see the building both on the lower level and upper level.

See MILL, Page 2A

FARMINGTON HILLS



Farmington Hills dispatcher Caitlyn Bailey keeps watch over the bank of monitors at her terminal May 19. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New dispatcher proud to help others, save lives

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Caitlyn Bailey's first day as a Farmington Hills dispatcher was a tad overwhelming.

The recent graduate from Wayne State University's criminal justice program found her bearings amid the computers, monitors and workstations that comprise the city's nerve center.

"I sat with another dispatcher and just kind of sat back," said Bailey, recalling that first day in July. "They kind of just walked me through stuff."

"It was definitely overwhelming to see how far I'd have to go, thinking about, 'Am I going to be able to get to the point where I can multitask like them

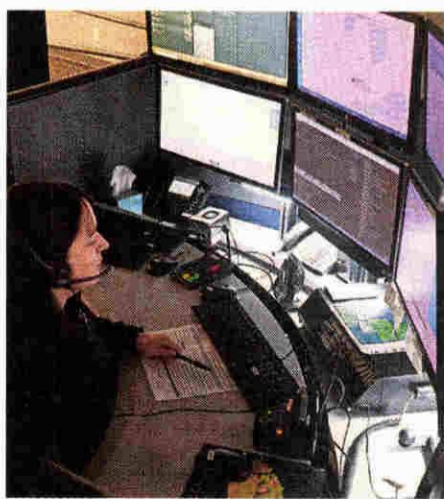
because I've never done anything like it.'"

Bailey is confident she's got what it takes to turn dispatching into a lifelong career, and so far, her trainers have been impressed.

But she's contending with some serious odds. Her communications section manager, Jennifer Robertsonsaid the average dispatcher doesn't survive more than a decade.

Hometown Life is taking a look at a demanding job that plays a big role in metro Detroit's sense of security. Government data reveals dispatchers nationwide earn a median annual salary of about \$43,300.

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Farmington Hills Dispatch employee Karie Okerstrom sits at her terminal.

MDOT to resurface 2 miles of Newburgh in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

'Tis the season to get rid of those potholes.

Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation are both doing major road projects in Westland this summer. The city plans to clean up a few roads, as well.

Here's what drivers can expect.

Newburgh, Cherry Hill intersection

City council recently approved a contract with MDOT allowing the state department to repair about two miles of the busy road. Work will start on Newburgh at the intersection with Cherry Hill Road and move north, going about 400 feet past Newburgh's intersection with Ford Road.

Work will include milling the existing asphalt and resurfacing the road as

See RESURFACE, Page 2A

Livonia to make its parks more ADA compliant

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ted Davis, Livonia's superintendent of parks and recreation, said he's always loved the notion parks are supposed offer something to everyone.

The city is taking steps to make that sentiment more true of Livonia's parks.

The parks department started working on an Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan, which it's never done before. The move would bring in a consultant to examine what Livonia currently offers, find deficiencies and tell the city where it can improve.

"It's giving us, literally, a to-do list,"

See PARKS, Page 2A



Dispatcher

Continued from Page 1A

But 24/7, 365 days a year, someone has to be fielding 911 calls at the dispatch center, which can make for long stressful 8-, 12- and even 16-hour shifts under some of the most high-pressure conditions.

"It is hard when you're in an isolated room like this," Robertson said with Bailey nearby. "With road patrol, they can drive to a new location or they're constantly on the go.

"For us, it just makes for a long day when you're here, when you have eight or 12 hours of listening to your callers and it's usually negative or very high emotion. It's just draining. With the schedules, it's hard sometimes with holidays and weekends, with friends and family. All that just mentally takes a toll."

Different every day

Robertson defied the statistics, dispatching now for more than 15 years. Her children were young when she saw the show "Rescue 911" hosted by William Shatner. The television series reenacted tense situations leading to 911 calls.

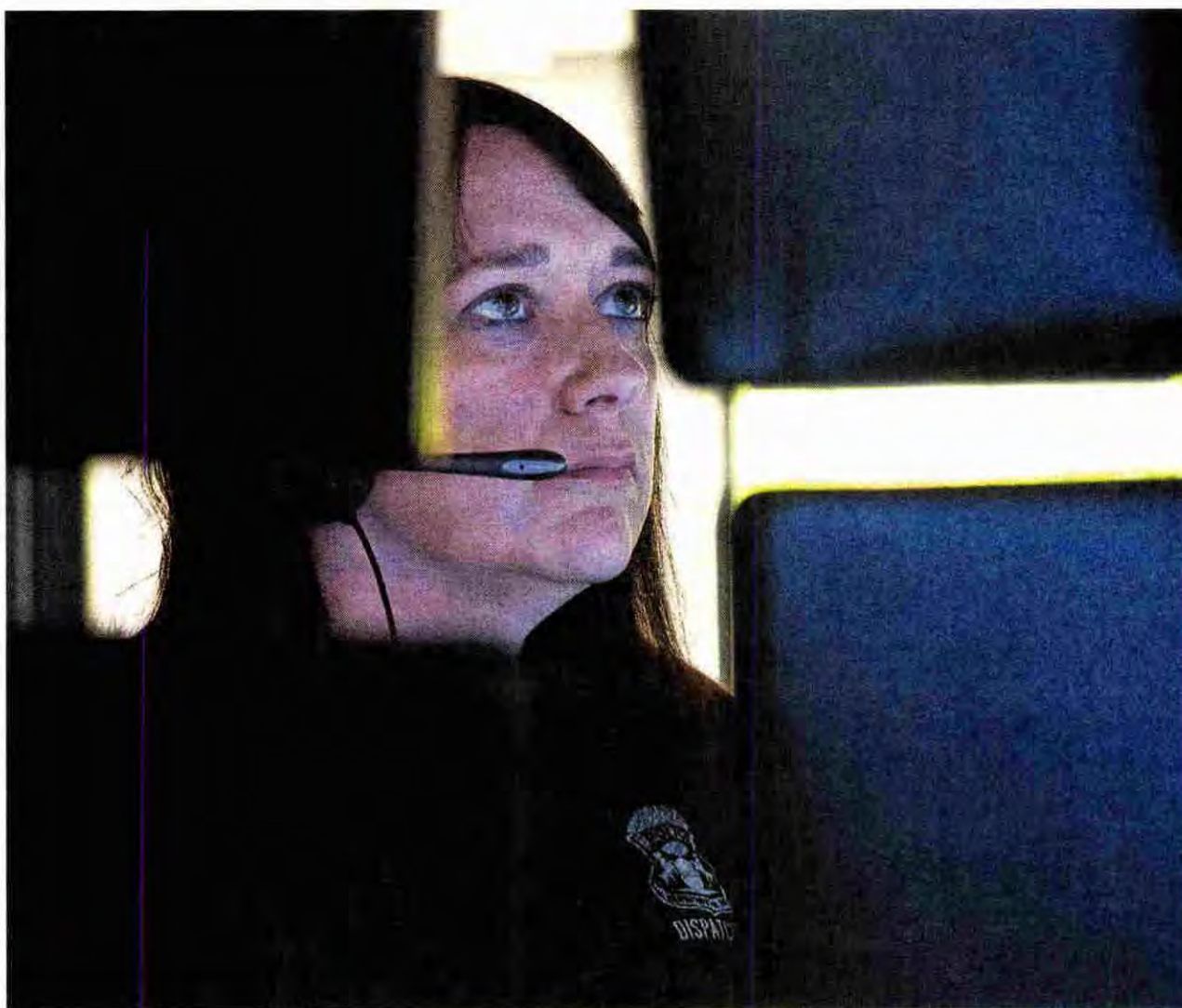
Dispatchers seemed to have unique, exciting careers that were all about helping others. She responded to a "Help Wanted" ad and got the job.

"You kind of get sucked in after a while," she said. "It is different every day. Even for the bad days, it only takes one good day to remember why we do it. That's what keeps people going."

Bailey, 23, said she has already experienced those best of the best dispatching days.

One of her first calls was a screaming woman who

See DISPATCHER, Page 3A



Farmington Hills Dispatch employee Karie Okerstrom awaits calls from 911 at her terminal May 6. OHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Parks

Continued from Page 1A

Davis said.

That to-do list will be something the city uses for years, and Davis said his department will work through it as funding allows. He estimates it will take years and millions of dollars to work through making the city parks ADA compliant.

"This is going to be a long-term effort," he said. "We've already started to address some of the things we've seen, and we'll continue to do that. And then we'll have this list that will be one of our guiding things as we move forward with this."

Davis said Rotary Park at Six Mile and Hubbard is an example of what parks will look like once improvements start. The first park to get that face lift will be Bicentennial Park, 36000 Seven Mile, next year.

"Especially at our larger parks like Bicentennial and Sheldon, we will likely spend a little more money to make those destination parks and greatly improve their accessibility," Davis said. "That's where we'll try to reach universal usage."

The city recently held two public meetings for the public to chime in on how ADA accessibility can improve in the parks.

Though it'll take years of work, Davis hopes to make Livonia's parks something anyone, regardless of ability, to enjoy.

"We're excited about this and obviously this is something that's important to us," he said. "One of the things I've always loved about parks and recreation is that it's meant to be for everyone, regardless of age or ability level. It's meant to be for the entire community. This is another step in that direction."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



The playground equipment at McNamara Bicentennial Park on Seven Mile Road in Livonia is not easily accessible for users of all abilities. The structures are surrounded by grass fields and have no paved surfaces leading to them. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Resurface

Continued from Page 1A

well as making repairs to curbs and ADA ramps. The project costs \$1,477,175, and Westland will pay \$268,108 of that. MDOT will fund the remaining cost.

