

# THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE  
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 7

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## THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 128, No. 7

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has agreed to pay \$17,000 toward the installation of sidewalks on the Tucker Insurance property.

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## THE CANTON EAGLE

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Canton Leisure Services is offering a variety of job opportunities for both teens and adults any may hire as many as 50 employees.

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## THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

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The Leanna Hicks Inkster Public Library is now open after being closed for two weeks in January for roof repairs.

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## THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

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Laura Toy has officially announced her candidacy for the 9th District seat on the Wayne County Commission.

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## THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

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Members of the Plymouth and Northville Fire Advisory Board met last week in a regular bi-monthly session to discuss fire department business.

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## THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Promotions of three Romulus firefighters were announced recently by Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff and Public Safety Director John Leacher.

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## THE WAYNE EAGLE

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Relay for Life organizers have planned an organizational meeting beginning with registration at 6:30 p.m. March 6 at the Wayne Recreation Center on Howe Road.

See page 4.

## THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Eric Monson was officially sworn in Feb. 3 as the newest member of the Westland Police Department.

See page 4.

## Lawsuit may be settled; 3 officers leave

*The disciplined officers were suspended with pay in early October for delinquency and dereliction of duty...*

Plymouth Township trustees were expected to approve a \$50,000 settlement this week with former police officer Brittany DeFrain who sued the municipality for discrimination last June.

Two of the three Plymouth Township police officers on paid administrative leave since last October as a result of subpoenas issued by DeFrain's attorney in her lawsuit, resigned last month. The third, a sergeant responsible for overseeing DeFrain and other officers, was reportedly terminated last month, according to sources close to the department.

Resignation agreements were negotiated with the two officers by Township Supervisor Richard Reaume and included six months pay, accrued vacation, holiday and sick pay. The police union, part of the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), was reportedly not involved in negotiating the terms of the resignations, handled

instead by Reaume and attorneys for the municipal insurance company. Financial terms of the separation of the third officer were not available.

The disciplined officers were suspended with pay in early October for delinquency and dereliction of duty after the attorney for DeFrain, Jeffrey Ellison, sub-

poeaed records that revealed incriminating text messages and emails between the officers. DeFrain resigned under protest in February, 2013 and subsequently filed a lawsuit against the township for sexual discrimination and marital status discrimination.

Reportedly, a \$50,000 out-of-court financial settlement was reached with DeFrain which needed approval from the board of trustees. Ellison refused comment on any aspect of the situation.

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## To remember Students create artistic tribute to Sandy Hook

Students and staff at Wick Elementary School recently remembered the victims of the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

The children and staff members created decorative paper snowflakes and planted trees in honor of the 20 children and six adult staff members who were shot and killed by 20-year-old Adam Lanza on Dec. 14, 2012.

The murders marked the second deadliest mass shooting by a single person in American history, sent shock waves around the world and affected children at elementary schools such as Wick Elementary.

Wick Principal ShaVonna Johnson explained that students and staff planted three trees as a sign of remembrance, hope and brighter futures. Large, colorful paper snowflakes were created to represent the unique qualities that each child possesses. Everyone also paused for a moment of silence.

"It is through such tragedies that we can learn to treasure even the smallest things in life and to take time each day to tell those we love how much they mean to us," Johnson said.

"Today, we will continue to remember by not focusing on the events of that tragedy, but instead on the preservation of life."

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff was on hand to tell students and staff how proud he was that they did something significant to remember the Sandy Hook victims.

Johnson credited fourth-grade teacher Jill



Children at Wick Elementary School made huge colored snowflakes to memorialize the students and teachers killed in the Sandy Hook school shooting last year. Photo by roger Kadau



Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff poses with Wick students and some of the snowflakes they made in memory of those killed at Sandy Hook. Photos by Roger Kadau



Pangle and first-grade teacher Lisa Evitts for embracing the concept of remembering the victims and talking about the significance of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

The trees were donated by the Tau Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, thanks to a request by fifth-grade teacher and chapter member Simona Miller.

The concept of the snowflakes was based on the book Snowflakes Fall by author Patricia MacLachlan and artist Steven Kellogg, longtime friends who collaborated on the book as a message of hope for children and their families following the Sandy

See Students, page 3

## School district to ask voters for millage renewal

*The non-homestead millage does not apply to homes or owner-occupied residences...*

Voters in the Plymouth Canton School District will be asked to approve an 18-mill non-homestead millage during an August election.

