

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Challengers seek state oversight of election

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Two candidates challenging Plymouth Township incumbents in next month's Republican primary are asking the state to monitor, or even conduct, the election. In a Tuesday letter to Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, Kurt Heise, who is running

for supervisor, and Jerry Vorva, who is running for clerk, contend current township Clerk Nancy Conzelman "has demonstrated that she is incapable of fairly and impartially administering an election" and ask that Johnson's office step in "for the sake of free and fair elections." The request follows a

June 30 candidate forum, featuring Conzelman and Vorva, during which Conzelman said she had corrected information on paperwork filed by some candidates, but that an oversight on Heise's affidavit of identity "was missed." Her remark prompted Vorva, who earlier had said it was the clerk's job to catch

paperwork mistakes and help would-be candidates with their forms, to interject that he was "outraged" that Conzelman had helped some candidates, but not others, fix their mistakes. Heise and Don Schnettler, who is running for the Board of Trustees, failed to indicate their voting precinct on their respective affidavits, mis-

takes that resulted in their removal from the primary ballot by a June 17 Michigan Court of Appeals decision. Both are running in the Tuesday, Aug. 2, primary as write-in candidates. Conzelman, who is seeking a second term as clerk, is a supporter of Supervisor

See ELECTION, Page A2



The bike parade begins 15 minutes before the big parade begins.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Township-city relations at issue in campaign forum

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township's supervisor and his challenger locked horns last week over the township's relationship with the city of Plymouth as they debated ahead of next month's primary election.

The June 30 forum at the Plymouth District Library was the second time Supervisor Shannon Price and Kurt Heise, who is campaigning to replace Price, took questions from voters in a public setting. An earlier forum was held at Praise Baptist Church.

The two are vying in the Tuesday, Aug. 2, primary for the Republican nomination for supervisor. The winner will advance to the November general election and, barring a successful third-party or independent candidacy, will be assured of a victory. There are no Democratic candidates for supervisor.

Heise, a term-limited member of the Michigan House of Representatives, said township officials need to end an "us-versus-them" mentality when it comes to working with Plymouth. "We have to start treating the city of Plymouth not as a rival," Heise said.

Heise added the township should "tell Mike Cox (former Michigan attorney general) and all the lawyers to go home" when it comes to talks aimed at settling a bill for retiree health care and pension costs owed by the city that are related to the former Plymouth Community Fire Department, which served both the township and the city.

Price, who was appointed supervisor in April 2015 following the resignation of Richard Reaume, said the city "walked away" from its responsibilities when it left the joint fire department and that township officials need to protect the township's interests.

See FORUM, Page A2



Price



Heise

Stalled by train, parade still wows

It wasn't completely smooth, but parade-goers in Plymouth enjoyed the city's annual Good Morning USA parade on Monday.

The Independence Day celebration, featuring floats, musicians, bicyclists, clowns and other performers, was interrupted by a train at Main

INSIDE
More photos from Good Morning USA parade, A5.

near Theodore, where floats and marchers were assembling. The train delayed the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps' start into the parade.

Nevertheless, the crowd was enthusiastic for a parade that's become one of the signature events of the area's Fourth of July festivities. One of the highlights was the appearance of military veterans, from World War II and the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, in the parade.

"It was a wonderful parade," said Elizabeth Johnson, an attorney and city resident. "To see the enthusiastic community coming together to support our heroes. The World War II veterans are amazing. They're all truly amazing, just all our veterans."

Sculptor to bring 'devil's rope' art to Plymouth show

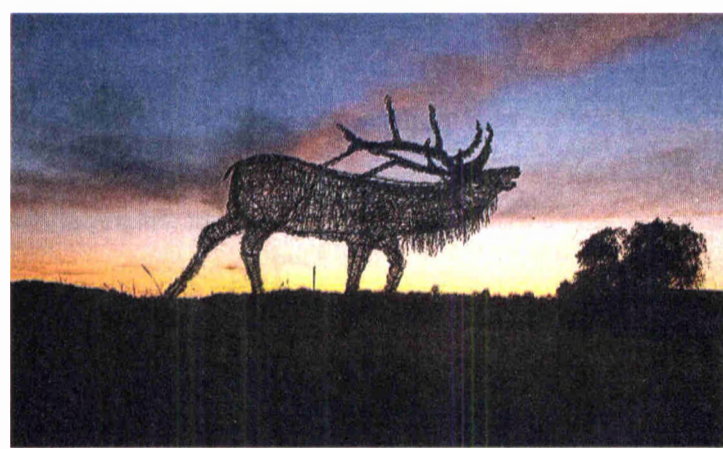
Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jeff Best loves getting his hands on rusty barbed wire. He takes the material, also known as devil's rope, from old fence posts and rural trash dumps, then bends, twists and shapes it into majestic elk and banyard chickens, prickly pine trees and trophy deer heads.

"It's a great medium to work with. It's just dirty, dusty, pokey and it can come up and smack you if you're not watching it. I'll get scratched sometimes. You've got to be careful

with it," he said. "I have found several rolls of barbed wire still on the spool, all rusted. Those are the most dangerous. They are wound tight and still have some spring. But other than minor scratches, it's not too bad."

Best, who lives in Clare, north of Mt. Pleasant, will bring his unique work to the 37th annual Art in the Park, July 8-10 in downtown Plymouth. Show times are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Shuttles will run



See SCULPTOR, Page A3

A barbed wire elk sculpture seems to call out to the herd at sunset.



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INDEX

Business A6 Jobs B6 Services B6
Crossword Puzzle B7 Obituaries B4 Sports B1
Homes B6 Opinion A8 Wheels B6

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New locations for Art in the Park parking, shuttle

The 37th annual Art in the Park, which opens Friday, is bringing changes to the shuttle service that helps festival visitors avoid traffic congestion and parking

headaches in and around downtown Plymouth. The shuttle will take visitors to Art in the Park from a new parking location — two, in fact — because the site that had

previously served as off-site festival parking is unavailable. The new parking and pickup points are at the Burroughs site on Plymouth Road, just east of

Haggerty, and at Madonna University, on Schoolcraft Road between Levan and Newburgh, in Livonia. Shuttles will run continuously between both of

those locations and Plymouth City Hall each day of Art in the Park, from a half-hour before the festival opens until a half-hour after its closing. Parking at both Bur-

roughs and Madonna is free; shuttle rides are \$3 a person, round trip, and free for children age 12 and younger. For more information, go to artinthepark.com.

Wounded warrior brings yoga to Canton park



Dan Nevins, yoga instructor, motivational speaker and nationally recognized Wounded Warrior, travels the globe inspiring audiences while practicing yoga.

Old Glory Flags and Flagpoles of Livonia and Canton Leisure Services have joined forces to host "Yoga In the Park" with Dan Nevins on Saturday, July 30, in Canton's Heritage Park. It benefits the Wounded Warrior Project.

This special fundraiser is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., but participants are asked to arrive by 8:30 a.m. for check-in and registration.

Nevins, a motivational speaker and nationally recognized Wounded Warrior featured on NBC News, is a retired staff sergeant with the U.S. Army who began his military career out of high school as a paratrooper stationed in Germany. In November 2004, an IED detonated beneath his vehicle during a combat mission in Iraq, causing Nevins to suf-

fer a traumatic brain injury as well as his left leg to be amputated below the knee. After more than 30 surgeries, Nevins' right leg was also amputated below the knee.

Nevins credits the practice of yoga for turning his life around after losing his legs in Iraq. This professional speaker, who for more than a decade has shared an inspirational message of leadership, perseverance, resilience and overcoming adversity with audiences around the globe, is also a certified Baptiste yoga instructor.

Nevins believes that yoga can help everyone, especially veterans returning home from service, and encourages all veterans to try yoga for its physical and emotional benefits. "My whole platform is for you to invite a veteran to yoga, be-

cause it just might save their life," he said. "I became a yoga teacher because I knew first hand of the power it has to heal."

All proceeds from this event will go to benefit Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are on sale at <https://activenet.active.com/canton>; just search for Dan Nevins.

Tickets are \$35 online and will be \$45 the day of the event. Ticket price includes a Wounded Warrior Project yoga mat and carrying bag, as well as a Wounded Warrior Project support bracelet, while supplies last. Participants will also receive a tax statement at the end of 2016 stating the portion of your donation that is tax-deductible. Learn more about Nevins' incredible story at www.dannevins.com.

For more information, call 734-394-5360.

Forest Service, local partners boost Rouge River health

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A "Rouge Growing Green" project, aimed at improving Rouge River water quality, is partly funded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Some 20 trees were planted in the city of Plymouth recently on Burroughs, between Harding and Fairground, across from Lions Park.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website notes.

"There were nearly 700 trees planted," said Jill Johnson, Midwest Urban Forestry coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service. Johnson, who works out of the St. Paul, Minn., field office, noted the grant to the Alliance of Rouge Communities

covered a number of local communities, as well as Wayne County.

Plymouth Township, the city of Plymouth, Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Township, Canton, Inkster, Novi, Oak Park, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Troy, Franklin Village and Wayne County are recipients of the grant for tributaries of the Rouge River. The grant was for \$100,000, with trees planted this spring.

"This is just one of the grants we have. There have been many grants over the years" associated with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Johnson said. The U.S. Forest Service manages EPA funds and has given the grants since fiscal year 2010.

"We've had a lot of opportunities to award projects," she said. This aim includes "tree canopy cover" for the river's restoration.

Johnson noted the devastation of the emerald ash borer. "The EPA recognizes that trees are important for reducing toxic substances," she said. The trees also help control invasive plants, along with reducing storm water runoff.

Federal agencies use GLRI resources to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long-term goals, the

EPA website notes. Combining GLRI resources with agency base budgets, the GLRI works with non-federal partners to implement protection and restoration projects.

GLRI funding is also used to support efforts to prevent Asian Carp from establishing populations in the Great Lakes. For more information about the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, go to www.glri.us.

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FORUM

Continued from Page A1

"We've got to put Plymouth Township first and protect our interests first," he said. The threat of a lawsuit over the legacy costs, Price said, is "the only thing that brought (Plymouth officials) to the table."

City and township officials recently agreed the city should pay \$330,558 as its share of retiree medical costs that were incurred between 2012 and the end of 2015. The city's total legacy costs tab, however, has been calculated at about \$4 million.

Rec projects slammed

Heise is a write-in candidate in the primary, having been taken off the ballot, due to a technicality in his candidacy paperwork, by a Michigan Court of Appeals decision last month.

Price and Heise also discussed recent improvements to township recreation facilities, particularly Plymouth Township Park, with Heise saying "we've paved over paradise" as he cited the expansion of a parking lot and the construction of an all-season pavilion at the park. Heise said he was opposed to building an amphitheater at the

park, an idea township officials shelved nearly two years ago in the face of organized opposition.

"Putting on puppet shows and other things is not the role of government," Heise said.

Price said he was also opposed to plans for an amphitheater. He was the supervisor at the time those plans became controversial.

Price, a former Wayne County commissioner whose district included the township, touted his experience with the county as he made his pitch to voters. Electing Heise would mean "higher taxes, higher crime and big government," he said.

"Our brand in Ply-

mouth Township is conservative leadership with low taxes," said Price, 45.

Heise, 50, formerly a municipal attorney, deputy mayor in Dearborn Heights and director of the county's Department of Environment, spoke of his experience in all of those areas during his appeal.

"I will bring a unique skill set, education and experience to this very important role," he said.

The forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County, was attended by about 80 people.

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ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

Shannon Price, an appointed supervisor

whom Heise is challenging.

The Heise-Vorva letter states that Conzelman, "by providing official clerk services to some candidates and not others ... admittedly manipulated the election process to ensure that her preferred candidate(s) obtained an unfair advantage."

Heise said Wednesday that, because of the contentiousness of the township election and public criticisms Conzelman made of him due to his paperwork error, "it might be in

her best interest to welcome the secretary of state's office ... in and around election night."

He expressed concern over the counting of ballots, particularly in a close race, given his write-in candidacy.

"This may drag on for days and this may end up in court, so I think she may want to have an extra set of eyes," he said.

Johnson's spokesman, Fred Woodhams, said Wednesday that the request had been received and the office

was reviewing it. "No decision has been made at this time" as to whether the office will formally step in, Woodhams said.

Woodhams said that the secretary of state does occasionally receive such requests and, generally speaking, contacts both the complainant and the local clerk to go over any issues.

Conzelman did not return several calls Wednesday morning.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH

ACCURACY TESTING FOR VOTING EQUIPMENT

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Plymouth Cultural Center
525 Farmer Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the accuracy testing for the optical scan voting equipment, as well as the hearing impaired equipment, for the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016. The test is scheduled for MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Election Source from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been contracted by the City of Plymouth to conduct the testing to assure the equipment has been programmed appropriately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser
City Clerk

Published: July 7, 2016 LC-000028788 3/3

Water garden tours scheduled for Northville

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Adding a koi pond to his gardens wasn't in John Rae's original plan. That came later, after a tree in his front yard succumbed to emerald ash borer — and what was once a tree, well, became the starting point for a 3,000-gallon pond.

Rae's water garden is located about a half-dozen steps from his front door, nestled among hostas and angel wing begonias. Nine Japanese koi swim serenely among the shadows, their orange and white and black scales bright against the rocky backdrop of the pool's three-tier waterfall.

Rae's pond is one of nine Northville-area water gardens that will be featured Saturday, July 16, in a pond tour hosted by the Michigan Koi and Pond Club. It's the 18th in an annual tour series that rotates from city to city, showcasing private gardens that include ponds as part of their landscaping.

All the participants are individual homeowners who have incorporated water fea-



Mike Conrad's water pond has a bit of an Asian flair to it.

MARIA TAYLOR

tures into their outdoor gardens. Rae is on the board of the Michigan Koi and Pond Club. "Most of us were gardeners before we were koi enthusiasts," he said, "so many of our

ponds have very wonderful gardens."

Garden styles on the tour vary, reflecting the homeowners' individual tastes. "We have everything from Japanese-

style backyards to French styles to modern backyards," said Ray Alexander, the club's president. Most of the ponds have Japanese koi and a few have goldfish.

The pond tour is self-guided and will be open between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., rain or shine. The tour starts at The Village Workshop in Northville, 455 E. Cady St. Participants will receive a wristband and a tour booklet with addresses for all participating homes, which will be marked by a sign at the front of each host's property. Homeowners will be on-hand to answer questions, give directions and share insight about their ponds and gardens.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth (ages 5-15) and may be purchased either on the day of the event at The Village Workshop or in advance by calling Rae at 248-767-1066.

Funds raised from the event support the Michigan Koi and Pond Club's activities, including its annual koi show and speaker sessions on koi care and breeding. The group's mission is to help members and people with similar interests learn how to take care of fish and maintain healthy ponds. For more information, go to www.mkpc-se.com.

SCULPTOR

Continued from Page A1

continuously from Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, in Livonia, and at Burroughs, located at Plymouth Road and Haggerty.

More than 400 artists from across the country will show and sell their paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, glass works, photography, folk art and woodwork.

Best is new to the show. Art in the Park will be his third art fair since he began creating barbed wire sculpture five years ago. He attended the Great Lakes Art Fair in Novi the past two years and will end the summer art fair season next month in Mt. Pleasant.

"The Plymouth show is the big dog for me," he said. "I'm looking forward to going there and see how it goes. I don't know what to expect."

He wasn't fluent in the art fair "lingo" or the application process when he sent a few



Jeff Best stands next to the "Bugling Elk" he created from barbed wire for a sporting goods store in Gaylord.

photos off to the Great Lakes show last year. All he knew was that he loved turning used barbed wire into "something pretty."

"It's cool for me to think that wire was manufactured to be on a post to hold in things or hold things out," he said. "It served its purpose. I grabbed it and who knew it would turn into a deer head."

Popular chickens

He'll have a family of three barbed wire elk for sale at the Plymouth show. Examples of other sculptures will be displayed in his booth. Customers can order a piece and expect delivery about a month later. Prices range from approximately \$150 to \$500 or more. Chickens are his most pop-

ular sculptures, but he also makes full size elk and deer, trophy heads, trees and just about anything a customer requests. His "Bugling Elk," a 10-foot-long, 8-foot-tall sculpture greets customers from atop the entrance to Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord.

"I did a Spartan helmet for a couple in Howell," he said. "It turned out awesome. I've done a sandhill crane, a cactus, trees, that kind of stuff."

A former salesman for Purina, Best started his own company, Best Outdoors, manufacturing planting and cultivating equipment in 2005. He splits his time between his business and his art.

The self-taught artist created his first sculpture out of a coat hanger for his son, who is now 32. The piece became a perennial "show and tell" item for all three of his children.

He considered moving on to larger pieces when he found barbed wire on his property, but the coils of rusty wire sat in his barn for eight years before he took needle nose

pliers to the material.

"People started saying, make me this, make me that. I had a lady ask if I could make a chicken," he said. "I made a chicken. It's gone on from there."

Best aims for realism in his pieces and works in facial features, muscles and movement.

"You're working with rusted barbed wire," he said. "You can't do fine features, but you can do general features."

He wears a leather vest and gloves and safety glasses when he works and says that aside from a few scratches, has never been injured by his work.

And no, he hasn't updated his tetanus vaccination in recent years, although he said he probably should.

View his work in person during the art fair or go to devilsropestudio.com. For more about Art in the Park, call 734-454-1314 or go to artinthepark.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

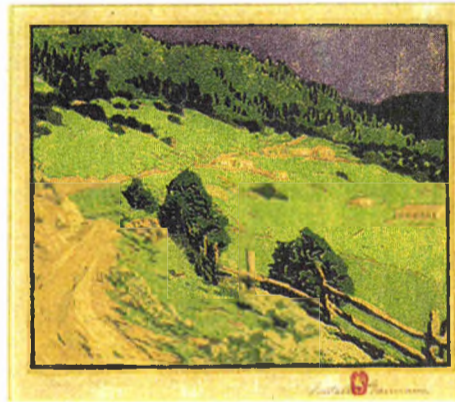
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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Food theft suspect calls his actions 'stupid'

A shoplifting suspect was "very apologetic" and called his actions "stupid" after being caught Sunday afternoon at the Kroger on Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon, police said.

The 54-year-old man had been caught outside the store with more than \$50 worth of groceries, including two steaks, steak sauce and hot dog buns, for which he hadn't paid, a Kroger security employee told police. The employee told police she had seen the man in the store, with merchandise in a handbasket, and recognized him from being shown his photograph because of a suspected shoplifting the night before.

The employee confronted the man outside and police were called. The suspect was

"very apologetic," according to the security employee, and told the officer that his actions had been "stupid" and also offered to pay for the food, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The man was issued a ticket for third-degree retail fraud.

Minivan break-in

A diaper bag worth \$80 was reported stolen Friday from a Chrysler Town and Country while the minivan was parked near the sprayscape at Plymouth Township Park.

The theft occurred between 5:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., the complainant told police. A window on the minivan had been broken out and the diaper bag taken from behind the front row of seats, a police report said. It was not reported what was contained in the bag.

The responding officer

noted that no other parked vehicles in the area that appeared to have been broken into.

Driving troubles

Marijuana and a bottle of vodka were found in a Ford F-150 pickup early Monday after the driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

The 18-year-old woman was stopped shortly after 2 a.m. after making a prohibited right turn on a red light at southbound I-275 and Ann Arbor Road, a police report said. Police found that her license had been suspended.

A search of the truck revealed suspected marijuana, which later tested positive, in a jar in the truck's center console, and a bottle of vodka under a seat, police said.

A 19-year-old female pas-

senger, who refused to be tested for alcohol consumption, was taken to the police station to arrange a safe ride home.

A Honda Accord driver clocked at more than 100 mph on eastbound M-14 at about 2:20 a.m. Monday was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

A township officer spotted the car near Beck and estimated its speed at 100 mph; radar registered it at 104 and then 105 mph, a police report said. The officer stopped the car near I-275 and arrested the driver; a 22-year-old woman who was a passenger was released.

Wheel thefts

Tires and wheels were stolen recently from at least two vehicles that were parked outside homes in the area of Ridge and Powell roads.

One incident took place on Pine Ridge Court and another on Pine Ridge, police reports said. Both vehicles — a GMC Yukon and a Ford Edge — were left sitting on landscaping blocks.

Both incidents were reported June 23.

iPhone theft

An iPhone and its case, said to be worth \$700, were reported stolen Saturday while its owner shopped at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road.

The woman told police she had used the phone in the store, a police report said, and put it in her purse, which was sitting in the shopping cart she was using. She later noticed the phone was gone, she told police.

— By Matt Jachman

Westland man charged in assault on flight attendant

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A 44-year-old Westland man was arrested Saturday and charged in connection with the sexual assault of an 18-year-old female flight attendant.



Parkman

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office confirmed Tuesday that Dwan Parkman was taken into custody Saturday and arraigned in 34th District Court on charges of criminal sexual conduct (first degree), criminal sexual conduct (third degree) and home invasion.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the victim was in her hotel room, in the 9500 block of Middlebelt, the evening of June 20, when she discovered a man in her room attacking her.

Parkman is alleged to have broken into the victim's room and sexually assaulted her.

Parkman was charged July 1 and taken into custody the following day.

Parkman received a \$500,000 cash/surety bond. He's been scheduled for a probable cause conference at 9 a.m. July 13; his preliminary examination is set for 10 a.m. July 20, according to Worthy's office.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Remember your pets during an emergency

I am 5 feet, 11 inches tall. I weigh 225 pounds and I work out most days to stay in shape and stay healthy.

I have a dog. My dog is a Yorkshire silky terrier who answers to the name of Stewie. Stewie is a small dog who smiles when he is excited, shakes a little when he is nervous, likes to sit on your lap when relaxing. He is a good little guy. I had my dog at the post one day and received several comments from several troopers such as, "Hey, I like your cat." Then there was, "Sarge, this is your dog? I just thought you would have a bigger dog — that's all." Like most pet owners, I love my dog. As I tell troopers all the time, it isn't the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the dog in the fight.