"This project will be welcome news to Westland motorists as it will bring much needed repairs to one of the city's busiest intersections," Westland Mayor Bill Wild said.

MDOT plans to start the project and June. Once it

begins, work will take about three months.

County, local road improvements

This summer, Wayne County is repairing a mile of Wayne Road between Ford and Warren roads. The county will also repair less than a mile of Venoy Road between Grand Traverse Street and the bridge just north of Michigan Avenue. Both projects will be completed by the end of summer.

The city also plans to tackle a number of local road projects. In total, Westland will spend about \$4.2 million on its major and local roads.

Drivers can expect these local projects this construction season:

- John Hix Road and Florence Street intersection, north of Cherry Hill Road
- Superior Parkway from Cherry Hill Road to Huron Parkway
- Yale Street from Hunter Avenue to Warren Road
- Carlson Street from Palmer Road to Canyon Drive
- Grand Traverse Street from Glenwood Road to Belding Court

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

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Mill

Continued from Page 1A

"The banquet tenant has expressed interest in taking that space as well," he said. "You would still be able to experience the upstairs space if you're a (banquet) guest as well."

The revisions to the plans for the structure were reviewed by the Plymouth Township Planning Commission during its May 19 meeting at Plymouth Township Hall. The planning commission looked at the plans last summer when the restaurant was still part of the plans, which caused some issues around available parking at the site. With the changes to the building's use now, parking should not be an issue, Donofrio said at the meeting.

"With the change, it resolved the parking issue, which was the biggest issue when we presented this the last time," he said. "So we have adequate parking onsite now."

He said part of the plans include adding more greenery to the area and removing paved areas, as well as adding more trees and grass. The land around the mill will be open to the public to explore.

"We're removing 38,000 square feet of asphalt and converting it into greenspace," Donofrio said.

Some questions arose as a part of the changes, especially in relation to the sale from Wayne County. Chairman Dennis Cebulski asked if the new plans needed the county's blessing to move forward with it, since there were specific requirements to keep the property accessible to the public as a condition of the sale.

"When the building was purchased from Wayne County they did want it tied in some way to the park, and I did see the site plan you're having sort of a little service station approach for bicycles," he said. "Did you have to receive approval from Wayne County to have the landscape firm there?"

Donofrio said he received approval from the county after informing them of the change of plans. He said even with the change, the changes align with the

Phoenix Mill, along with the Wilcox Mill in Plymouth and the Newburgh Mill in Livonia, are to be revamped and renovated into usable spaces after being used by Wayne County mostly as storage spaces the last several decades.

requirements set forth by the county to reopen the space.

"We did let them know of the change-of-tenant, specifically, however, it doesn't change one of the key features of the site which is being open. This for 70 years was fenced off as a county building. You couldn't walk on the property," he said. "So when we take the fence down, then that means that everybody can walk onto the property whether you're visiting a business within the building or not to enjoy the park space."

The deals for the mills include language that requires the new ownership to inform the county if they plan to sell it in the future, as well as pursue historic designation for the sites. Donofrio said he plans on pursuing placing a state historic marker at the mill.

Phoenix Mill, along with the Wilcox Mill in Plymouth and the Newburgh Mill in Livonia, are to be revamped and renovated into usable spaces after being used by Wayne County mostly as storage spaces the last several decades. Developer Richard Cox is involved in all three projects: he acquired the Phoenix Mill first and is in the process of acquiring the Wilcox and Newburgh Mills from Wayne County after delays due to the pandemic. The Wayne County Commission approved the sale of the Wilcox Mill to Cox during its May 20 meeting.

The banquet center will continue as previously planned, which includes a warming kitchen and prep tables. No cooking will take place on site, Donofrio said.

The planning commission voted to approve the changes to the site plan. The site could open as early as July, Donofrio said.

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

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Dispatcher

Continued from Page 2A

hung up. With minimal detail, Bailey called the woman back to figure out how to best serve her needs.

According to Robertson, the young dispatcher also did an exceptional job with a suicidal caller by maintaining her composure and working through the call to get the first responders to the location.

Keeping the good ones

Bailey knew she wanted to help people once she graduated from Romeo High School. Her career choices went from EMT to nurse to criminal justice.

Upon graduation in the middle of a pandemic, she began applying for dispatching work and landed the Farmington Hills job.

She's in a city where the police chief talks adamantly about wanting to hire and keep the best dispatchers.

Chief Jeff King talks proudly about the approximately \$500,000 in upgrades and renovations that began in recent years to build out the dispatch center that takes about 90,000 emergency and non-emergency calls a year.

Sun shines through a long line of windows, assuring an open environment for the approximately 20 dispatchers employed to field calls for both Farmington and Farmington Hills. At any given time, at least three dispatchers are taking the calls and operating the center

Work stations with several monitors, keeping viewers abreast of calls and decisions made, have desks that can be moved up and down. An adjacent command and control room is set for big events and emergencies.

There have been technical and electrical upgrades for today's dispatching demands and for those that may arrive with more use and development of technology.

King said the center has been built out 130 percent.

"I didn't want to just build it out for what we were doing today," he said. "I wanted to build it out to what we were going to be doing in the next year or two plus five years out."

It makes sense. Farmington Hills is a sizeable city in metro Detroit, dealing

with a wide range of emergencies. Frequently, dispatchers also are tasked with preparing for and alerting others to emergencies crossing and sharing borders, whether they be car wrecks, hazardous spills or criminals on the run.

'Q' word

Bailey continued to work as King dropped the dreaded "Q" word during a May interview.

"What you hear right now is common," the chief said. "It's quiet."

Robertson did not let it slip by: "Oh, that's a bad word to say in dispatch," she said.

"I know," continued King, who firmly nodded when asked if dispatchers truly are the "unsung heroes" of the law enforcement world. "They have to stay vigilant. They have to stay sharp. They have to wait for the one call coming in where it's an active assailant or a major crash or a fire.

"That's not all they deal with. They're still getting calls from the command officers downstairs asking for updates. They're getting information from the officers.

"All of a sudden this team of people becomes alive and going in 15 to maybe 20 to maybe 30 different directions all at once in a kind of a coordinated symphony. They just click together. They enhance each other. They work together. They work together with the officers. They work together with the fire department. But it all starts right here. It all really does start here."

What it takes

Common sense and logical thinking matters in dispatching work, and they're not exactly teachable skills. Dispatchers will tell you multitasking, calm resolve, knowledge of the community, knowledge of police, fire and ems protocols, dealing with people experiencing their worst days — ever! — and being a team player are some of the other most treasured qualities in their field.

Those skills certainly help on those days when dispatchers have to go from addressing someone's concerns about a sick raccoon to people calling about gunfire at a packed venue in a matter of seconds.

"If the dispatchers are really good at what they're doing, they're thinking like the cop out there," Captain John Piggott

said. "The officers feel so much better because, if they're out there and they know that back in the nerve center people are running through all this stuff trying to get them information, it helps us find missing people. It helps us find people that just committed crimes.

"When everybody is working in concert together, it's great. When you got really competent people that are confident in their ability and go that extra step, that's what brings things to resolution much quicker."

With the city incorporating a stretch of Interstate 696, dispatchers have learned that one rush hour crash can make them look deep inside themselves to find their best selves.

"You have to figure out quickly, 'Are these people just saying I know there's an accident or did they witness something that is going on right now? Should we keep them on the line? How do we transfer that call to Michigan State Police?'" Piggott said. "It can go from dead nothing to every light in this room is on because the phone calls are just inundating you very, very quickly."

But he expressed frustration with the dispatchers who had no real knowledge of the job and then bailed on their trainers.

"Many of them come in with no experience and by the time they get through seven to eight months of training to be on their own, a lot of that becomes overwhelming because it's not exactly what they thought coming in," the captain said.

The frustration is one of the main reasons why anyone interested in the job now has to go through pre-employment CitiCall testing before scoring an interview. Testing determines abilities to multitask, prioritize, make decisions, enter data, read maps and other important dispatching skills.

Bailey took the test, which included scenarios, and she's still around almost a year into the job.

"It's not like a quick five-minute thing and then they're done," Robertson said. "With Caitlyn, she had zero experience coming into this field and she did exceptionally well on the test. She made it through training very easily.

"It has been extremely beneficial that we can find people who have the higher multitasking scores or have the better logical thinking."

On the job

Bailey has been working on her own now for a few months. She and the others stay alert to their surroundings and keep listening to what their colleagues are dealing with.

They may get on the radio to let police know of emergencies that call takers continue to try to get a grasp on. And they routinely click through their monitors, which share data such as what kind of calls are coming in and what police and fire resources are available.

Based on their observations, dispatchers can pitch in from their stations, perhaps sending police to a location, checking on criminal records for police or doing other work to minimize response times and maximize safety.

"That's really where the teamwork comes in," Piggott said. "Because as they're all listening, they can start picking up on what their area of responsibility is."