The non-homestead millage does not apply to homes or owner-occupied residences but is applied only to businesses and other non-principal properties, such as apartment complexes.

The current non-homestead millage was first approved by voters in 2004 and will expire in July. According to the original ballot language, the millage, which

accounts for about 17 percent of the district budget, can be levied one more time without voter approval. It will generate about \$25.2 million for the 2013-14 school year.

School board members opted for the August date, which is a municipal, county and state pri-

mary election, rather than pay for a special school election in May or November. Administrators estimated that the cost of a special election could be \$115,000.

The ballot question will refer to the non-homestead levy as a new tax, although officials said it is, in fact, a renewal of the question

approved by voters in 2004.

Officials said that the district would begin an informational campaign regarding the ballot question to ensure that voters understood the non-homestead tax would apply to businesses and commercial property, and not homes.

Board members also indicated that if the question were to fail in August, during the scheduled primary elections, they could ask voters again for approval on the upcoming general election ballot in November.

## Romulus officer wounds fleeing suspect in Westland

A Romulus police officer wounded a fleeing suspect who turned and aimed a handgun at him Feb. 1.

Romulus officers stopped a vehicle heading north on Middlebelt Road Saturday night for a traffic infraction, according to police reports. The vehicle had crossed into Westland before

pulling over. When the Romulus officers approached the car, they smelled marijuana, according to police reports, and they asked the two occupants to step out of the vehicle. The passenger ran into a nearby field and one of the Romulus officers pursued him. The suspect turned around and had a gun in his hand, according to

police accounts of the incident.

The Romulus officer reportedly fired several shots at the fleeing suspect and wounded him in the finger. The suspect, Allante Jones, 24, of Ypsilanti, was treated at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and released into police custody.

Jones was arraigned Friday in 18th District Court on charges of

carrying a concealed weapon, felonious assault, felony firearm, marijuana possession and resisting arrest. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf and the judge set his bond at \$50,000 cash.

Police said charges are pending against the driver, a woman from Ypsilanti, reportedly Jones' girlfriend.



# Plymouth

## Response delay prompts change to radio system

Members of the Plymouth and Northville Fire Advisory Board met last week in a regular bi-monthly session to discuss fire department business.

This was the first meeting of the members since a radio communications problem last November delayed response to a 911 call for more than 25 minutes in the City of Plymouth. The 60-year-old woman suffering a heart attack subsequently died after repeated calls from police officers at the scene for more help were not immediately answered.

Discussion at the meeting did not directly address the subsequent delay and requests for more help, but did reference the arrival of two police officers and the HVA staff, which occurred six minutes after the radio dispatch, according to taped recordings of the incident. The police officers on scene were not-paramedics or cross-trained firefighters.

Official minutes and agenda notes from the meeting stated: *“The event was when the fire “tones” to activate the Plymouth Station were not broadcast over the radio resulting in a delayed response of the Fire Department.” (Item #10-Review of response times-PLYMOUTH STATION ONLY)*

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said previously that there would be an investigation of the medical run. He said, after the incident, that he was concerned, but not “overly concerned” about the situation.

“It’s not a matter that they didn’t respond, but that they responded in a timely fashion when they were notified to respond,” Sincock said at the time.

At the meeting, Sincock read aloud a prepared report to the nine attendees and five on-call firefighters in attendance.

“...the City of Plymouth has a three-tiered level of response to medical emergencies in Plymouth. That includes police officers, paramedics and fire fighters.”

According to the recordings of the emergency call obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, first to arrive on the scene

were two City of Plymouth police cruisers and the responding officers immediately began CPR in an attempt to save the woman, apparently in serious cardiac arrest.

*“A review of the run shows that the paramedics from HVA were on scene in less than three minutes, along with two medically trained police officers. This incident indicated that the integration of responses still was able to provide a timely response to a medical incident, despite the fact there was a communication failure,” the official report states.*

Normal operating procedures would have required the Northville on-call firefighters assigned to the downtown Plymouth station to respond to the emergency tone with the city-owned ambulance from the garage at Main and Church streets to the home of the caller; a distance of about a half mile.