Why do I bring this up? You may or may not know that June was National Pet Preparedness Month. The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is encouraging Michiganders to create an emergency preparedness kit for their pets, to ensure complete family readiness dur-



Sgt. Michael Sura

ASK A TROOPER

ing an emergency disaster. We often overlook preparing for an emergency when it comes to our pets. Take a few moments to think about what you would do and where you would go with your pet during an emergency. We see videos all the time of people doing incredibly dangerous things to rescue their pet from danger. Most times pets are considered members of the family. The likelihood that Michigan residents and their pets will recover from an emergency tomorrow depends on the planning and preparation done today. More than half the households in the United States include pets, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

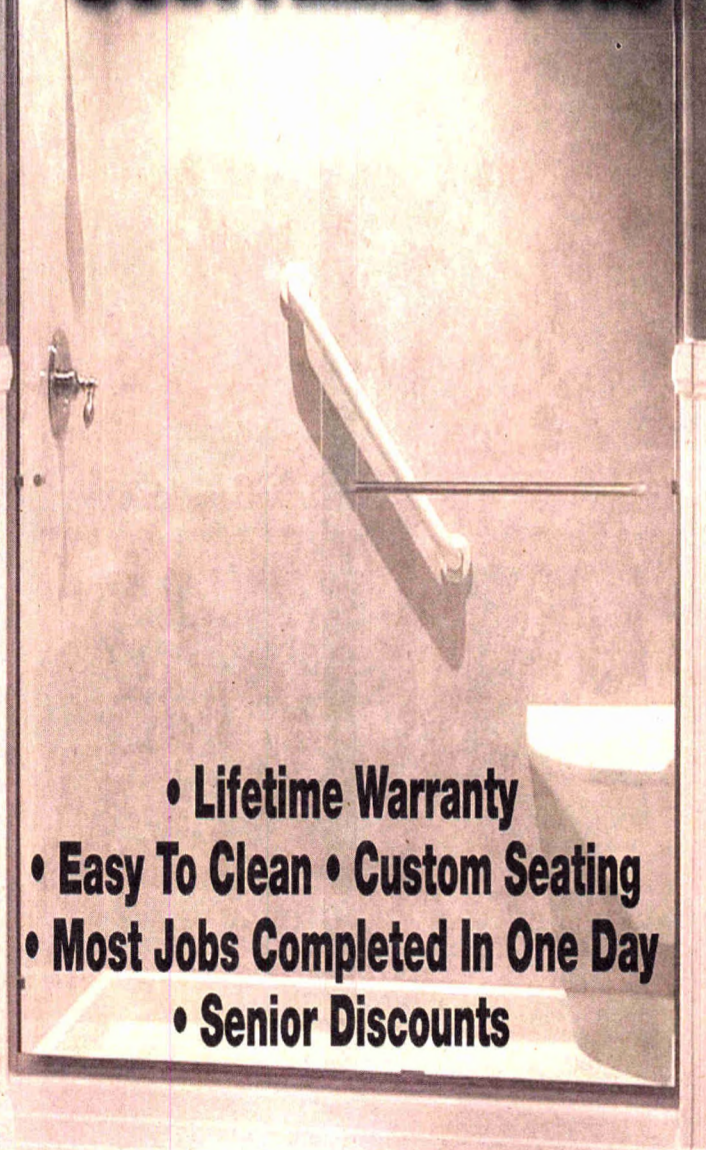
To create a pet preparedness kit, make sure the following items are readily available and in a safe location. Do you have extra food and water for your

pet? Do you have a leash and collar? Is the collar marked with emergency information in case you are separated? Make sure you have extra bowls in the kit to hold food and water. Keep a photo of your pet on hand to help identify your pet. Does your pet take medication or have special needs? You should always keep up to date immunization records for your pet as well. Keep a first-aid kit for your pet and make sure to have a list of hotels, veterinarians and out-of-town friends and family where you can go with your pet. Remember: Not all places let pets stay at their facilities. Have a pet carrier and keep a few toys for your pet to play with. No one likes to be bored, not even your pets.

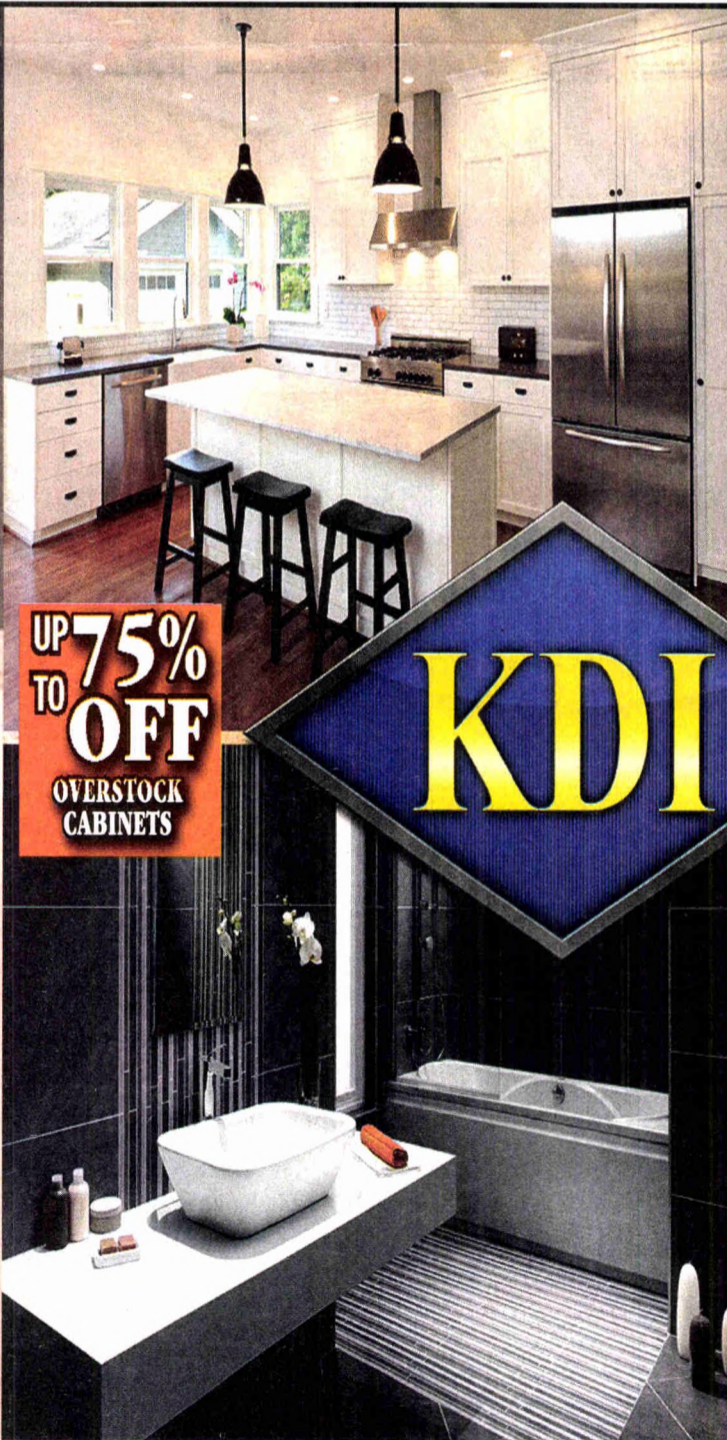
Remember one last thing, if you scratch a dog's belly, you will find a permanent job.

Email questions or comments to askatrooper12@gmail.com or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

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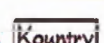
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Henry McIntire, 21 months old, eats a bagel while waiting for the parade to begin.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lady Liberty, on stilts.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
It takes talent to juggle, ride a unicycle and smile for a photo all at the same time.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Linda Luke of Plymouth waits through a train delay before the parade begins.



A Ford Fairlane with veterans eases on down Main Street.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parade rolls through Plymouth

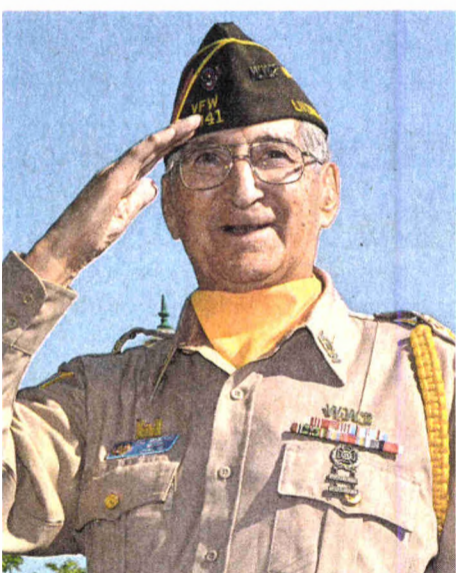


Polish Centennial Dancers were in the parade.

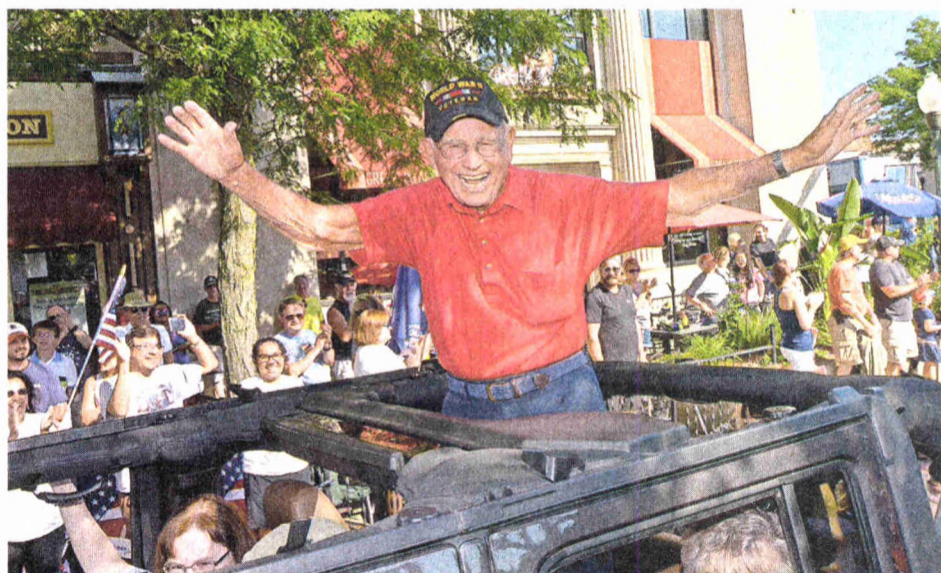
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Mies holds 7-month-old Josephine Mies. The Mies family, including mom Sarah and kids Max, 7, Penelope, 5, and Harrison, 3, are regulars at the parade.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
World War II veteran Joe Girolamo teaches flag etiquette in elementary schools when he's not riding in parades.



World War II veteran Gene Overholt.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Veteran Frank Gilbo leads the Vietnam veterans. Gilbo served in the U.S. Marines.



Sandy and Steve Marulis are Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Olive Lau is almost 2 years old. She will ride in her car seat, in grandpa David Lau's 1960 Thunderbird. David bought the car in 1967 for \$500.

Sample veggie dishes, try a beer float at local events

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

See a film, hear a discussion and sample food — all focused on vegetarianism — Sunday, July 10, at Zhong Shu Temple in Farmington Hills.

The second annual Green Day celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the temple, 23845 Middlebelt Road.

"We decided to make it an annual event and each year has a different focus," said Nancy Harris, a Southfield resident and temple member who is helping to coordinate the program. "Last year, we focused the environmental impact of consuming meat and, this year, we want to talk about health benefits of being vegetarian."

The temple will show portions of the documentary "Forks Over Knives" and vegetarians will be on hand to answer questions about living a healthier life by eating plant-based foods.

"We'll talk about the research done by the two medical doctors featured in the documentary and case studies where they focus on heart disease, high cholesterol, diabetes," she said.

Harris, who has a background in food inspection, will explain why she eats a plant-based diet. She'll offer a glimpse of what goes on "behind the scenes" in the food industry and will talk briefly about meat, poultry and fish.