It's not easy

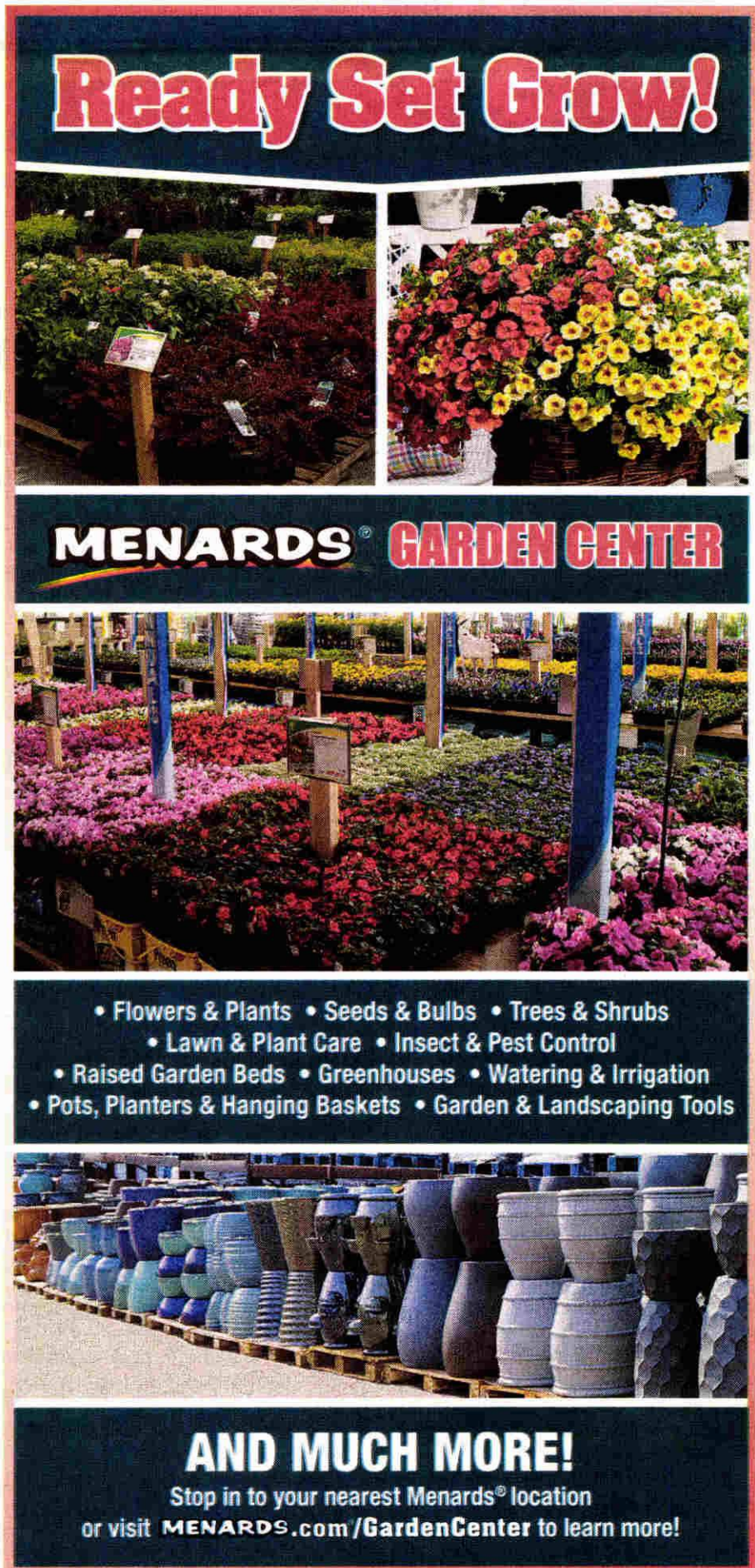
Bailey has learned the job isn't portrayed accurately on television. Actors imply that dispatching is a lot easier and seamless than she finds it to be. They're also off, in her opinion, regarding the amount of sleuthing that's needed when someone calls 911 because someone is unconscious on the ground or suffering from a wound.

"I don't think people understand the full amount of stress it can cause," she said. "We can't do everything. TV...They're like, 'Oh, we know exactly where you are.' But, in reality, we don't know exactly where you are. It takes a lot to find out exactly where you are."

Like police and firefighters, dispatchers are known to suffer from the life-and-death aspects of their job. Robertson relies on her family and the outdoors to restore her energy. Bailey has been leaning on her mother and fiancé.

"I just think about coming in, doing my job and going home at the end of the night," said Bailey, who doesn't dwell on the possible burnout spiral.

"I'm in a good spot. I get to answer phones and I get to essentially save lives. That's what I wanted to do with my life is be able to help people on their worst days. Even if it's not the worst day and they just need assistance or advice or whatever it is, I'm able to pick up the phone and do that."



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Help draw the next legislative district map

Carol Thompson Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters, start your engines. Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission kicked off its first round of public hearings, a milestone for the new commission charged with drawing Michigan's political districts for the upcoming decade.

The commission has scheduled 16 public hearings around the state. The full schedule is available on the commission's website, michigan.gov/micrc. Upcoming hearings include 6 p.m. June 1 at Dort Financial Center in Flint; 6 p.m. June 3 at Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn; 6 p.m. June 8 at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi; and 6 p.m. June 10 at Centerpoint Marriott in Pontiac.

The constitution states commissioners must hold at least 10 of these hearings throughout the state in order to explain the new redistricting process and hear ideas from the public about their plans. They must hold a second round of hearings after drawing potential maps for congressional, state house and state senate districts.

Michigan voters created the commis-

sion by passing a ballot proposal in 2018 that was pitched as a solution to gerrymandering, or the practice of drawing political maps to benefit one party.

The commission consists of four Republicans, four Democrats and five politically unaffiliated members. A majority of commissioners must vote to adopt a final plan, including at least two from each party and two unaffiliated members.

Commissioners will rely on Census data to draw fair political districts, but the U.S. Census Bureau may not release the data needed to draw congressional and legislative maps until late summer, months behind schedule. In April, commissioners and the Secretary of State asked the Michigan Supreme Court to extend its constitutional deadlines for drawing and adopting new district maps.

Commissioners also must consider input from "communities of interest," or any group that shares a cultural, historical or economic characteristic and wants to be represented in politics. It's a nebulous definition that could include groups like clients of a regional food pantry or members of a synagogue.

Members of communities of interest

can tell commissioners how they want to be considered in political maps at the upcoming hearings or online. But few know that; a University of Michigan survey conducted last year found 41% of local officials were unfamiliar with the commission.

"We are keenly aware that the average person in the State of Michigan does not know that this commission exists and about how important this work is," commission Executive Director Suann Hammersmith said.

Commissioners need public comment now in order to draw fair maps later, Vice-Chair Rebecca Szetela said. They launched a communications campaign about the upcoming hearings.

"We really are relying on people to participate in this process," she said. "It's designed to be participatory and we need that public feedback to do our jobs."

The commission has budgeted \$320,000 for the upcoming hearings and \$400,000 to communications and outreach. Its overall budget is approximately \$3.15 million for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.

The upcoming public hearings will be translated into Arabic, Spanish and

American Sign Language.

The public can attend virtually or in-person. Masks and social distancing will be required at in-person events, and capacity limits depend on the venue of each hearing, commission Outreach Director Edward Woods III said.

Public comments also can be submitted through the commission's online portal, michigan-mapping.org, or to PO Box 30318, Lansing, Michigan, 48909. People can call 833-968-3729 (833-YOU-DRAW) to ask questions about the redistricting commission, but not to submit public comment.

The commission hopes to get 10,000 individual public comments, Woods said. He acknowledged that it has been difficult to reach people who don't have internet access, particularly in rural areas.

"If there is anyone who has a connection in the rural areas that can assist us in getting out our message, call me," he said. "We don't want to leave anyone behind, so we're going out there, we're trying to be proactive, but if we're missing a group or missing an opportunity, get in touch with me so we can make it happen. We do not want to leave anyone behind."

Banquet halls applaud lifting of capacity limits

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the last major events held in the region before the COVID-19 pandemic took place at Livonia's Burton Manor.

That event, held March 9, 2020, featured Gov. Gretchen Whitmer giving a speech on her plans for fixing roads and other issues facing Michigan. Little did Burton Manor owner Sam Mass know that the program would essentially be the last big event in the Livonia banquet center before the world shut down.

Fast forward more than 15 months later, Whitmer delivered some big news Thursday for people like Mass: capacity restrictions long in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 will be lifted this summer, allowing for banquet centers to hold largescale events for the first time in more than a year.

"I sat there listening to it. I stopped everything I was doing and watched it live," Mass said of the press conference Whitmer held in Midland to announce the changes. "My initial reaction is as skeptical as I've been over the last year, (yet) I could not hold back a smile."

Mass and other banquet center owners have watched as other sectors of the state reopened. State regulations have only allowed 25 people in rooms of banquet centers, no matter the room size. That's left owners frustrated as they watched other businesses, like restaurants, operate at 50% capacity.

Now, with restrictions being lifted by June, banquet centers are preparing for larger-scale events, especially as wedding season arrives.

"We're excited to be able to serve the community again," said Brian Lehman, executive chef at Bakers of Milford. "We're kind of one of the biggest banquet halls in the area and we've missed everybody."

"The whole team is really excited to serve the entire community again."

The restaurant and banquet center at 2025 S. Milford Road in Milford Township held some small events and has some weddings planned later this year. Lehman said the fall is currently busier than the summer is expected to be with groups scheduling farther out in advance.

Whitmer announced May 20 that outdoor capacity restriction would be completely eliminated June 1 and indoor restrictions would go to 50% capacity. On July 1, all indoor capacity restrictions will be lifted, along with the mask mandate.

The announcement comes as Michigan continues to see massive decreases in new infections of COVID-19, though rates continue to be higher in the Great Lakes State than many other states across the country after a spring that saw Michigan with the worst case rates in the country.

The Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend St., in downtown Birmingham, had several calls Thursday afternoon inquiring about increased capacity in the banquet space, said Kitty Adler, senior sales manager. While callers are inquiring about celebration of life events, showers and personal events, there's also a demand for the business events that have largely gone online in the last year.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's address on March 9, 2020 at Burton Manor in Livonia was one of the last big events to take place in the region before the pandemic. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Not meeting in person, Adler said, decreases that facetime that takes place after the official events at the hotel that happen in places like restaurants downtown. She said there's a demand for the return of those kinds of events again after such a long delay.

"They're clamoring," she said. "Zoom meetings have gone great, but there is a need for that face-to-face."

One of the biggest issues banquet centers could face is staffing. Paul Wegert, managing director at The Inn at St. John's, said they typically have about 350 employees during their busiest season. Today, they have about 110 on payroll.

"I've got to find 240 employees real quick," he said.

Adler said the Townsend has been able to use much of the staff in the hotel for events and is in a good position to move forward, but agreed that staffing banquet facilities will be a challenge.

"We will continue to add to our staff as we move forward," she said. "We are working with core staff, we've been holding our own. But everybody is going to need more people in taking care of more guests."

Wegert said they're excited to be able to host the Concours d'Elegance event in July at the center at 44045 Five Mile in Plymouth Township after the restrictions go away, something they were hopeful would happen in time. Bringing in those thousands of people for the event is a big deal for the space, Wegert said, and they're happy it looks like they'll be able to host it.

"We've been on pins and needles as if that was going to happen or not this year," he said. "We were hoping that would change. We'll have the Concours definitely happen now."

Mass said while the restrictions are lifted, the banquet center at 27777 Schoolcraft will continue to work with clients on their level of comfortability. If some guests want additional restrictions, Mass said they'll accommodate those requests.

Livonia's State of the City took place at Burton Manor in late April, the first major event the center hosted since that luncheon with Whitmer. The event, which was livestreamed but had limited guests inside, served as a fitting bookend for Mass and Burton Manor after holding that luncheon with Whitmer's speech in March 2020, Mass said.



Dearborn Music is planning to open a location inside the former Dressbarn along Grand River Avenue in Farmington. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Dearborn Music coming to downtown Farmington

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A prominent vacant storefront in downtown Farmington is about to get filled with the sound of music.

Dearborn Music plans to open a second metro Detroit location this summer in the space that formerly occupied Dressbarn at 33025 Grand River Ave. The shop known for its selection of vinyl records, CDs and pop culture items hopes to open later this summer, said Rick LeAnnais, who co-owns the store with his brother Kevin.

"Earlier in the year, we bought 40,000 new used and used DVDs. We were definitely needing a second location," he said. "We were looking at three or four different communities in the Oakland County area."

They made a call and checked out the space, which has been vacant since Dressbarn left in 2019. Now, they're in the midst of remodeling the interior to fit their needs and serve music lovers across the region.

Dearborn Music is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Currently located at 22501 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn, the shop specializes in selling physical formats of music including vinyl records, CDs and even some cassette tapes. In addition, the shop has branched out to include music and pop culture memorabilia, including T-shirts, socks, posters and even some games.

Those changes, LeAnnais said, come as a way to react to the changing times where music has become an online commodity. Those changes and shifts toward making Dearborn Music a destination celebrating all things music, he said, has kept it moving forward.

"We just kept evolving with the

times," he said.

The Farmington location — which will be slightly smaller than the Dearborn location — expects to open some time in the summer, possibly July, LeAnnais said. Crews are currently working to renovate the interior to prep it for its opening. The Dearborn shop will remain in operation and will not change as a result of the second location.

It may be an odd look to see a store selling physical copies of music expanding, but LeAnnais said the resurgence of vinyl comes as younger generations discover the medium and the high-quality audio it delivers.

"When you go digital with streaming, you're not getting the full sound," he said. "When you play something physical, you get to hear more."

In addition to selling products, LeAnnais said the hope is to possibly bring in musical acts to meet with fans and even have some live music. That component has been put on hold at the Dearborn location due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though he hopes it can be brought back by 2022.

More information on the shop can be found at dearbornmusic.net.

Locating in a downtown like Farmington's, he said, will contribute not only to their business but hopefully the surrounding community. Having a unique option downtown like Dearborn Music, LeAnnais said, is something he's excited about.

"We always like to draw from other stores. Downtown Farmington has a nice setting," he said. "I think it's going to be a perfect fit for downtown Farmington."

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

South Lyon veteran honored, again, as communities gear up for Memorial Day

Area Memorial Day observances

The **South Lyon** Memorial Day Parade begins at 9 a.m., May 31, traveling south on Warren Street to Lake Street (10 Mile Road), east to Reynolds Sweet Parkway, south to Striker Street to South Lyon Cemetery. Attendees are asked to wear masks and continue to social distance. There is to be no passing out of flyers or candy and attendees are asked to not follow the procession into the cemetery as in years past. The service at the cemetery will be broadcast on Channel 19 and live on Facebook.

Milford veterans plan a Memorial Day honors ceremony will be held at noon, May 31, at the Veterans Memorial Monument in Central Park in Milford. Attendance will be limited and current health guidelines will be in place unless restrictions are terminated before the event. Brief early morning ceremonies are also planned at 8 a.m., Central Park; 8:30 a.m., Oak Grove Cemetery; and 9 a.m. Milford Memorial Cemetery.

A **Novi** Memorial Day ceremony will be aired on the City of Novi's Facebook page at 9 a.m., May 31. Mayor Bob Gatt will host the event alongside U.S. Navy veteran and City of Novi Deputy Director of Community Development Larry Butler. Novi High School's Sahana Raja will sing the "National Anthem" and "America the Beautiful."

Northville will hold a Memorial Day Tribute 11 a.m. May 31 at Rural Hill Cemetery, 215 West Seven Mile Road.

The City of **Birmingham** will host a Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m., May 31, at Shain Park, which can also be seen live on the city's Facebook page. Social distancing will be maintained for those who wish to attend in person. Masks will not be required at the event, per new state guidelines. Veterans' participation is encouraged. The patriotic program will include addresses of historical interest, Mayoral address, and wreath laying at the monuments in Shain Park. Civil War reenactors will assist in the service. This year's service will commemorate the Korean War.

Livonia Parks and Recreation will hold a Memorial Day ceremony 9 a.m. May 29 at the Veteran's Park Memorial Plaza at Five Mile and Farmington roads, complete with military salutes, a wreath-placing ceremony, special guests and music. Afterward, visit the Memorial Wall that honors those Livonia veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Wayne-Westland Veterans Memorial Day Parade will be held 1 p.m. May 30. The parade will start at John Glenn High School, heads west on Marquette Road, north on Carlson to the William Faust Public Library and stops at the Veterans Memorial Garden in Westland. A small ceremony is planned at the end of the parade.

The **Plymouth** Memorial Day parade is set for 10 a.m. May 31 and moves throughout the neighborhoods in town. It starts at the Plymouth Cultural Center at 525 Farmer. 88.1 The Park will provide live coverage. Find the complete parade route online at plymouthmi.gov.

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The military has acronyms for when things go awry.

The late World War II veteran LaVerne Huyck may have seen a few snafus in his life. Nearly 30 years after his death, he was in the midst of another this week when he received his second headstone at his burial place in the South Lyon Cemetery, formerly believed to be unmarked.

But the final epitaph on his story has all the markings of respect.

"The funeral home had no record of the (original) stone, no one had any record until we went to put it in," Dayna Johnston said. "What we are doing is placing that stone, because he earned it."

Johnston, now 58, was just 15-years-old when she began volunteering with Huyck in organizing the Memorial Day parades in which he had long had a part. The decorated Army veteran was a founding member of the South Lyon VFW Post, and honored his fellow vets by establishing the original Veterans Memorial, known as "The Rock," at the southwest corner of Liberty and S. Lafayette streets decades ago. It was moved in 2019 to McHattie Park.

Huyck died alone on Christmas Eve 1993 in South Lyon, his only living family member believed to be a niece. His cremation was handled by Phillips Funeral Home.

Johnston did not learn of Huyck's death until January 1994 and assumed he'd received a gravestone.

Twenty-six years passed and last Memorial Day, while there would be no parade in the pandemic, volunteers would, as always, place flags on the graves of veterans.

"I said, 'I really want to make sure Verne gets one on his grave,' and they said, 'I don't know where that is,'" Johnston recalled.

Johnston said there may have been confusion over the spelling of Huyck's name, or perhaps that he is not buried near other veterans and maybe also due to transposing the plot numbers, that no one could locate a headstone.

Heartbroken over her belief that Huyck had lain in an unmarked grave for three decades, Johnston set about fixing things. She reached out to Buddy to Buddy, a program that advocates for veterans, and found volunteer Jon Luker to assist.

Luker, a veteran himself, said honorably discharged veterans are entitled to a host of burial benefits, including a stone or medallion, flag, and honor guard ceremony at their funeral service.

Still, some veterans don't always get these honors.

"I do know that it is a common situation," Luker said. "I've dealt with funeral homes in the Ann Arbor area that bury vets who have no one looking out for them, six or seven times per year."

"... A marked military grave helps us to remember the sacrifice and highlights to the living the importance of the need for individuals to serve in the future."

Johnston believed that no one had filed the proper forms for Huyck. Luker went through the proper channels to get the new marker, which besides Huyck's name includes his birth and death dates and identifies him as PFC US Army World War II and a recipient of the Pur-

ple Heart, Marshall Islands.