After 18 minutes with only two paramedics and two police officers at the scene, there had still been no response from the Northville on-call staff, or the Plymouth city ambulance, according to the 911 recordings, despite repeated requests for more help from the EMTs and officers.

Neither Sincock or Chairman of the Fire Advisory Board City Commissioner Ed Hingelberg addressed the technicalities of the radio-dispatch problem at the meeting. *“This integration of response was designed and provides for a timely response to medical runs even if one element of the response team is delayed...” the report stated. “As a result of this event and as part of the on-going continuous improvement efforts, some procedures regarding fire”tones’ on the Radio for Plymouth have been changed. This has resulted increased reliability of the radio system.”*

Reports show that City of Northville responders finally arrived in the Plymouth ambulance at the scene at 2:01 a.m., 25 minutes after the initial 911 call to find that the woman had expired.

“There are some in this room who might put a spin on this (information) and twist it any way they wish,” Hingelberg said.



### Now in session

State Rep. Kurt Heise hosted the Rev. Steve Mateja to give the invocation at the start of House session recently. Mateja is the associate pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (OLGC) in Plymouth. "It is an honor to have Father Mateja here in Lansing to give the invocation for today's session," Heise said. "OLGC, both as a parish and a school, is an anchor in our community and I am very supportive of their mission. To be able to welcome Father Mateja here is an honor and a delight. He represents what is good about our community and it is great to be able to have a man of his character and community standing here in Lansing with me."OLGC is the largest Catholic Church in his district, has a K-8 school, and is one of the largest churches overall in his area.

## Police

FROM PAGE 1

The DeFrain lawsuit alleged Plymouth Township, as her employer, committed sexual discrimination and marital status discrimination by extending her probationary period for an extra six months. She alleged that her involvement in a dating relationship with another officer was the reason she was given for the extension of her probationary period.

“At the time the defendant’s police chief extended plaintiff’s probationary period, no rule prohibited or otherwise regulated dating or marital relationships between two members of the police department,” her court pleadings alleged.

In her lawsuit, DeFrain claimed only she was singled out for disciplinary action and no action was taken against the male officer with whom she was sexually involved. That officer was one of the patrolmen who resigned last month. His wife, formerly with the detective bureau, was transferred to the patrol division after the incident became public, according to previous reports.

Sources say the police sergeant who supervised both DeFrain and the male officer with whom she was involved was terminated in mid-January for dereliction of duty after negotiations for a separation agreement failed.

“No male employee of defendant’s police department, including the male police officer who purportedly was engaged in a dating relationship with plaintiff, was subjected to adverse employment action by defendant for engaging in a dating, sexual, or marital relationship with another employee of the department,” according to DeFrain’s court pleadings.

In their court responses to the allegations, attorneys for the township denied that DeFrain’s probation was extended due to the sexual relationship, suggesting her job performance was not up to department standards. DeFrain was hired in February, 2012 as rookie police officer.

DeFrain claimed Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderrington, at the time of the interview during which he extended her probation, stated that he and police department management thought she had adequately demonstrated the ability to perform the job of a sworn police officer.