Eating a plant-based diet is an important component of the Taoist philosophy, according to Rocky Chen, temple host.



Zong Shu Temple in Farmington Hills serves a vegetarian feast.

"Our focus is more physical," he said, referring to the Green Day event," but (vegetarianism) has significant impact to the mind and spirit as well. It is a holistic approach."

"It is important in showing compassion for all living beings," Harris said.

A vegetarian food sampling will cap the program.

RSVP by July 9 to michigantemple@yahoo.com. Call the temple at 248-579-4791; Chen at 734-890-2307; or email

Harris at rh427@aol.com. Here's a sampling of other tasty events:

Ice cream and cocktails

Farmington — Get a dessert martini, a beer float, ice cream with a twist or a plated dessert at Browndog Dessert Bar, which celebrates its grand opening at noon Thursday, July 7, at 33314 Grand River Ave. Paul Gabriel and Brian Scherle, who own Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar in Northville, focus on Michigan-made products,



Zhong Shu Temple's second annual Green Day will include a tasting of vegetarian foods.

"We decided to make it an annual event and each year has a different focus."

NANCY HARRIS
Southfield resident and temple member

such as Michigan beers and spirits, at their newest location. Browndog Dessert Bar features an appetizer menu and family-friendly ice cream and desserts, too.

Go to Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar (Farmington) on Facebook.

Say 'cheese ... and olives'

Plymouth — Take a bottle of Old World Olive Co. balsamic vinegar or olive oil on vacation, to the park, the pool, a picnic — the choice is yours. Snap a selfie with the product by Sept. 6 and you might win a basket of Old World Olive Co. products worth \$400 or a chef's cooking demonstration for you and 20 guests.

The company, which has locations in Birmingham, Grand Rapids and Rockford, in addition to downtown Plymouth, asks entrants to post photos on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and/or Twitter and comment, tag a friend and use the hashtag #owocyourfreshself. Go to theoldworldoliveco.com for information about the "Take us with You" selfie contest.



UNITED SHORE
United Shore employee Cristin Lazzaro leads the company's 3 o'clock dance party.

Five state companies make Fortune's top 100 best workplaces for millennials

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Oh, to be young again ... and gainfully employed.

United Shore is one of several companies in southeast Michigan that made Fortune magazine's list of the nation's top 100 best workplaces for Millennials in 2016. The list was based on a magazine survey of more than 88,000 Millennials (born 1981 or later) at more than 600 companies.

"Our top priority at United Shore is our people," company president Mat Ishbia said. "We know our team members are what make us a great company. That's why we place such an emphasis on promoting from within and creating an exciting and engaging culture."

Here's a few of the perks that United Shore employees get to enjoy:

- » Firm 40: Employees are encouraged to work hard for eight hours each day and then go home to friends and family.

- » The 3 o'clock dance party: Each Thursday, employees gather together and turn up the volume to re-energize on the dance floor.

- » "UBike" rentals: Employees can rent bicycles during their breaks, whether it's to grab lunch somewhere or simply get the blood pumping.

- » On-site gym: Employees have access to a state-of-the-art fitness center.

- » The company even

offers Starbucks coffee in the cafeteria.

Andrea Frank, 30, of Birmingham, said she found a perfect working environment at United Shore.

"Millennials like companies that promote work/life balance and provide things like flexibility, perks and opportunities to give back to the community," she said Wednesday.

Roughly 56 percent of United Shore's 1,600 employees call themselves Millennials. The company, headquartered in Troy, touts itself as the nation's largest wholesale mortgage lender.

"Millennials add to our focus on creating an engaging and exciting workplace because they bring a different energy," said Laura Lawson, the company's chief people officer. "They're a very hands-on group, so it encourages the rest of the team to rally behind those efforts."

Other local companies that made Fortune's top 100 include Quicken Loans in Detroit, Credit Acceptance in Southfield, Plante Moran in Southfield and Mercedes-Benz Financial Services in Farmington Hills.

Millennials are on track to become the most educated generation in American history, according to Pew Research. By 2025, they will account for 75 percent of the global workforce, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Hop aboard Canton's annual Grub Crawl scheduled for July 19

Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority will be co-hosting the 15th annual Grub Crawl 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. This event is open to the public and participants must be ages 21 or older.

In honor of the 15th anniversary, each participant will have a chance to win a Grub Crawl T-shirt quilt. New this year, there will be a Grub Crawl Cash Cab that will not only take you from one restaurant destination to the next, but will

also feature trivia and cash prizes.

The Grub Crawl is an opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their cuisine as well as promote Canton's diversity while having fun. Major sponsors include A+ Dentistry, Approved Mortgages, Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc., Jade Child Development, Olympia Group LLC, Schoolcraft College and Mannik & Smith Group.

"This event is definitely a community favorite. Being that this is the 15th anniversary of this

event, we are adding some fun new opportunities, so we are very excited," said Thomas Paden, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets (T-shirts) are \$35 each and include transportation to and from participating restaurants; they can be purchased at the chamber office. T-shirt sizes are limited and tickets are selling fast. You can purchase tickets online at cantonchamber.com. You can also call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 734-453-4040.

Plymouth man tapped as vice chair for aging agency

A Plymouth resident is among three new appointments to the executive board of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

Andrew Hetzel was chosen as first vice chair, a position he will have for two years. A new chairperson and first and second vice chairpersons were also chosen this week.

Hetzel has served on the AAA 1-B Board of Directors since 2006. He serves on the governance committee and previously served as second vice chairperson. He is vice president of



Hetzel

corporate communications at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. He has previously served in executive and leadership roles in several public relations agencies and in state government in Michigan and New York. Selected as chair is Karen Winttingham and Peter Lichtenberg as second vice chair.

"We are so grateful for the hard work of the

previous executive board chairperson, Amin Irving," AAA 1-B CEO Tina Abbate Marzolf said. "He has been a gracious and generous leader. He is leaving the board in the capable hands of three long-time members."

AAA 1-B is governed by the Board of Directors and Advisory Council and members meet regularly. These meetings are open to the general public. For more information, contact the executive services manager at 800-852-7795.

Fire service a family service at the Plymouth station

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Rachel and Kevin Allen of Livonia are veterans of the fire service. They work together at the Plymouth Fire Station, part of the Northville City Fire Department.

"I grew up in a firehouse," said Kevin, whose dad is a retired firefighter. "I'm second generation." Their son Zach Willey, 15, who'll be a sophomore this fall at Livonia Churchill High School, is in the Fire Explorers program.

The couple has children ages 9 and 1, too. Kevin said: "It's an interesting dynamic, to say the least. Sometimes it's a changing of the guard, so to speak." Rachel added, "We're always on the go."

Zach wants a fire service career. "He hasn't really known anything else. Fire trucks and ambulances, that's mom's office," Karen said.

She's also a stay-at-home mom to their youngest; many of the paid, on-call department's firefighters have day jobs, Capt. Jim Davison explained.

"Pretty much all of them" have day jobs, noted Davison, who works with son Matt Davison, 24, of Salem at the station in downtown Plymouth. "And then there's us retired guys who are here all the time." The department serves the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

Teamwork at work, home

Firefighting's truly in the family with the Allens, along with three father-son teams of firefighters based at the Plymouth station. Another husband and wife team, Capt. Greg and Karen Westfall, is based at the Northville station.

Karen joined around 2000, Greg has 11 years in. "She has seniority over me, but I have the

rank," said a smiling Greg Westfall, who has 41 years in the fire service. "There's a different boss at home," he said with a laugh.

The Westfalls of Plymouth have been married nearly 36 years and have three grown children and two grandchildren. "I don't have to call him sir," Karen said with a smile. "It's his job. Just listen to what he says and trust in his judgment."

Kevin Allen said of his family, "We make sure we have that family time." He appreciates flexibility on vacations, "especially with this being a paid, on-call department."

Adam Rice, 23, of Canton works with dad Capt. Scott Rice. Adam is a senior studying psychology at Wayne State University and an EMT. He hopes to become a physician's assistant.

"He keeps me on my toes a little extra," Adam said of his dad. "It's really good to work with him. I like it a lot. It's a great opportunity to serve the community. I get to make a difference," added Adam, who started with the department in May.

Dad Lt. Scott Rice of Canton said, "Oh, I love it. It's exciting. We commute to work together. This was all his decision; very proud."

Dad Dave Tabaka works at the station with son Kyle Tabaka, 31, of Plymouth. "It's kind of neat," Dave said. "It's really a nice thing to have my son doing the same thing I've enjoyed for so many years."

Kyle noted his dad had recently retired from his own business where they'd worked together, so being on the job together isn't entirely new.

"He's been doing it my whole life," Kyle said of his firefighter dad. "I have the passion to do it. I like helping people," added Kyle, on the job about 2½ years.

Jim Davison also has an older son, Bryan



TOM BEAUDOIN

Families are common at the Northville City Fire Department's Plymouth station, both husband-and-wife teams and fathers and sons.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Karen Westfall and husband Capt. Greg Westfall have a combined 56 years serving the community.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Firefighter Matt Davison follows in the footsteps of his father, longtime firefighter/EMT, Capt. Jim Davison. The elder Davison also has another son in Tennessee in the fire service.

Swanson, in Tennessee who became a fireman later in life. He's proud of Matt and Bryan.

Matt is in school for basic EMT and is a firefighter. "I like it," said Matt, a Salem resident. "It's been my dream ever since a kid to work alongside him. I get to go on runs at my leisure. When I'm not working my day job, I generally respond to anything I can."

Women on the job, too

Karen Westfall and Rachel Allen agree more women are choosing the

fire service. Karen joked about the time she responded to a fire call and had to suit up — in a dress.

"I always lift with my legs," Rachel Allen said. "God gave us hips for a reason" beyond childbirth.

jbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie

TOM BEAUDOIN

NCFD members Kyle Tabaka and father Dave are from Plymouth.



TOM BEAUDOIN

It's a family affair as husband-and-wife team firefighter/EMTs Kevin and Rachel Allen of Livonia along with son Zach Willey (front) who is a Fire Explorer and wants to follow in his family's footsteps serving the community. Zach Willey will be a sophomore at Livonia Churchill High School in the fall and is 15.

Family time at fire department? 'It just ended up that way'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Capt. Jim Davison of the Northville City Fire Department's Plymouth station is proud of his firefighter sons.

"Very, very proud," Davison said. "The decisions were theirs." He pulls out a cellphone photo of son Matt Davison, 24, a Salem resident, with the Northville department at a nearby training burn. Also in the photo is a 44-year-old son (and brother) who hails from Tennessee.

"He got bitten by the bug," Jim Davison said of his older son, Bryan Swanson, training for firefighting and EMT work, which he now does paid-on call for a Tennessee fire service. "He's an auto mechanic by trade." His older son's decision "kind of made me feel good."

Matt Davison is now in Huron Valley's EMT course and finished the fire academy at Van Buren late last year. He came on board with the

NCFD in May.

Families are common in the Northville City Fire Department's Plymouth station ranks. Husband and wife Kevin and Rachel Allen are both firefighters and emergency medical technicians and have a teenage son in Fire Explorers.

The Plymouth station also has three father-son teams, including the Davisons. Dave Tabaka is a firefighter/emergency first responder who works with firefighter son Kyle Tabaka.

Lt. Scott Rice is a firefighter/emergency first responder based in Plymouth with son Adam Rice, an emergency medical technician. In addition, the NCFD's Northville station has another husband-and-wife team, Capt. Greg Westfall and Karen Westfall. Both are firefighters and EMTs.