Huyck also received the Bronze Star for his combat service in the Marshall Islands, although Luker and Johnston did not have precise details on what actions led to his receiving the medals. Johnston noted he never talked about his time in the service.

"In a nutshell, the Marshall Islands was the beginning of an attempt to get a base close enough that we could prevent the Japanese Navy from doing anything important in the Pacific Ocean," Luker said. "It was bloody hand-to-hand combat in digging Japanese troops out of holes in the ground and cement bunkers they had built into the hill. A lot of people know about the Marines in Iwo Jima, and this was the same thing except for the Army."

When Huyck's new headstone arrived this month, the city DPW went to the plot where Huyck is buried and was surprised to find there was already a marker.

South Lyon Deputy Clerk Judy Pieper had no record for the foundation being poured and said it had obviously been there for quite some time. Regardless, she said the new marker is a beautiful tribute.

"It's a beautiful stone and gives him all the recognition he deserves from being in the military, how can that be a bad thing?" she asked.

Johnston said Phillips Funeral Home employees told her it was the largest military stone they had ever seen.

"Verne is getting the stone he deserved," Johnston said. "He was a little quirky, and a lot of people didn't like him, but I loved him because he taught me respect for veterans and the parade."

Jack Middleton, South Lyon VFW Post Secretary, said he believed Verne would have been very touched by Johnston's efforts to do right by him.

"This year, we'll put two or three flags for Memorial Day on his grave," he said. "He was a great person for South Lyon."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



Verne Huyck next to "The Rock," South Lyon's memorial to veterans, ca. early 1990s. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAYNA JOHNSTON



The new military headstone to honor LaVerne Huyck.

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

William Edward Hurrelbrink

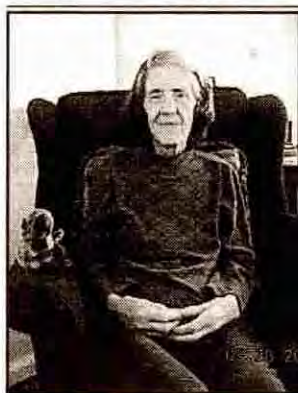
February 5, 1941 –
March 3, 2021
William at the time of death was 80 years old. Beloved husband of Sally, loving father of Mark A. Hurrelbrink, dear brother of Ken (Irene) Hurrelbrink and sister Marlene Montour.

Williams father Arthur W. Hurrelbrink was born in Dewey, OK. He was a set-up man for machines in Northville, MI with Ford Motor Company where he retired. His father was raised in Knox, PA. William's mother was Pearl Irene Tuthill. She was born in Flowerville and graduated there. Pear worked at Adistra Shipping Company. And retired from Adistra in Plymouth, MI.

After graduation, William went into the US Army. After basing training he was stationed in Thailand. When he was finished with the military, he came back home to Michigan. William was the love of Sally's life. They got married at the First United Methodist Church on June 24, 1967 and were married for 53 years. William worked at Unistrut Corporation as a machine operator. He retired in 2005 after 40 years. William was also into deer hunting. He did this all of his married life. William went deer hunting up north. He got a large 10-point buck and a 6-point buck. He was really proud of them. They are on the wall in the home office.

Sally's sister Judy Drury and son Tom Drury came from Alanson, MI., for William's funeral. Judy's oldest son, Jim Drury and his wife, Laurie, live in Scottsdale, AZ.

Visitation was held Sunday, March 7 at Vermeulen Funeral Home on Newburgh Road, Westland. A funeral service was held Monday, March 8 at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment was at Great Lakes National Cemetery, in Holly. Mr Hurrelbrink proudly served his country while in the US Army. To share a memory, please view obituary at Legacy.com



Mary Carver

LIVONIA - Beloved wife of 61 years to Stuart. Loving mother of Christopher (Julie Jurrjens) and Kathryn Ann. Dear sister of Robert (Joyce) Readmond. Also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Norma Readmond; and siblings Irene and Donald.

A Memorial Service will take place at a later date.

Please share a memory of Mary at www.rggrharris.com



May you
find comfort
in family
and friends

Unemployment claims in Michigan declined last week

Adrienne Roberts and Kristi Tanner
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

New weekly unemployment claims in Michigan declined last week compared with the week prior, the U.S. Department of Labor said Thursday.

New claims, which are usually an indicator of layoffs, dropped to 17,366 in the week ending May 8, down from 31,356 the week before, the labor department said. There were 55,166 new claims in Michigan at the same time last year, when claims were at some of their highest levels in the pandemic in the weeks following mandatory business closures under state orders.

U.S. unemployment claims dropped to 444,000 last week, down 34,000 claims from 478,000 the week prior on a seasonally adjusted basis.

That's the lowest level for initial claims since March 14, 2020, when there

were 256,000 new claims. That was before COVID-19 cases skyrocketed and led to business closures and layoffs across the country.

Even as more Americans are vaccinated and businesses reopen, the labor market struggles to return to normal. New claims are still about twice as high as they were in the months leading up to the pandemic. And employers added a disappointing 266,000 jobs in April, a gain that fell well short of expectations.

Still, new claims have fallen significantly since peaking in early April last year at more than 6 million claims on a seasonally adjusted basis. Economists expect claims will continue to fall as businesses reopen and are less constrained by restrictions.

"We expect layoffs to ease further as the economy moves closer toward normal capacity," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in an email.

Judge denies bond for Farmington Hills teen accused of killing mother

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Michigan Supreme Court decision will not serve as Muhammad Altantawi's ticket out of jail, said Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Martha Anderson.

When the case recently returned to her courtroom, she denied the 19-year-old's request for bond, saying the premeditated murder charge "is very serious."

Altantawi has been in custody since August 2017, soon after his mother Nada Huranieh died. Autopsy results showed she died from asphyxia and smothering, leaving prosecutors to allege Altantawi staged a scene that looked like she had fallen while using a ladder.

"This court has had a lengthy history with this case," Anderson said during yet another hearing to release Altantawi on bond. "First of all, this is a murder

charge. There is no dispute based upon the information that has been presented that the victim in this matter was murdered. She was smothered."

A video from the home has shown a dark shadow hoisting the fitness instructor's body out of the window. Anderson said security camera footage did not show an intruder or anyone else leaving or arriving at the home.

Nada Huranieh and her husband Bassel Altantawi were in the midst of a divorce but he was on a tether because he had pleaded guilty in a medical fraud scandal. Anderson recalled that tether data indicated he was "a distance away" from the home.

"(Of) all of the people that were in that house, the only one that would have had the ability or the strength ... to hoist a body out of a window would have been the defendant," Anderson said.

Defense attorneys David Steingold and Michael Schiano had hoped to get

Altantawi released from jail after the Michigan Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that the teen's statements to police during a "custodial interrogation" without being told of his rights could not be heard by a jury.

The statements apparently included Altantawi telling police he didn't know what happened to his mother and, according to his attorneys, being fed information. Prosecutors have said Altantawi told police that his mother fell from the window while cleaning during the same interview.

"We disagree with the judge's assessment of the evidence and we are planning to appeal," Steingold said about the continued bond denial. "There is no direct evidence of our client's guilt. ...

"The reality is that the judge at the district court level relied strongly on what was found and ruled inadmissible evidence."

Pedestrians fatally stab man in Livonia crosswalk

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia police are investigating an early morning fatal stabbing involving pedestrians near Plymouth and Middlebelt roads.

According to their statement, witnesses reported that a man was walking north along Middlebelt at 5:20 a.m. May 25 when he exchanged words in the crosswalk with two other men coming from the opposite direction.

One of the southbound men flashed a knife and fatally stabbed the northbound traveler in the chest.

Witnesses told police the suspects were last seen heading northeast from the intersection.

Anyone with information is asked to call Livonia police, 734-466-2470.

Retiring police sergeant began as public safety service officer

The Canton Police Department announced Sgt. Dale Waltz will retire at the end of May.

Waltz began his 25-year career with the department in 1996 as a public safety service officer, performing the tasks of call taker, dispatcher and jail attendant.

Two years later, he took a leave of absence and put himself through the police academy.

In 1999, he tested for and was promoted to the position of police officer.

Department administrators took note of the organizational benefits of a public safety service officer transitioning to a police officer, and soon after put a formal program into place, of which 18 full-time public safety service officers have since participated and promoted to either a police officer or firefighter within the township.

Early on, in addition to his road patrol duties, Waltz held several special as-

signments including training instructor, Explorer team advisor, evidence technician, and field training officer.

Waltz also served several years assigned to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park as a school resource officer where he made a positive impact on students attending the high school campus.

Waltz was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2013, serving as a platoon supervisor providing leadership, training and direction to his assigned shift of patrol officers.

He was also responsible for administrative assignments and special projects.

Most notably, Waltz was influential in cultural awareness training within the organization, and he played a significant role on the department's original Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition, bringing people of different backgrounds together for the common

purpose of working toward an inclusive community.

Waltz has been recognized on numerous occasions by citizens expressing their appreciation of his patient and courteous demeanor.

He displayed a natural ability of putting people at ease during their most stressful and sometimes traumatic events.

Waltz carried these traits of kindness, respect and humor into his leadership role, working to build a competent and compassionate workforce.

"Sgt. Dale Waltz has been an active member of the department, putting great effort into all of his assignments and undertakings," Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh said. "Dale's compassion for humanity has been a strength throughout his career — driving his dedication for the betterment of the organization and the residents he so proudly served."