MINUTES OF REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING				
January 27, 2014				
Romulus City' Hall Council Chambers. 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174				
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem, John Barden. Pledge of Allegiance				
Roll Call				
Present: Kathleen Abdo, John Barden, Linda Choate, Harry Crout, Celeste Roscoe. Excused: Sylvia Makowski, William Wadsworth.				
Administrative Officials in Attendance:				
LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor				
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk				
Stacy Paige. Treasurer				
I. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to accept the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden. Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays – None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-023 2A. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Abdo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on January 13, 2014. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout. Choate Roscoe. Nays – None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
3A. Petitioner:				
Paul Stanford, Housing Counselor, Community Housing Network, and (a non-profit organization) located in Wayne, MI, provided information regarding the Network's Foreclosure Prevention Program and other services,				
14-024 4A. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Crout to concur with the administration and appoint the following persons to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee: Linda Choate, Stacy Paige, Julie Wojtylko, Maria Lambert, Abbie Akins, Jerry Frayer, and John Leacher. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout, Choate Roscoe. Nays – None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
4. Moved by Choate, seconded by Crout to accept the Chairperson's Report. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously				
14-025 5A1. Moved by Choate, seconded by trout to adopt a resolution recognizing Brian McNeil as the 2013 Brownstown Township Firefighter of the Year. Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Abdo. Barden, Choate, Crout. Roscoe. -Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-026 5A2. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Abdo to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of James Hollis, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays —None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-027 5A. Moved by Abdo, seconded by Crout to concur with the administration and approve a three (3) year extension of the existing service contract for auditing and consultant services with Plane and Moran with Headlee inflationary increases annually for audit services following the June 30, 20 14 audit. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout. Roscoe. Nays – None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-028 5B. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to adopt a resolution to authorize the mayor and clerk to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Wayne County for the Goddard Road Resurfacing Project (West Airport Service Drive to Merriman Road), cost not to exceed 10% of total construction cost, which is estimated at \$44,032.00. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-029 5C. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Crout to concur with the administration and approve the anticipated 2014/2015 CDBG allocation and proposed projects. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-030 5D. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to concur with the administration and approve the re-appointment of Judy LaPorte to the Officer Compensation Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden. Choate, Crout. Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-031 5E. Moved by Abdo, seconded by Crout to approve the re-appointment of Frederick Hay, Gerald B. Wendland, Virgil Varner, Terrell Bird, Sheldon Chandler, William Crane and Mark Lewkowicz to the City of Romulus (-Historical Commission with terms to expire on December 29, 20 15. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-032 5F. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Choate to introduce Budget Amendment 13/14-9 to set up an expense account for the Local 4126 retiree insurance benefits "buy-out" per Council Resolution #13-336.				
FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED				
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
RETIREE HEALTH CARE FUND				
Expense				
678-8110-881.79-96	"OPEB "Buy-outs"	0	84,500	84,500
Retained Earnings				
	Retirees Ins. Benefits Fund			
676-0000-395.00-00	Balance	2,793,739	(84,500)	2,709,239
To set-up an expense account fir the Local 4126 retiree insurance benefits "buy-out" per Council resolution #13-336 Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate. Crout, Roscoe. Nays- None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-033 5G. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to introduce Budget Amendment 13/14-10 to adjust the budget to reflect the increase in building permits revenue and also to reflect an additional Teamsters employee being used for building inspections.				
FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
GENERAL FUND				
Revenue				
101-3910-511.47-40	Building Permit Revenue	430,000	320,000	750,000
Expense				
101-3910-739.70-20	Building Dept. Regular Wages	309,810	41,100	350,910
101-3910-739.71-10	Building Dept. Overtime Wages	15,000	7,000	
22,000				
101-3910-739.72-10	Building Dept. Social Security	23,300	3,470	26,770
101-3910-739.72-20	Building Dept. Medicare	5,450	810	6,260
101-3910-739.72-30	Building Dept. Retirement	33,290	5,420	38,710
101-3910-739.72-40	Building Dept. Health Insurance	92,500	28,710	121,210
101-3910-739.72-50	Building Dept. Dental Insurance	6,750	640	7,390
101-3910-739.72-60	Building Dept. Life Insurance	245	35	280
101-3910-739.72-70	Building Dept. Long Term Dis.	1,760	220	1,980
101-3910-739.72-80	Building Dept. Worker's Comp	2,250	100	2,350
Fund Balance				
101-3910-739.72-80	General Fund Balance	2,649,055	232,495	2,881,550
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays-None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-034 5H. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Choate to introduce Budget Amendment 13/14-11 to re-allocate funds for the newly re-established Recreation Commission for the balance of the 2013/14 budget year.				
FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
GENERAL FUND				
Expense				
101-5110-751.70-26	Recreation Commission	0	1,530	1,530
101-5110-751.72-10	Recreation Social Security	0	95	95
101-5110-751.72-20	Recreation Medicare	0	22	22
101-5110-751.72-80	Recreation Worker's Comp	0	4	4
Expense				
101-2410-724.70-20	Human Resources Regular Wages	125,376	(1,651)	123,725
	To-reallocate funds for the newly established Recreation Commission for the balance of the 2013/14 budget year.			
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
14-035 6A1. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Choate to schedule a public hearing on Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. regarding proposed amendments to the Purchasing Ordinance. The hearing will be field in the City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden. Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
6B. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer, Stacy Paige, announced that property taxes are due on February 14, 2014.				
7. Public Comment - None.				
8. Unfinished Business - None.				
9. New Business - None.				
10. Communication -Councilwoman Roscoe announced the annual Soul Food Dinner will he held on February 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Romulus Senior High School.				
14-036 11. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to authorize the city treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 14-02 in the amount of \$589,422.68. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
12. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Crout to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
I, Ellen L.Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on January 27, 2014.				
Publish: February 13, 2014				



# BELLEVILLE-ROMULUS

## 3 firefighters promoted to new ranks in Romulus

Three Romulus firefighters have been promoted.