Jim Davison, who spent 34 years with the Canton Fire Department where he started in 1971, handles administrative support for the down-

town Plymouth station during weekday business hours.

Jim Davison noted firefighters often worked with family, a historic occurrence. "Today, it's a little different," he said. "It's more technical, more requirements to hold a job in the fire service. You've got to do firefighting and EMS."

Scheduling vacations is no big deal with all those families. "This kind of operation, it doesn't matter," Davison said, noting some 30 people on the station roster. "That's not a problem."

Families weren't actively recruited. "It just ended up that way," Davison said, noting the Westfalls have been on the firefighting circuit in the region, with Greg Westfall a 41-year firefighting veteran. Their son was in the fire service and has moved on to other career options, Davison said of the couple.

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July 15	Althea René	Super Bowl- in the Purple Block Ford between Canton Center & Sheldon	
July 22	Lin Rountree	Home Depot- in the Orange Block Ford & Lotz	
July 29	Randy Scott	JC Penney- in the Green Block Ford between Morton Taylor & Sheldon	
August 5	Penny Wells	Home Depot- in the Orange Block Ford & Lotz	
August 12	Tim Bowman	Super Bowl- in the Purple Block Ford between Canton Center & Sheldon	

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Black Rock Bar & Grill- 734-927-7800	Somer Restaurant- 734-667-3230
Bombay Wraps- 734-667-3312	Subway- 734-981-7300
Canton Pita- 734-451-4411	TGI Friday's "In Here It's Always Friday!"- 734-254-0442
Chili's- 734-844-9050	Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery- 734-844-0777
Genova Grill Oven Pizza- 734-667-4972	Thai Bistro- 734-416-2122
Hayden's Brick and Bar- 734-895-3388	Toarina's Pizza- 734-981-0060
Jersey Mike's Subs- 734-844-2121	Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza- 734-404-5484
Leo's Coney Island- 734-981-5483	

In the event of inclement weather, all concerts will be held indoors at Super Bowl 45100 Ford Rd.

Visit ShopCanton.org and rainedout.com Canton Jazz for updates and details.

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LETTERS

Mental health funding required

My husband received another devastating phone call about yet another tragic heroin death. The mourning family needed a reference. They wanted custody of the young children of their now dead, adult child. We've received calls of anguish like this too many times. We've attended too many funerals and watched families destroyed from this growing tragedy. This particular case stemmed from a lifelong struggle of mental illness. The family did everything in their power to try to help over many years, while struggling with their own illness, only to lose even more.

The National Bureau of Economic Research reports that there is a definite connection between mental illness and the use of addictive substances. Many people with mental illnesses try to medicate the mental health symptoms that they find disruptive or uncomfortable, by using alcohol and drugs. Street heroin is cheap and quick — and, unfortunately, too plentiful in our neighborhoods — in all of our cities and towns.

Mental illness affects one in five adults in the U.S., one in five youths ages 13-18 and the estimate for children ages 8-15 is 13 percent. We only need to look around to see the outcome of mental illness — heroin overdoses, mass shoot-

ings, homicides, veteran PTSD and homelessness, among others. Left untreated, mental illness can spread "like a cancer" throughout families, neighborhoods, communities and society. Statistics show that many do go untreated; the majority are our minority communities.

Mental illness in this country has to continue to be faced and funded immediately. From 2014-15, block grants for community mental health and substance abuse prevention were decreased by Congress. This trend has to be reversed.

Communication is very important in every aspect of our relationships with others, but it is especially important to talk to your family and loved ones about substance abuse. Narconon (Narcotics Anonymous) recommends that family and friends do their homework. Learn what drugs today's youth are being offered or seeing other people use. This can be found at the Monitoring the Future Report at www.monitoringthefuture.org/ or at <http://www.narconon.org/drug-information/>. Encourage those with mental illnesses to get help by offering them information as to where to get help — including Narcotics Anonymous and Alanon meetings. Understanding that many people are also struggling with mental illness will hopefully help to prevent more of these tragic deaths that change lives

forever.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak
Canton

Incumbents must follow law

In April, Plymouth Township chief building official Mark Lewis sent a friendly letter to all candidates in this election reminding them that there are township laws governing political signs and asking for voluntary compliance. Those laws include a ban against large signs, as well as prohibitions against placing signs in the public rights of way — the zones along the roadway that buffer the road from the adjacent landowners. Violating the law is a misdemeanor that carries a \$500 fine. Mr. Lewis, who has responsibility for ordinance enforcement, reports to Supervisor Price.

Until a few days ago, all candidates complied with the request. Then signs supporting the current officeholders sprouted all over the place, on public property and on nearly every roadway — the law was broken more than 50 times — all by incumbents, not one by a challenger.

I doubt most people care that much and I don't know that I really do. They are throwaway signs, is it that big of a deal?

Well, yes it is. Elected officials should set the standard. Never, ever, ever should they willfully and intentionally break the law and never should they force their subordinates into the untenable position of having to choose between pleasing their boss and breaking the law.

It undermines the entire body of local law that governs the township. A business or indi-

WRITE US

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Canton and Plymouth Observers, 29725 Hudson Drive, Novi, MI 48377

Fax: 248-668-4547

Email: jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

vidual who has a run in with an elected official and later finds themselves on the short end of the selective enforcement stick now has a credible case of retaliation, leaving only the question as to how big the settlement check will be. How can you enforce a law against me when you don't enforce the law when it comes to your own officials? If the law is unconstitutional or otherwise bad, then change the law, but don't thumb your nose at it.

Further, it is incredibly disrespectful to township employees — police officers and building officials alike. Employees are put in a no-win position. Follow your legal duty, enforce the law and anger your bosses or please your bosses and ignore your legal duty. No employer should ever put an employee in that position, ever. Yours wouldn't.

Please remind your favorite candidates that you expect them to remember they are not above the law, now and after the election — win, lose or draw.

Bob Doroshewitz
Plymouth Township

An extraordinary community

We often forget how thankful we are to be part of the Plymouth community. It is truly an incredible place to live.

We were reminded of just how incredible during this year's Independence Day celebrations. On the eve of the celebration of our forefathers' Declaration of Independence, we enjoyed a spectacular fireworks show in Plymouth Township Park, now nine years running, thanks to the hard work and fundraising efforts of township Treasurer Ron Edwards. While Edwards would say it is the sponsors who should be thanked, it is Ron Edwards who makes it happen.

On the morning of the Fourth, we enjoyed the always inspiring and entertaining Good Morning U.S.A. Parade with downtown Plymouth its stage. Scott Kappler inherited the job from Fred Hill. Don't know if Mr. Hill saw the parade this year; if he did, I expect he is proud that the tradition carries on in such an exemplary fashion.

Later in the day, we enjoyed the Good Old Fashioned Picnic at Plymouth Township Park, which was also started by Ron Edwards (and his family) 20 years ago. Now organized by Kelly Latawiec and husband Dave, the venue's picnickers gobbled up 6,000-plus hotdogs and lots of pop, chips and ice cream while enjoying games, park amenities, a Traverse City Pie Co. pie-eating contest, face painting and live music.

Regrettably, we missed the free concert in Kellogg Park the preceding weekend. The Michigan Philharmonic

offered up "An American Salute" — a tribute to our nation, our armed forces and our shared values. Heard the park was packed.

We are thankful to be part of this extraordinary community and for all the folks who make it so.

Dan Herriman and
Mary Ann Prchlik
Plymouth

Encouraged by new candidates

I have been a resident of Plymouth Township for more than 30 years and have served the township on the Board of Review and, more recently, on the Compensation Committee.

When we voted on the current compensation levels for our elected officials, it was with the intention of attracting candidates with the necessary skill sets to govern the township. I reminded those present at the vote that we were evaluating positions, not individuals, and that performance reviews are accomplished through the ballot box.

I am encouraged by the new candidates that have been attracted to run for the various offices — they give us some great alternatives from which to choose in the primary election. I am looking forward to electing trustees that will not only show up for every meeting, but have an independent "citizen first" mindset.

Criticizing the current members at board meetings seems to be falling on deaf ears. The ballot box will speak loud and clear. I encourage you to research the candidates and vote for those who will work to make Plymouth an aspirational community once again.

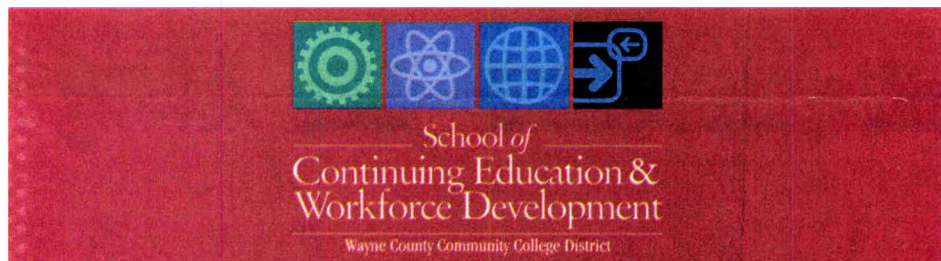
Randy Jost
Plymouth

CANTON OBSERVER

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Joanne Maliszewski,
Community editor

Jani Hayden,
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Danger zone: On the front line of I-275 construction

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Jeff Mack is working this summer anywhere from eight to 16 hours a day, six or seven days a week, in a dangerous job that affects hundreds of thousands of people.

He is joined by a few hundred others, not in an air-conditioned office, but in blistering heat, sometimes rain and with dirt, concrete and impatient, frustrated motorists in abundance.

Mack is a senior transportation technician for the Michigan Department of Transportation and, this summer, his assignment is to inspect work done by contractors on the Interstate 275 rehabilitation project spanning from Five Mile Road to the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange. The project includes 13 miles of distance north and south, some 144 lane miles, in Novi, Farmington Hills and Livonia, said Diane Cross, MDOT communications representative.

"The biggest challenge is to get this opened as quickly as possible. We recognize the inconvenience to everybody," Mack said. "But at the same time, we need to make sure the best quality product is out there."

Lots of traffic

I-275 is among the busiest stretches of road in Michigan because it is the only major north-south route for that area and as such carries 200,000 vehicles per day on average, Cross said. Detours to local roads that take north-south routes are not designed for the same quantity of freeway traffic, leading to frustration from drivers in an already hazardous situation for construction workers.

"Thousands of pounds of metal, steel and glass



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Mack, senior transportation technician for MDOT and a project leader of the I-275 reconstruction, takes an air pressure entrainment near one of the site's two concrete making facilities. Mack and other engineers have to test the air pressure in the concrete mixture several times a day to make sure it can cure properly. Mack works seven days a week and has only had one full day off in the last 50.

are driving right near you at high speeds, which is why when we can close and contain it, it's much safer for workers so they don't have to worry about drivers," Cross said. "Almost every day, a driver crashes in a work zone area — hitting a barrel, a sign, or truck. ... People send me pics on Twitter that they take while driving, and they say, 'Why am I in a slow-down?' They feel protected in their safe bubble of a vehicle, with air bags and brakes while driving at a high speed next to someone who only has a construction barrel. Then there are the stories of vehicles hitting construction workers. Fortunately, we haven't had one of those in a long time."

Helping to prevent such a tragedy was closure of the southbound lanes of I-275, which reopened Friday, while northbound lanes are closing as the project is 50-percent completed.