Canton Police Sgt. Dale Waltz will retire at the end of May after 25 years with the department.
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SPORTS

Livonia Stevenson baseball climbs back

Defeats Hartland to claim KLAA title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the two days leading up to his team's KLAA championship game against Hartland, Livonia Stevenson head baseball coach Rick Berryman

turned up the dial on his team's pitching machine.

In practice, each hitter took turns facing 90-mph pitches, forcing them to be quick, to be short to the ball.

"(Berryman) uses the word 'velocity,'" senior catcher Landon Macek

said. "It gets your hips through quicker and gets you shorter to the ball, so you have more time to read pitches and get used to hitting faster pitches."

When Macek came up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning, runner on second base in a championship game locked at 8-8, that was his main thought: be short to the ball.

The senior drove the ball just over the

head of Hartland first baseman Aidan Rockel, getting centerfielder Collin Hanrahan home and giving Stevenson (27-6) the 9-8 walk-off win against Hartland (24-3-1) for the program's first KLAA championship.

"They buy into our coaching philosophy and, to the best of their ability, they

See **BASEBALL**, Page 4B



Plymouth senior Zoe Weber, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in January, celebrates a score with her teammates on senior night against Canton. PHOTOS BY EMILY FLORENCE/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Girls lacrosse player sets aside lymphoma fight for senior night

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Zoe Weber stood in the Plymouth girls lacrosse huddle before the team's senior night against Canton. She knew she was going to play, somehow.

Weber and teammate Erin Donnelly concocted the scheme: Donnelly, a fellow senior, would check herself out of the game with five minutes to go, giving Weber the chance to play for the first time in more than a year.

Plymouth head coach Steven Rooney was not aware of Weber's plan. But he, along with Weber's parents, were planning to make it happen for her even sooner.

"We were in the huddle before and he went through the starting lineup," Weber said. "He was like, 'Zoe, you're going

to be starting on low attack.'

"I was like, 'What?'"

Playing was an opportunity Weber craved, something she took for granted until Hodgkin's Lymphoma took the majority of her senior season away.

The diagnosis

In November, Weber knew that something physically was not right. Her throat was bothering her, but she attributed it to allergies. But it didn't stop, leading to chest pains she had never felt before and issues with swallowing.

In January, Weber had enough. She told her parents to take her to the doctor. Those examining her told Weber and her parents they thought initially it was

See **FIGHT**, Page 2B



Weber, foreground, played all but 39 seconds in the first half.

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Howell native qualifies for U.S. Olympic swimming trials

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Some athletes grow up dreaming of becoming an Olympian.

Howell's Hunter Gubeno, despite his incredible swimming success, wasn't one of them.

"No, not even close," he said. "It's a whole different level, even in college. I never thought I'd be close to making NCAA's my freshman year, never thought I'd be on 'A' relays at Cincinnati. It's all kind of hit me. It hasn't sunk in yet. It's just been amazing."

In high school, Gubeno came a long way from not qualifying for the state meet as a freshman to winning two events in the state meet two years later.

The quantum leaps in performance have continued as he's moved on to college.

Gubeno made an immediate impact at the University of Cincinnati as a freshman, something he didn't expect. It was only when he was getting his name in the school record book on the Bearcats' relays and nearly breaking individual records that he thought qualifying for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials was an achievable goal.

"It kind of just hit me when I got there and started improving a lot," Gubeno said. "Obviously, it's a little scary to think maybe I'll plateau. My training has been very good. I think I'll continue like that."

Buoyed by the success he experienced as a freshman, Gubeno continued training toward a possible spot in the Trials. In a long-course meet last week-

end in West Virginia, Gubeno qualified in three events with times of 56.43 seconds in the 100-meter backstroke, 2:02.97 in the 200 backstroke and 2:03.86 in the 200 individual medley.

He placed second in the 100 backstroke and didn't swim finals in the other two events.

Gubeno qualified for Wave I of the Trials, which will take place June 4-7 in Omaha, Neb., by hitting the original qualifying times. The times were lowered to limit the number of swimmers competing because of COVID-19 protocols.

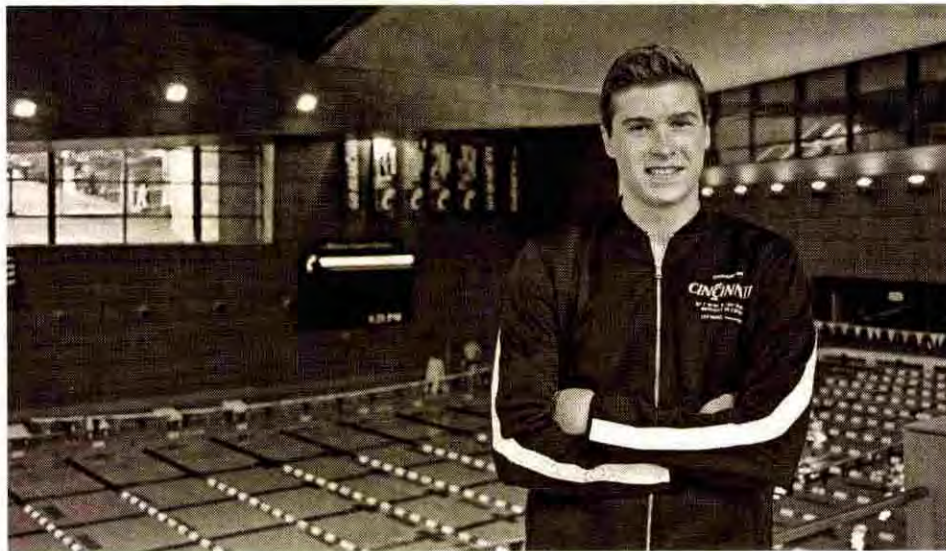
Only swimmers in Wave II, which is June 13-20 in Omaha, can compete for spots on the Olympic team. Swimmers in Wave I can advance to Wave II by placing in the top two in their event.

"Honestly, I didn't think this would happen," Gubeno said. "Maybe in 2024 when the next Trials are; I never thought it would be now. I had big time drops. With COVID, I didn't get any long-course training in the last year. Having about a month or so before this meet to qualify was just enough."

Gubeno hopes to advance to Wave II, but isn't putting pressure on himself.

"I think I'll have a great time," he said. "It will be a great experience, even for 2024, at least getting my name out there a little bit. I'm just having fun with it this year."

Gubeno's high school career, like those of so many others last year, ended in disappointment. Winter sports were shut down, then ultimately canceled, the day before the state swimming and diving meet.



Howell's Hunter Gubeno, a freshman at the University of Cincinnati, qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in three events. UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI ATHLETICS

Gubeno, Livingston County's first state champion when he won two events as a junior, was the overwhelming No. 1 seed in the 500-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke. The impact of COVID extended into the summer, as he was unable to get into an indoor pool to prepare for his first college season. He was able to get access to an outdoor pool in Northville shortly before leaving for Cincinnati.

"It did make me a little nervous, but once I got down here and got into the training process, I knew it would be good for me," he said. "I knew the coaches would know what to do in the situation, and it paid off."

Gubeno was ready to perform once

the season began, winning the 200 backstroke and 200 individual medley in his first dual meet. He went on to score the most points of any freshman in the American Athletic Conference meet, placing second in the 200 backstroke and swimming on a first-place 200 medley relay team and second-place 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relays. He helped the Bearcats set school records in all three relays.

He was awarded Cincinnati's Rookie of the Year award.

"Maybe individually I thought I'd be in the mix," Gubeno said. "Definitely in those relays, I never thought I would be on the 'A' relays swimming the anchor spot or on a freestyle relay."

Fight

Continued from Page 1B

a thyroid issue. A biopsy told a different story.

"I just looked at the doctor and said, 'You've seen the ultrasound. You've seen what they've pulled out of her neck. You know what it looks like. It's not an infection, it's not whatever,'" Kim Weber, Zoe's mother, said. "What are you thinking?"

"He said, 'I'm going to tell you right now Zoe, you have cancer. I don't know what kind, but you do.'"

Weber was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Jan. 18. The Plymouth senior would have to undergo chemotherapy, losing her hair and, possibly, damaging her reproductive system.

"I just broke down," Zoe said. "I couldn't imagine having cancer. I never would have thought that I would have cancer."

She couldn't believe it. She didn't want to believe it. Zoe Weber wanted to go on with her life, play a senior season with the Wildcats after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 season. At that moment, she knew her fight was elsewhere, somewhere she didn't expect it would be.

She was angry, sad and frustrated, unable to do the normal things she took for granted: going to school, seeing her friends, playing the sport she loved.

As the chemotherapy treatment started, Dr. Mark Kaminski, director of the Multidisciplinary Lymphoma Clinic for the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, made one theme clear to Weber and her family.

"Just consider this a speed bump in the road of life and that we'll get through this," Doug Weber, Zoe's father, was told.

Adjusting to her fight

Heading into his second year with as the head coach of the team, Rooney was planning on building his team around Weber. The senior had everything he needed: the stick skills, the conditioning and the knowledge to know when to be aggressive and when to pass.

It was something that always came easily to Weber, following in the footsteps of her older sister Jill — who was the first in the Weber family to take up the sport — and trailblazing her own path: becoming the second freshman in Plymouth history to start in her first season and eventually earning a college scholarship to play lacrosse at Lock Haven University.

Rooney expected to have a star player at his disposal in 2021, until an after-school conversation with Zoe and Doug Weber.

"Literally, I just remember this sinking feeling," Rooney said about when he was told of her diagnosis. "It's two-fold. From a program perspective, you are like, 'Man, that's one of the key players.' But from a human perspective, I wouldn't wish it on anybody, but a 17-year-old? That's crushing."



Zoe Weber had to put on hold her lacrosse playing at Plymouth High while she battles Hodgkin's lymphoma this spring. She poses for a portrait with her parents Doug, left, and Kim, right, and boyfriend, Spencer Vos, second from left. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Weber was not done with Plymouth, asking Rooney what role she could play on the team moving forward. The senior found herself on the sideline, becoming a coach, a mentor and a friend to those on the Wildcats roster.

Even though Weber didn't have a stick in her hands, she wanted to be there for her teammates, cheering them on and helping any way that she could.

"I just have a love for the sport and I wanted to be a part of it because it's my high school team and I'm never going to get it back," she said. "I still wanted to be a part of it even if I wasn't playing."

In Weber, Rooney had another set of eyes to catch mistakes or trends in practices and games he was unable to catch, saying that her voice carried weight on the sideline.

But Weber knew where she wanted to be. She wanted to play.

Her father could sense that longing for the stick to be in her hands as the season continued, telling family and close friends she feared her senior season was passing her by.

Doug Weber approached Rooney about the possibility of putting his daughter in for a few minutes on senior night. She was getting stronger, but her doctors advised against any lacrosse as she continued to heal.

Rooney, knowing that Canton was not the most physical team, worked with Zoe's parents on a plan: put her out there for a few minutes, monitor her play and take her out when necessary.

From the first face off against the Chiefs on senior night, that plan changed.

Time to shine

Two minutes. That's all Rooney was expecting out of Weber. He started her out low, so she didn't have to run as much, and just waited to see how she would respond to live lacrosse action.

Weber could not be contained. "Next thing you know, she's down

there, she's being aggressive," Rooney said.

Kim and Doug Weber stood on the sideline, watching their daughter try and do what she always did. Zoe's mother could see that she was holding back, knowing that she knew her own limitations. But the parents were anxious nonetheless.

"Any time the ball went her way, I was just thinking, 'Oh please Lord, don't get hurt. Just catch the ball, pass the ball. Catch the ball, make a shot. Keep it moving and don't get caught too much in the mix of things,'" Kim Weber said.

As two minutes turned to five, and five to 10, Weber continued to play, taking a break once in the first half for a breather and some water. In that span, she turned to her parents, gave them a thumbs up, and returned to the game.

She played all but 39 seconds in the first half against Canton, while playing the majority of the second.

Rooney watched Weber give her all on the field, questioning what the aftermath of this effort would be. The Plymouth head coach trusted his senior to know her limits, to make sure she would get her moment, but safely.

Her moment came soon after she first gained possession in the first half.

She took a pass, running through a slew of Canton defenders, finding an opening in the middle of the goal. She found her shot, watching the ball scream past the goalkeeper for her first goal of the season.

Weber nearly collapsed, emotions overwhelming her as her teammates flooded the field. It was what she had been waiting for.

"Just being on the field, getting those goals and after the goals, everybody coming and hugging me and everyone cheering," she said. "It was just a special moment for me just being out there."

To Rooney, it was a moment for everybody, watching his whole team celebrate, seeing how invested they are in each other, how supportive they are of

each other.

And for Doug Weber, it was the moment he wanted to see from his daughter, in a way that showed off what she had been for Plymouth previously.

"They didn't have to let her do anything," he said. "She did it on her own."

Return to the sideline

Since Zoe's diagnosis, the Weber family has seen an outpouring of support from those around them.

Friends, family and people in their community have united to provide emotional and financial support, including a prom set up by the Shed Neck Foundation: a non-profit organization that helps teenage cancer patients in the Plymouth-Canton area.

"I think it's a credit to Zoe, how she is so well liked by everyone," Doug Weber said. "She has touched so many people in a positive manner in her life. In a selfish way, it kind of makes Kim and I feel like we did something a little bit right in raising her."

But on senior night, Zoe Weber did not want all of the attention to be on her.

As she approached the tunnel to take the field, her mother said Zoe asked her why each player had a purple ribbon on their sticks.

"This isn't cancer night, it's senior night," Kim Weber remembers hearing from her daughter.

Zoe Weber just wanted one normal night; a night where she could put her lacrosse skills on display with no stipulations, without Hodgkin's Lymphoma weighing her down, limiting her ability.

Senior night was as close as she could come to normalcy in her senior season, scoring two goals and recording an assist against rival Canton and ending the night with a prom proposal from her boyfriend.

Now, Weber knows what she is capable of. She knows she can play lacrosse, not to the level she was at previously, but at a level she feels she can sustain as she works herself back to full strength as her treatment nears its end.

However, Zoe's parents and coaches made clear this was a one-time thing: that she would not be able to take the field for Plymouth again this season.

"You did great. You did awesome. You exceeded my expectations, and I think you probably exceeded your own expectations," Rooney said his message to Zoe Weber was. "You have to kind of take that to the bank for right now."

"Give the treatment that final run, get healthy because you have a college career ahead of you."

Weber knows returning to the sideline will be hard. She knows coaching Plymouth for the rest of the season will be difficult.

But the feeling that she had scoring her first goal of her senior season is something she will never forget.

"I really had an amazing time and I wish I could have that again," Weber said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

Northville boys track and field wins first regional crown in over 50 years

The Northville boys track and field team cruised to victory at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Region 5 championship.

The win earned the Mustangs their first regional title since 1968 and only the second in school history.

"I'm so happy for these young men," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "This has been a long time coming."

The Mustangs topped the 15-school field with 136 points. Canton was next with 96, followed by Livonia Franklin (64.5), Salem (60), and Plymouth (55).

"Salem beat us head-to-head earlier this spring, so we were the underdogs coming into this meet," Dalton said.

Dalton said the team has come close to winning a number of times in the past.

"This isn't the most talented team we've had, but every guy we put out there was selfless yesterday and today," Dalton said.

The meet was split into two days with the field events held at Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte on Thursday while the running events were held at River Rouge High School on Friday.

After the field events were tallied, Canton scored 68 points and held a commanding lead over the Mustangs, who scored 28.

"I thought we performed really well in throws and jumps," Dalton said. "But a 40-point deficit is a steep hill to climb."

Leading the charge for the Mustangs was Ty Schembri.

The junior won the 400-meter (50.71), took fourth in the 100-meter (11.71), and anchored the seventh place 800-meter relay. That team, with Emmanuel Tchongang, Andrew Xiong and Logan Dooley, finished in 1:37.21.

Schembri went on to win the 200-meter in 23.04 seconds after entering the event unseeded since he had not competed in that distance this year.

"Ty puts the team before himself as an individual," Dalton said.

Senior Jacob Meek also turned in a solid day for Northville. Meek teamed up with Brandon Latta, Jake Bulat and



Northville's girls and boys track and field teams took home regional titles in 2021. COURTESY OF TIM DALTON

Nathan Hayes to win the 3,200-meter relay in 8:05.04. He also finished the 3,200-meter run in 9:55.77 in fourth place.

Meek led the Mustangs in the 1,600, finishing third in 4:29.51. He was followed by Brady Heron (4th, 4:34.91), Brock Malaikal (5th, 4:35.94), Noah Eckenroth (6th, 4:38.09), Matthew Krahe (7th, 4:38.80), and Hayes (8th, 4:40.94) who all finished in scoring positions.

Latta finished his day with a third-place finish in the 800-meter (1:58.04) and anchored the winning 1,600 relay with Tchongang, McCallum, and Matthew Krahe.

In the 110-meter hurdles, Ethan Krahe ran a personal-best 16.22 in which he finished runner-up.

Moving on to the MHSAA state final meet are Schembri (200, 400), Ethan Krahe (110 high hurdles), the 1,600-meter relay and 3,200-meter relay. The state finals will be at East Kentwood High School on June 5.

Northville girls track and field wins ninth-straight regional title

After the 2020 track and field season was canceled, the Northville girls lost a number of varsity contributors. But during the 2021 season, the Mustangs have continued where they left off in 2019.

The Mustangs won their ninth consecutive regional championship Friday, tallying 164 points. KLAA West foe Plymouth was the closest challenger to Northville, scoring 87 points. Dearborn Edsel Ford finished third (67), followed by Livonia Churchill (59), Wayne Memorial (48), and Canton (40).

"We put a lot of time earlier in the week looking at our lineup, and we put our best team out there today," Dalton said.

The Mustangs never looked back from leading the meet after the field events concluded on the first day.

Delaney Hopkins won the discus with a throw of 111' 11". Natalie Kearney took second, throwing 110' 4". In the shot put, Chyna Johnson continued her impressive season with her second-place finish (37' 1").

Kaylee Chirgwin jumped five feet in the high jump which was good for third place. Juliana Imbuzeiro (4' 10") was fifth. Alia Bournay and Keira Courtney both scored in the long jump, leaping 15' 7" (4th) and 14' 10" (6th) respectively.

Northville was also solid on the track. Senior Yasmine Mansi won two individual events for the Mustangs and contributed on two winning relays.

She started her day in the 3,200-meter relay with Ella Christensen, Emily Gordon and Gina Couyoumjian, finishing in 9:47.30.

In the 1600-meter, Mansi broke the tape in 5:11.17. Christensen finished second in a personal-best time of 5:13.09.

Mansi also won the 800-meter in 2:16.29 — a personal-best — before teaming up with Gordon, Elle Slater, and Angel McCray to win the 1,600-meter relay (4:03.15). Gordon (2:21.01) and Couyoumjian (2:21.74) also scored in the 800-meter, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively.