Still dangerous

Even with closed lanes, construction zones remain dangerous for Mack as well as other workers as they walk back and forth in a zone filled with heavy equipment and materials.

"Toebe, the prime contractor, has an excellent safety program in place and we've had zero injuries so far," Mack said. "Our No. 1 goal is to go home safe."

Toward that end, all the workers on the I-275



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction workers toil in the 90-degree plus temperatures June 20 to properly set and smooth recently poured concrete on I-275 near the 10 Mile overpass. The site has somewhere between 100 and 200 workers on the project seven days a week.

project wear personal protection equipment, including hard hats, protective vests, safety glasses, work boots and ear plugs.

Mack, 37, has worn the gear for his entire career with MDOT, which spans 15 years. He earned his degree in engineering technology from Eastern Michigan University and chose this career path after spending a summer in a co-op program and "falling in love with it."

Many duties

As a senior technician, his primary focus is to inspect the contractors' work in the field, document their activities, do testing and ensure the best quality products are being placed on the job, including 13 inches of concrete on a correctly pitched base.

Everything you see, he explained, has a design elevation. Once concrete is in place, the next step is curing the concrete, which includes a time frame where no one is driving or touching it as it strengthens. Curing can take anywhere from two to seven days after being placed and there are no workers out

during that time. There must also be relief cuts to the pavement, as concrete will always crack, and those are deliberately placed.

The inspectors are on-site as long as the contracted construction workers are on-site and they are out there rain or shine, he added. If weather prevents one job, such as laying concrete, they do another, such as removing it.

After 15 years and more than a hundred projects, Mack still likes all aspects of his work, including the variability, the challenges, his colleagues and meeting new people. He takes pride in

a job well done.

"As a taxpaying citizen myself, it brings me a lot of joy that when I leave a project, I know it was built with the highest quality and effort I could put into it," Mack said.

He knows construction is frustrating for drivers and the married father of two wants motorists to know he shares that frustration, but he also hopes they will be patient, be aware, be safe and slow down.

"My end goal is to get home each day," said Mack. "Help me get there."

sbromley@hometownlife.com

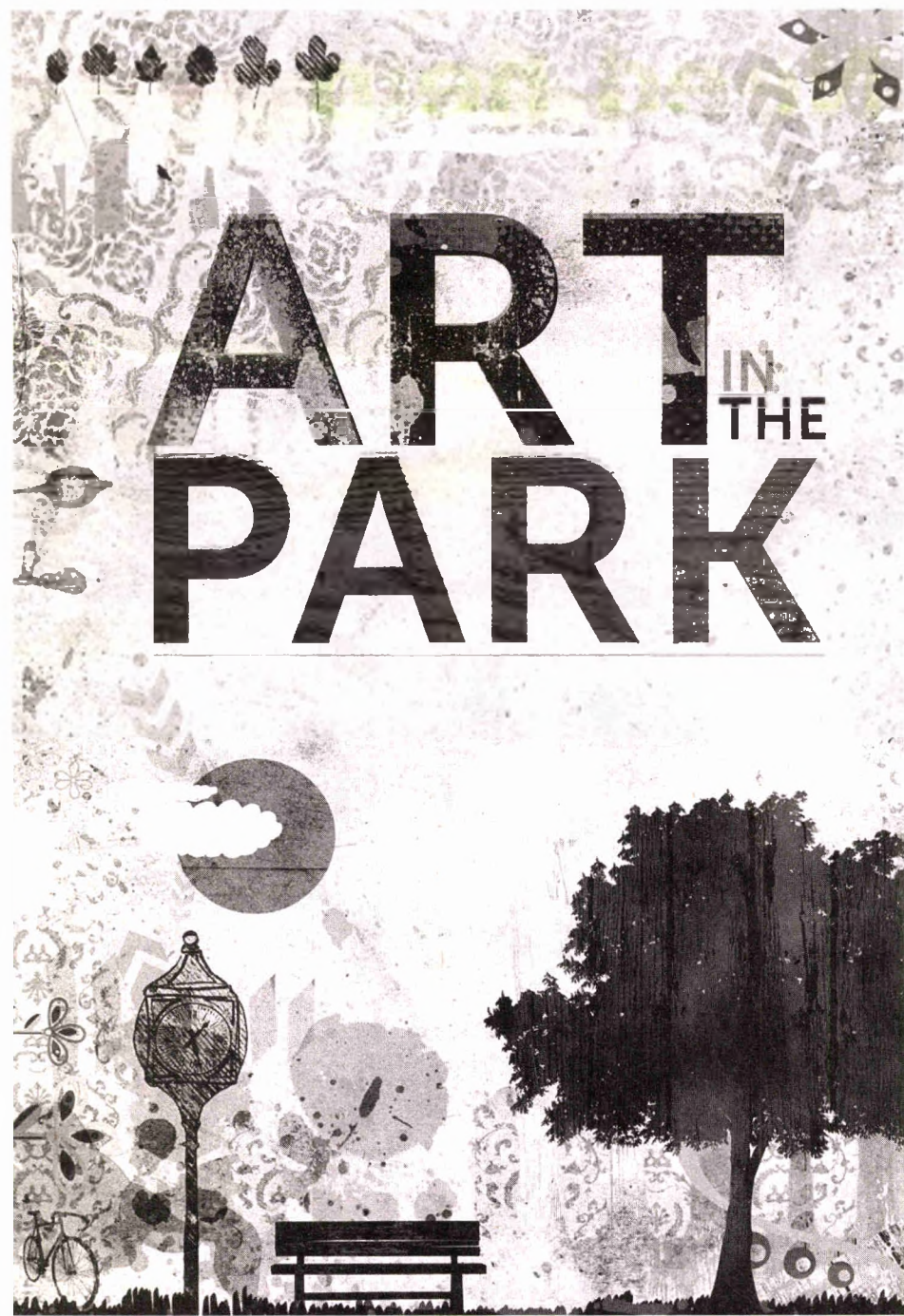
NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 2016 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due **July 1, 2016** and payable through **August 10, 2016** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library. For additional payment options, please check the City website @ ci.plymouth.mi.us.

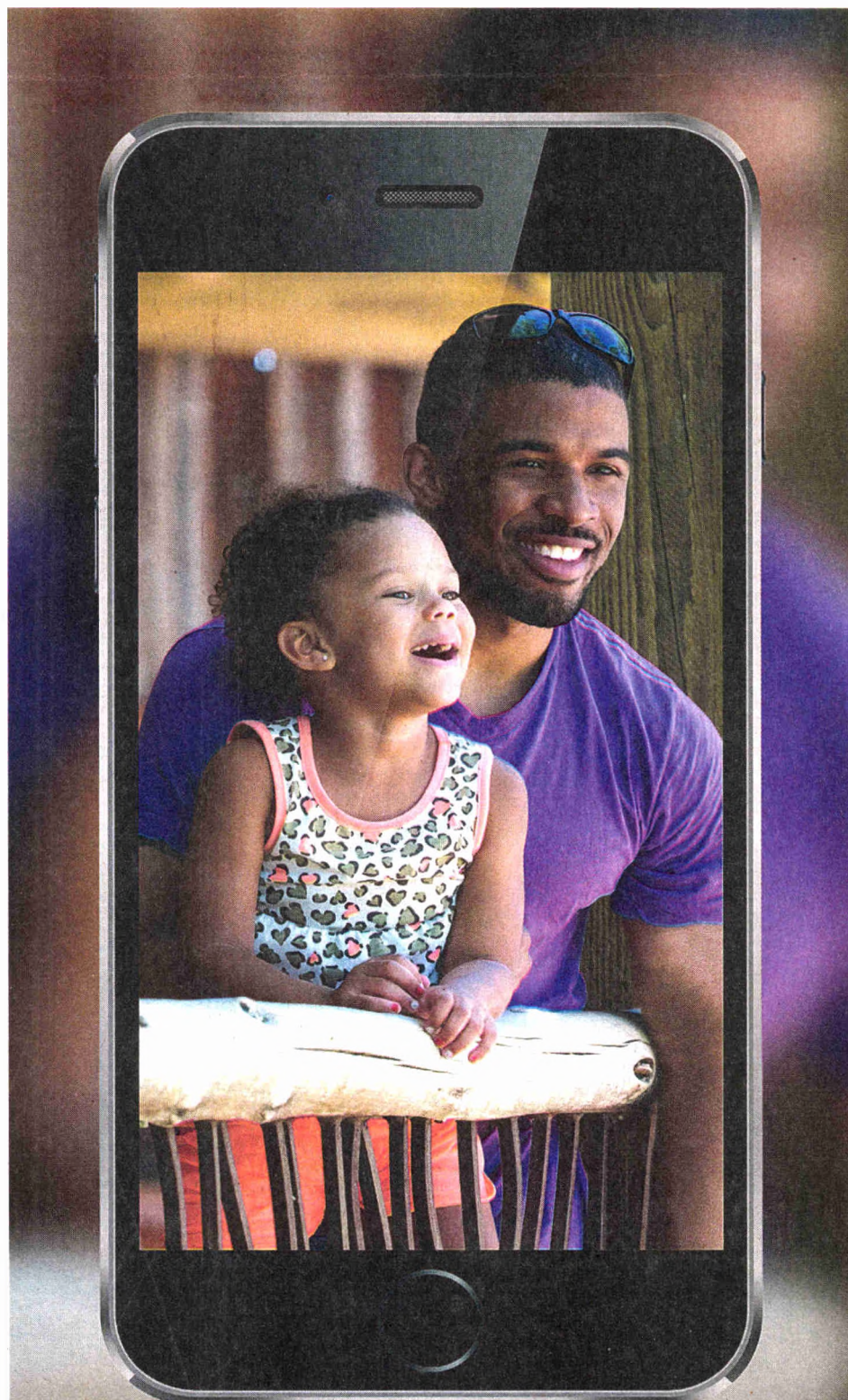
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City Treasurer

Published: July 3 & 7, 2016

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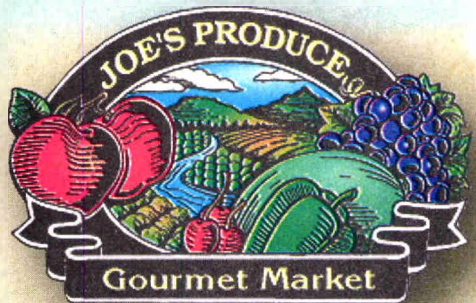


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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

New coach Rust knows North soccer

Former JV mentor promoted to coach boys varsity team

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

The changeover to a new head coach was a smooth and seamless transition for the North Farmington High School boys varsity soccer program.

Erika Rust, who served as the JV coach the previous three years, has been promoted to the top job and replaces Mike Horner as the team's new mentor.

Furthermore, she will be coaching many of the players she coached previously at the JV level.

"The familiarity is definitely a bonus," Rust said, adding

the North JV won city and league championships the past two years. "We had a pretty successful run as far as JV programs go.

"Prior to coaching the boys team, I volunteered with them. I did a lot of coaching in various clubs and camps that allowed me to coach both boys and girls."

Rust, who has taught English at the school for 14 years, has been the girls JV coach for three years, too, and will continue in that role.

Horner, who retired at the end of last season after a seven-year run as the boys head coach and 35 years of coaching girls and boys soccer at

North, was an incredible mentor to her, Rust said.

"He was very encouraging in terms of preparing me to take over once he did decide to retire," she said. "He was very encouraging and optimistic in my ability to transition with the program and continue to help build the program in the right way."