McCray also scored high for Northville. She took second in the 400-meter (59.22), third in the 100-meter (13.10) and anchored the runner-up 400 relay with Mela Salah, Courtney, and Bournay.

Jennie Line, in only her third race of the season, won the 3,200-meter (11:08.59). Christensen also scored in the event, taking fifth in 12:05.03.

Freshman Abby Byers took third in the 100-meter hurdles, missing out on the second automatic state qualifying place by five-hundredths of a second.

In the 200-meter, Bournay finished seventh (28.14) and Elle Slater took 8th (28.25) to score for the Mustangs.

"These girls stepped up when they needed to," Dalton said.

Representing the Mustangs at the MHSAA state final meet will be McCray, Mansi, Christensen, Johnson, Hopkins, Slater, Bournay, Gordon, Couyoumjian, Line, Kearney, Salah, and Courtney.



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Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

change and adapt to a style of hitting to be successful," Berryman said. "That hit exemplifies that. Those big, stupid swings are being eliminated. They are doing positive things that lead them to success. They are taking coaching well."

But that line drive over the head of Hartland's first baseman was just a culmination of a comeback in which the Spartans remained locked in despite the circumstance.

Early on, senior starter Coltrane Rubner was on. He set down nine of the first 10 batters he faced, eight via strike-out. He even helped Stevenson to an early two-run lead, hitting a solo home run in the first inning.

But after a runner reached via an error in the fourth inning, Rubner began to crumble.

The starter allowed five runs on three hits and an error, watching as Hartland took his team's lead with a two-RBI double by Brendan Buback. When Rubner came back out in the fifth, he allowed a single and a two-run home run by Bruce Jellison, leaving the mound with his team trailing 7-2 without recording a single out.

"We made a lot of mistakes that inning," Macek said. "It was a long inning and everyone was there for each other. That was the goal: to pick each other up, one after another."

In the bottom of the fifth, Macek said the Stevenson offense began to play Berryman's brand of selfless baseball: hitting to move the guy ahead.

The first three Spartans loaded the bases on three walks and senior Aidan Arbogast started the damage: hitting a two-RBI double to bring Stevenson back to within four.

"After I hit that first double, (Hartland) didn't do anything after that," Arbogast said.

Stevenson second baseman Justin Burns brought two more runs in on an RBI double in the next at-bat, scoring himself on a wild pitch to bring the deficit to within one.

In the sixth inning, Arbogast came through again, lacing a double to score Macek to tie the game.

In relief of Rubner, Arbogast shut the Hartland offense down on the mound in the final three innings, allowing one run



Shane Samborski, left, congratulates teammate Aiden Arbogast after he scores a run against Franklin. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

on two hits, two walks and one strike-out.

"When we were down 8-2, we didn't give up," Arbogast said. "We kept going up and up and up in the dugout, getting up on each other in the dugout, causing passed balls and runs, helped us get a bunch of base hits."

To Berryman, this is what he has wanted his team to be like all season, pointing to Rubner, Arbogast and senior Griffin Kilander: his longest-tenured seniors who have carried the team from a leadership standpoint.

When Hanrahan opened the seventh inning with a walk, shortstop Johnny Beer walked up to the plate and immediately laid down a bunt, advancing the winning run to second and setting up Macek for. It was something Berryman preached from Day 1: selfless baseball.

It's the brand of baseball that allowed Stevenson to earn a win against Hartland: the No. 1 team in the state according to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

It's an approach that starts with not trying to be the hero, not trying to do too much. It's being quick to the ball. It's remembering those practice sessions against the 90-mph pitching machine.

"I'll be damned if it didn't work," Berryman said with a grin.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Spartan Griffin Kilander, left, is congratulated for a complete game victory, which Stevenson won 3-1 over Franklin.



Stevenson came back in the seventh inning against Hartland to earn a KLAAs title. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ABSTRACT
WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2021-12
MAY 18, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. electronically via ZOOM. MEMBERS PRESENT: Rhaesa, Porter, Miller, Dowd, Skiff, Wagner, Brock. ABSENT: None. COUNCIL APPROVED: Agenda, Minutes: 5-4-21, FY 2021-2022 Budget, Budget Amendment 2021-6, 6 Yr. Water & Sewer Imp. Plan, Set Spec. Mtg. Tues., 6-22-21 @ 6 p.m., 2021 Goudy Pk. Flatwork Change Order No.1 - \$20,000.00. Youth Services Dir. Contract, 2021 Concerts in Park-Wayne Rotary, Property Exchange with WWCS, Turn Town Teal-Ovarian Cancer, Rezoning Denial-3006 S. Wayne Rd., PSA with HydroCorp-\$38,754.00, 2nd Amendment to PA - Wayne Rec. Bldg. Sale, Auto-Cycle Safety Month Proc., Mental Health Month Proc., Consent Calendar. Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Tina M. Parnell, CMC
Wayne City Clerk
LO-00035981 3x2

Publish: May 27, 2021

City of Livonia - April 26, 2021 1,919th Regular Meeting Synopsis
Present: McCullough, Donovic, Toy, Bahr and McIntyre. **Absent:** Jolly

#118-21 Approved minutes of the 1,918th Regular Meeting of the Council held 4-12-2021.
Audience Communication: None
Receive and filed: Several items were received and filed.
#119-21 Approved block party and street closure.
#120-21 Authorizing purchase of Bryx Station Alerting System.
#121-21 Approving renewal of contract with ESRI, Inc.
#122-21 Authorizing purchase of furniture for Bennett Civic Center Library.
#123-21 Authorizing extension of Tree Planting Contract with Crimboli Nursery.
#124-21 Authorizing purchase of 2021 Transit 150 10-passenger van.
#125-21 Authorizing purchase of two Titan Pro Trailer Mounted Leaf Vacuums.
#126-21 Authorizing purchase of two drum-style brush chippers.
#127-21 Authorizing purchase of one trailer mounted four-ton asphalt hotbox.
#128-21 Authorizing two-year contract extension with Etna Supply Company.
#129-21 Authorizing additional expenditure and contract amendment with MDOT.
#130-21 Accepting quote of Nagle Paving Company for DPW Parking Lot Project.
#131-21 Approving Petition 2021-02-08-02.
#132-21 Determining to take no further action with regard to bond issue from LPS.
First read of Ordinance amending Section 350 of Title 6, Chapter 1 (Animals).
First read of Ordinance amending Section 040 of Title 6 (Animals), Chapter 01.
First read of Vacating Ordinance (Petition 2021-01-03-01).
#134-21 Accepting bid of ID Enterprises for "L" Magazine.
#135-21 Amending Council Resolution No 358-20 for inclusion of streets for Act 51 revenues.
Second read and adoption of Ordinance amending Section 14 of Zoning Map, Article III of Ordinance No. 543, by adding Section 3.____ thereto. (Petition 2020-08-01-05)
#136-21 Approving Petition 2021-02-02-03.
#137-21 Approving Petition 2021-02-08-01.
#138-21 Accepting bid of Bidigare Contractors, Inc. for DWSRF Project No. 7453-01.
#139-21 Suspending rules of procedure.
#140-21 Approving additional expenditure for emergency sewer repair along Edgewood Drive.
#141-21 Directing a Closed Committee of the Whole be held.
#142-21 Authorizing Law Department to resolve claims brought by Dwayne Love.
#143-21 Authorizing Law Department to resolve claims brought by Susan O'Donohue-Williams.
Audience Communication None
Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.
Susan M. Nash, Livonia City Clerk

Publish: May 27, 2021
LO-00035972 3x5.9

Item #21-05-082 - Moved by Lynch; supported by DiMichele:
RESOLVED: Motion to adopt the ordinance to amend Sections 53.03 and 53.04 of Chapter 53, Title V of the City of Garden City Code providing for rates and charges for water and sewer services and providing for billing for water and sewerage disposal services.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 21-006

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY ORDAINS:

Section I. Sections 53.03 through 53.04, of the City Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

53.03. WATER SUPPLY RATES
(A) Consumption base rate **\$29.44** per 1,000 cubic feet of water.
(B) Annual fixed user charges, in addition to those in division (A) above: **\$66.56**
(C) Service outside City. Water service rates charged for water service outside the City shall be 100% of the rates and charges set forth in division (A) and (B) above, or as may hereafter be established for City water service by City Council Resolution.

53.04. SEWAGE DISPOSAL RATES.
(A) Consumption base rate, including excess sewage: **\$60.51** per 1,000 cubic feet.
(B) Annual fixed user charges: **\$66.56**
(C) RV Annual fixed construction charges: **\$17.51**
(D) Sewage disposal rates outside the City. Charges for sewage disposal service to premises outside the city shall be 100% of the rates and charges set forth in division (A) and (B) above or as may hereafter be established for sewage disposal service by City Council Resolution.

Section II. Any person or entity that violates any provision of this Ordinance may, upon conviction, be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned not more than Ninety (90) days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section III. If any clause, sentence, section, paragraph or part of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person, firm, corporation, legal entity or circumstances, shall be for any reason adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, said judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to the legislative intent of this body that the Ordinance is severable, and that the Ordinance would have been adopted had such invalid or unconstitutional provision not have been included in this Ordinance

Section IV. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section V. All rights and duties which have matured, penalties which have been incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this Ordinance are not affected or abated by this Ordinance.

Section VI. The Clerk for the City of Garden City shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section VII. This Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect on **July 1, 2021** after publication as required by law.

Adopted: May 17, 2021
Published: May 27, 2021
Effective: July 1, 2021

Matthew Miller
City Clerk

Publish: May 27, 2021
LO-00035987 3x6.5

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