In addition to assessing the ability of players, a key aspect of coaching is being able to gauge their personalities and how they will react to different coaching styles, Rust said.

"Guys and girls respond to coaching techniques a little



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Coach Erika Rust exchanges high-fives with players after a North Farmington girls soccer victory.

See RUST, Page B2

STEPPING UP



Matt Windle (left) is taking over as athletic director at Plymouth Christian Academy from Nathan Yates (right), who becomes the school's new assistant principal.

MATT QUEST

New PCA athletic director Windle all about helping student-athletes reach potential

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For Matt Windle, there is no reason congratulating him for having an ambitious career plan and the energetic drive to match it.

Just 23 years old, Windle's penchant for making quick and timely

moves on the chess board of life is all about his strong religious faith — with some family encouragement, of course. The 2011 Livonia Churchill grad already has a college degree in his pocket along with several years coaching basketball at Plymouth Christian Academy.

And now, Windle is taking over as

PCA athletic director (from Nathan Yates) while continuing to be head coach of the Eagles' varsity boys basketball team. His dad, Rod, happens to coach girls basketball and track at the Canton school.

"Someone asked me the other day

See WINDLE, Page B3

THE WINDLE FILE

Who: Matt Windle, 23, Plymouth resident and 2011 graduate of Livonia Churchill. His parents are Leanne and Rod Windle, the latter a Churchill teacher and PCA coach.

What: He recently was named athletic director at Plymouth Christian Academy. **Background:** Windle was a four-sport athlete at Churchill (football, basketball, baseball, track) who then earned a degree in sports management at Eastern Michigan University.

Busy commute: While going to EMU, Windle coached junior varsity boys and girls basketball at PCA. After graduating from Eastern in 2015, he coached Plymouth Christian's varsity boys basketball team. He plans to continue coaching the Eagles, even with his new position.

GIRLS SOCCER

U17 Michigan Hawks make national final four

Local talent pool fuels run to Maryland tourney

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With a star-studded cast featuring several area players, the Michigan Hawks Under-17 girls soccer team is headed this weekend to Germantown, Md., and will be among four teams competing in the Elite Club National League finals.

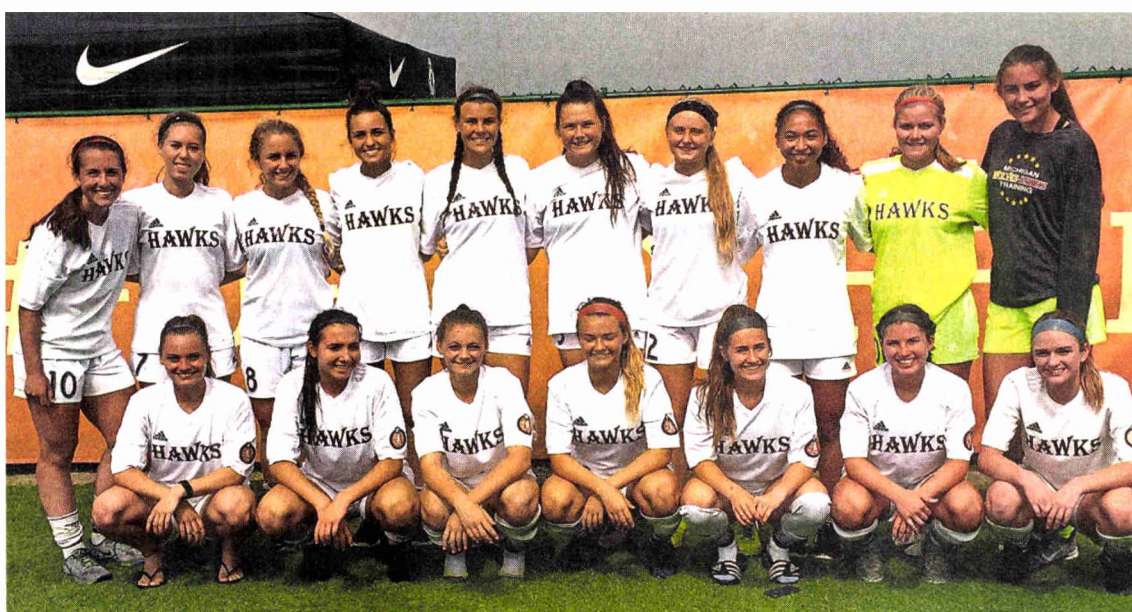
The Hawks — coming off a 2-0 win over SC Del Sol to cap

a 4-0 run recently in the Oceanside, Calif., qualifying tournament — are coached by former Detroit Rockers player Doug Landefeld.

The remaining teams in the field are all from California, including the San Diego Surf, Slammers FC and the De Anza Force FC, who the Hawks defeated earlier this season, 1-0.

"It should be good. We know them all pretty well. It should be fun," Landefeld said.

See HAWKS, Page B3



JULIE WILLERER
The U17 Michigan Hawks are headed to the Elite Club National League finals this weekend in Germantown, Md.

JUNIOR GOLF

Dales makes the cut for U.S. Junior Am tourney

Northville standout nips Canton's Piot to gain one of two qualifying spots

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Jimmy Dales calls qualifying for the U.S. Junior Amateur "right at the top" as far as his young golf career goes.

Dales, who will be a junior this fall at Northville High School, garnered one of the two spots qualifying berths when he tied Carter Cook of Cornelius, N.C., for medalist honors with a 36-hole total of 147 on June 28 at Medina (Ohio) Country Club.

Dales carded rounds of 73-74, while Cook went 76-71 for a 3-over score.

"I was making a lot of clutch par putts, really saved my strokes gained," Dales said. "I was hitting the ball really well off the tee. (Medina C.C.) was playing pretty difficult. It was a very windy, tough to play 36."

Dales was able to hold off Canton native James Piot, who finished fifth last month at the MHSAA Division 1 state finals and helped Novi Detroit Catholic Central win its second straight team state title.

Piot, who will be a U.S. Amateur alternate along with



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jimmy Dales, who will be a junior at Northville High, has earned a spot in the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, July 18-23 in Ooltewah, Tenn.

Connor Quigley (Dayton, Ohio), was already in the clubhouse with 75-73-148 when Dales approached the 18th hole.

"I was in the last group coming in and he was watching me three-putt out," Dales said. "I looked at the leader board and saw that I just needed a bogey to get in."

The U.S. Junior Amateur will be July 18-23 in Ooltewah, Tenn. The Honors Course,

which is hosting for the first time, is a par-72, 7,301-yard layout designed by Pete Dye.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Dales said. "It's a really difficult course. It ranks 31st as far as best courses in the country. Real excited to go down there and give it a shot."

The tournament, featuring two rounds of stroke play before going to match play, has a rich history, featuring past winners such as Johnny Miller

(1964), David Duval (1989), Tiger Woods (1991-93), Hunter Mahan (1999) and Jordan Spieth (2009, 2011).

"I'm going to have to play really well to get into the match play," Dales said.

It will be a busy summer for Dales, who is entered in the Coca-Cola Championship at Boyne Highlands, a three-day stroke play event sponsored by the American Junior Golf Association that begins Tuesday.

Dales will also play in the AJGA Junior Tom Holzer event, Aug. 8-11 at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills. He also plans to qualify or perhaps receive an exemption to the 38th Michigan Junior Amateur Championship, Aug. 22-25 at Point O'Woods Golf & Country Club in Benton Harbor.

Dales performed well this spring for the Northville varsity team, which placed 12th at the MHSAA Division 1 state finals. He was runner-up at the KLAA Kensington Conference and KLAA Association tournaments and was seventh at the district and 12th at the regional.

At the state finals, held at Grand Valley State University's The Meadows, Dales shot 78-84 for a two-day total of 162.

"I had a very solid regular season," Dales said. "I had a couple mental mistakes at states and didn't play very well."

Dales, a three-sport athlete

for the Mustangs, will play varsity tennis in the fall and hockey in the winter.

But being on the links is his first passion.

"Golf is No. 1. I try and fit the other two the best I can," Dales said.

Girls Junior Amateur

At the 38th Michigan Girls Junior Amateur, held June 27-30 at Michigan State University's Forest Akers (West Course), Flushing's Kerrigan Parks defeated Ann Arbor's Jami Laude, 2 and 1, for the overall title.

In the round of 16, South Lyon's Priscilla Harding, who finished fourth in stroke play, eliminated Allison Cui, 2-up, before losing to Laude in the quarterfinals, 2 and 1.

Laude also ousted Harding's sister Elizabeth in the round of 16, 6 and 5.

Meanwhile, the 15-and-under title was won by Brighton's Heather Fortushniak, who topped Macomb Township's Arielle Chang, 3 and 2.

In the semifinals, Fortushniak beat Savannah Haque 2 and 1, while Chang beat Northville's Abigail Livingston, 1-up.

Livingston, who will be a junior at Novi High School, finished third in stroke play and won her opening round match against Karina VanDuijn, 6 and 5.

bemons@hometownlife.com
bemons1@twitter.com

Silver medal for United



Farmington United was the runner-up in the U12 Division 2 of the Western Suburban Soccer League during the spring season with a 5-1-2 record. "The boys played some tough competition and had some close games," coach Laura Litfin said. "They improved throughout the season as a team." Team members are (kneeling, from left) Waris Khan, James Turner, Brian Rice, Daniel Green, Kevin Kyles, Pablo Benito and Dominic Kendrick and (standing, from left) Litfin, Cameron Woods, Cameron Wright, Santiago Uribe Guiza, Trustin Christopher, Malachi Mealey, Aidan Bard Kuhl, Ryan Esker and coach Don McDougall.

MICHIGAN PUBLINX SENIOR GOLF

Locals among winners at Publinx tourney

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Local golfers won respective flights June 25 at the Michigan Publinx Seniors Golf Association tournament at Washtenaw Golf Club in Ypsilanti.

Grabbing first-place honors were Canton's Kevin Schaum and Livonia's Frank Noble.

Schaum won Flight B, regis-

tering a 14-over 80 while Noble's 93 tally earned a share of the top spot in Flight D.

Prevailing with low rounds of the day were Michael Horn of Allen Park and Fritz Reifert of Ypsilanti, each tallying 74s.

The competition at Washtenaw Golf Club was the sixth of 16 tourneys and it produced 22 winners from a handicapped field of 109 players ages 50 and

over from 16 southeastern Michigan communities.

For more information about Publinx, visit www.mpsga.org or call (734) 207-7888.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

RUST

Continued from Page B1

differently," she said. "Some kids need that very forthright push. They want you to call them out. Others would prefer a talk off to the side.

"That's one of the things I value about coaching is being able to read my players and push individuals to reach their potential based on how I think they'll react to different coaching techniques."

Rust's area of expertise is goalkeeping, having played that position for four years at the University of Detroit Mercy and Sterling Heights Stevenson High School before that.

Her background gives her a unique perspective on the game and will continue to work to her advantage as a coach.

"When you see the whole field the way a goalkeeper has

to and you have to communicate with and direct teammates, you see how the play develops and things you can do a little differently," Rust said.

The Raiders have a history of producing good goalies in the boys program. While the girls varsity has an elite keeper in Patil Tcholakian, Rust has had to work at developing JV players at that position.

"I can't remember a year we didn't have at least four capable goalkeepers with a lot of experience between the three (boys) programs," she said.

"On the girls side, each of the last three years, I've taken somebody and trained them to be goalkeepers even though they had little to no experience."

When the girls varsity was without a netminder two years ago, Rust helped to turn Samantha Carruthers from a field player into a good goalie.

"She said to me, kind of tongue-in-cheek, she could be

a goalie," Rust said. "My eyes lit up, and she was kind of stuck at that point. She did very well and enjoyed it."

The Raiders, who were 8-8-3 last season, will return nine varsity players and will move from the OAA Blue Division to the White.

"That's a beneficial move for our program," Rust said. "We should remain very competitive. The goal would be to win the division, but it's going to be a very tight division. Most teams can beat someone else on a given day.

"It's a matter of our team improving every day of the season. We want to prepare for the district and go into the district in the best game shape and with the best mentality as we can.

"I'm really looking forward to the season. We're ready to hit the ground running with a lot of returning kids. It should make for a fun and competitive year, and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

SUMMER CAMPS

Harrison volleyball

The Harrison High School volleyball team will have a three-day camp for girls July 19-21 in the school gym.

The first session from 1-3 p.m. each day is for girls in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the next school year.

Girls who will be in the seventh and eighth grades will attend the second session from 3:15-5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$55 at the door. For families with two girls attending the camp, the cost is \$50 per child.

Contact either coach Michael Love at 313-758-1185 or coach Sue Kendall at 248-505-7261.

Coach Wilson hoops

Coach Stefan Wilson's Basketball Camp is slated for July 25-29 at Harrison High School. He is the school's boys varsity coach.

The camp is for boys and girls who will be in grades 8-15. The cost is \$180 per camper. Register by June 20 to receive a T-shirt.

Camp hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. Campers must bring their own lunch. Pizza will be provided on the last day.

Contact Wilson at CoachStefonWilson@gmail.com or 313-919-1990.

Fast Break at SC

Schoolcraft College in Livonia will host its first Fast Break Basketball Camp 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 18, through Friday, July 22.

Boys and girls of all skill levels, who are entering grades 3-8, are welcome to sign up. Each camper will receive a customized Fast Break basketball and reversible jersey.

The cost is \$85 if registered by July 8 and \$95 for late registration. The camp will take place at the Schoolcraft gym, 18600 Haggerty Road.

For more information, contact Patrick Yelsik in the Schoolcraft Athletic Department at 734-462-7696 (office), 989-289-8933 (cell) or pyelsik@schoolcraft.edu or go to www.Facebook.com/SchoolcraftAthletics.

Voltage football

Voltage Elite football and basketball summer programs, being launched by 2015 Plymouth High School grads Deji Adebisi, Harman Sidhu and Josh Gendron. The programs are open to anybody in

metro Detroit.

There will be a six-week football camp through July 28 with Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday sessions (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at The PARC, 650 Church Street in Plymouth.

The program is for athletes from elementary to high school age. The fee is \$20 per session or \$240 for flat rate.

Voltage also is putting together a 14U AAU team to practice and play games July 11 through early August. Go to www.voltageelite.com for more about the programs.

Plymouth 'Y'

Stay active this summer with Plymouth YMCA sports, through various clinics, camps and leagues for ages 3-12. On tap are week-long sport-specific camps to help players develop skills using various drills, games and scrimmages while teaching YMCA core values in a fun, safe environment.

Every sports camp is from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Cost for camp is \$75 for YMCA members and \$100 for non-members. Cost includes facility usage, T-shirt, water bottle, experienced YMCA staff, player awards, player's raffle and equipment. Extended after care for families for an additional \$75 YMCA members and \$100 for non-members is available.

Following are some other summer offerings:

» Baseball is for ages 6-12 for the weeks of June 27 through Aug. 8. Players will learn the basics of baseball through practices and games.

All equipment is provided by the YMCA. Practices start the week of July 11 and the first game is Saturday, July 23. Practices and games are held at Farrand Elementary. Ages divisions are 3-5 T-ball; 6-7 coach pitch; and 8-10 kid pitch. The league costs \$80 for YMCA members, \$105 for non-members and \$15 jersey for coach-pitch and kid-pitch league.

» Flag football will be taught by YMCA staff during a three-week clinic Aug. 4-25 for ages 6-10.

Participants will learn through drills, games and scrimmages. A jersey, football and medal are included.

» A new, preschool cheer clinic is on tap for youngsters ages 3-5. The clinic starts Aug. 3 and continues until Aug. 24.

Families can register by going to ymcadetroit.org/plymouth or calling 734-453-2904.

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Right exists to know condominium unit owner

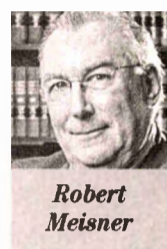
Q: We have a situation where a limited liability company is buying a unit in our condominium. We are concerned about who was actually going to live there. Do we have a right to find out?

A: The name of a unit owner who lives in a housing organization in which use-rights and other property interests are formally interlocked seems to be a reasonable request. An official owner of a unit may have otherwise legitimate reasons to register the property with a corporation or a trustee.

However, granting homeowners the ability to identify the beneficial owner by name, if nothing else, serves an important goal of preserving their liberty to make timely and informed decisions. You have a right to know who will be living there as that person or persons will have a responsibility to comply with the condominium documents and your condominium bylaws should so provide.

Q: I live in a detached condominium and want to install a high-voltage station in my unit to provide for an electric vehicle. Do I need permission from the association?

A: It depends on your condominium documents as to who is responsible for the electrical network in your condominium and whether the association is responsible for the exterior of your building. It is probably a good idea to consider this given the influx of electric vehicles. Homeowners who install residential charging equipment before the end of 2016 can receive a federal income tax credit up to \$1,000. There may also be a further incentive by your municipality, utility or other governmental agency. I anticipate that future condo buyers will likely have more options for buildings with communal charges, but since you are a separately detached condo, it may not affect you unless the association decides to consider a communal charger.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

WAYNE METRO 'ABOUT CREATING PREPARED BUYERS'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dannielle Bills is a social worker with a passion for helping people with housing issues. As homeownership services manager for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, she's involved with helping people decide if owning is right for them, along with a host of related issues.

The Own My Home homeowner education program has been around some 15 years, and recently funded through Community Development Block Grants of Wayne County HOME dollars.

"Homeownership education has been around for decades," Bills said. In addition to deciding on renting vs. owning, clients need to look at issues of maintenance (there is no landlord to call in owning), the process of getting a mortgage, and recognizing predatory lending practices.

"It's about creating prepared buyers and helping them sustain ownership. We work with some people a couple of years," Bills said. "Owning a home is very different from renting."

That includes staff pulling a



"It's about creating prepared buyers and helping them sustain ownership ... Owning a home is very different from renting."

DANNIELLE BILLS homeownership services manager for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

credit report to help the client overcome obstacles, to pay down debt, "just helping them save toward the down payment," she said.

She said clients' first step is to sign up for a Homebuyer Club Workshop on the agency website: www.waynemetro.org/homes or email Wayne Metro for more information at: ownmyhome@waynemetro.org

You can contact the Wayne Metro Connect Center at: city of Detroit residents: 313-388-9799, out-county residents: 734-284-6999, TTY: 1-800-649-3777.

Wayne Metro staff helps to connect clients with other programs that assist with down payments. Wayne Metro has Realtors and lenders who work with the program as facilitators, meeting to speak to clients.

"The participants have a chance to ask specific questions," she said. Their questions include issues on credit reports, such as a bankruptcy or lien, impacting ownership, ways to improve a credit score, and what kind of an offer to make based on a sale price listed.

The agency is certified both through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Programs get support through private industry, including the real estate industry, Bills said.

"Read and ask questions," she urges prospective buyers. If answers aren't satisfactory, "you should continue to ask questions. Always being informed."

Bills noted, "There's assistance out there to purchase homes. There are so many

programs out there designed to help people become homeowners." That's true even for those with credit issues.

Bills noted the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has helped with rules and regulations applying now to the mortgage market.

"It's on the consumer to be mindful the information they're getting is accurate," she said. "If they're not comfortable, they have choices" on lenders. There's a window of time to shop around for preapproval with lenders.

"They're busy," she noted of Realtors. "Our only job is to be those clients' advocate." She has done such work since 2010, and noted other agency services such as free income tax e-filing for earners under \$50,000 a year.

"The best way to go is to take a homebuyer education class," she added, noting staff has no stake in the outcome of the decision made.

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Competitive housing market puts crimp on buyer options

After steadily increasing for three straight months, pending home sales let up in May and declined year-over-year for the first time in almost two years, according to the National Association of Realtors. All four major regions experienced a cutback in contract activity last month.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, slid 3.7 percent to 110.8 in May from a downwardly revised 115.0 in April and is now slightly lower (0.2 percent) than May 2015 (111.0). With last month's decline, the index reading is still the third highest in the past year, but declined year-over-year for the first time since August 2014.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says pending sales slumped in May across most of the country. "With demand holding firm this spring and homes selling even faster than a year ago, the notable in-

crease in closings in recent months took a dent out of what was available for sale in May and ultimately dragged down contract activity," he said. "Realtors are acknowledging with increasing frequency lately that buyers continue to be frustrated by the tense competition and lack of affordable homes for sale in their market."

Supply is scant

Despite mortgage rates hovering around three-year lows for most of the year, Yun says scant supply and swiftly rising home prices — which surpassed their all-time high last month — are creating an availability and affordability crunch that's preventing what should be a more robust pace of sales.

"Total housing inventory at the end of each month has remarkably decreased year-over-year now for an entire year," added Yun. "There are simply not enough homes coming onto the market to

catch up with demand and to keep prices more in line with inflation and wage growth."

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, Yun says the fallout from the U.K.'s decision to leave the European Union breeds both immediate opportunity as well as potential headwinds for the U.S. housing market.

"In the short term, volatility in the financial markets could very likely lead to even lower mortgage rates and increased demand from foreign buyers looking for a safer place to invest their cash," he said. "On the other hand, any prolonged market angst and further economic uncertainty overseas could negatively impact our economy and end up tempering the overall appetite for home buying."

In spite of last month's step back in contract signings, existing-home sales this year are still expected to be around 5.44 million, a 3.7 percent boost from 2015. After accelerating to 6.8 percent a year

ago, national median existing-home price growth is forecast to slightly moderate to between 4 and 5 percent.

Regional breakdown

The PHSI in the Northeast dropped 5.3 percent to 93.0 in May, and is now unchanged from a year ago. In the Midwest, the index slipped 4.2 percent to 108.0 in May, and is now 1.8 percent below May 2015.

Pending home sales in the South declined 3.1 percent to an index of 126.6 in May but are still 0.6 percent higher than last May. The index in the West decreased 3.4 percent in May to 102.6, and is now 0.1 percent below a year ago.

The National Association of Realtors is America's largest trade association, representing 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

For more information, call 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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Canton Fri 7/8-Sun 7/10 9am-4pm Furn., antiques & MORE something for everyone! 6625 Whitesturt

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Mayflower Townhomes Coop Yard Sale! 400 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 Sat. July 9th, 10-5pm.

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S. Lyon Moving/Farm Sale Sat. 7/9 9am-5pm horse tack & misc, power tools, household items & More! 7610 N. Dixboro btwn S & 6 Mile

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Southfield - 26832 Pebblestone S of 12 Mile. E of Inkster. July 7-9 10-5p Huge, cool stuff, new, art, kitchen, bath, electronic, leather, fur, tools, pipefitter, plumbing, building supplies Good Stuff not Junk. Don't miss this!

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