Kevin Krause has been promoted to deputy fire chief. Timothy Rhoton and Matthew Wilhide have each been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

The moves were announced recently by Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff and Public Safety Director John Leacher in a ceremony in the Romulus City Council chambers.

The promotions follow the news that the Fire Department was awarded \$729,465 from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, a grant that helps departments hire firefighters they need to protect their communities. The funds are provided by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Burcroff announced that the city plans to use the funds to hire three full-time firefighters and three part-time firefighters.

In conjunction with the new hires, Burcroff said the promotions make a great fire department even better. He said that key promotions and adding new firefighters bolster fire service in the city and “put our fire department in a position to better serve the community.”

Leacher agreed the goal is to provide the best customer service to taxpayers. He said a new deputy chief and two new lieutenants will have additional duties and responsibilities. The promotions also create the ability to provide more direct supervision over the fire suppression part of the fire department, while putting people in place to review policies and procedures, accountability, expectations, standards of conduct and public out-

reach, among other areas - similar to the changes in recent years in the police department.

“It gives us the opportunity to examine where we're at, what we do and why we do it,” Leacher said. “If it doesn't make sense, we're not going to do it. This is our direction from city hall: how do we now take the fire department and really redefine areas we're good at and find new ways to focus on customer service.”

Newly-appointed Deputy Fire Chief Krause has been with the fire department since 2002. He served four months as a paid-on-call firefighter before getting hired full time. Before getting into firefighting, Krause served as an Army medic and then as a paramedic with the private firm Community EMS. He earned two associates degrees: one in EMS from Oakland Community College; a second in fire technology from Schoolcraft College. He has completed all three levels of officer training at Schoolcraft.

Prior to Krause's promotion, he was the EMS coordinator and safety officer and represented the firefighters' union. He also is a partner in Bad Day Tactical, a firearms training company that also provides CPR and first aid training. Krause and his wife, Michelle, are the parents of two sons.

“It's exciting,” Krause said. “I'm very, very thankful for the opportunity and humbled at the same time. I can't wait to get to work. I've got a lot to do.”

Rhoton is the senior firefighter in the city with 22 years of service. The Romulus native also began as a paid-on-call firefighter before going full time. In 2006, as a veteran firefighter, Rhoton earned his paramedic's license - a move that impressed department officials.



Lt. Matthew Wilhide (left), Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Krause and Lt. Timothy Rhoton were recently promoted to their new ranks in the Romulus Fire Department. Photo by Roger Kadau

Rhoton was working as a long-time welder when he was introduced to the department by new Wilhide's uncle - and a career change was born. Rhoton said the most important thing about being a firefighter is helping people out, but he also was attracted by the big red fire trucks. He said he has always worked where he has been needed in the department.

Rhoton and his wife of 38 years, Cindy, have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Wilhide is a third-generation member of a firefighting family. His late grandfather, John N. Wilhide, Jr., was the first full-time Romulus fire chief, serving from 1974 to 1996. His uncle, the late Noel Douglas “Doug” Wilhide, served 17 years with the fire department. And his father, Mark Wilhide, served 30 years as a firefighter; first in Romulus and then in Westland, where he retired. For 14 years, Mark Wilhide has served as a member of the Romulus Police Fire Safety Commission and he is currently chairman of the group.

Matthew Wilhide was hired as a paid-on-

call firefighter in Romulus in 2001 when he was just 18 years old and right out of high school. He completed EMT and fire training at the same time at Schoolcraft College and the Life Support Training Institute, respectively. For the last 11 years, he has served as a full-time firefighter in the city and has completed a “plethora of training”

For three years, Wilhide served as a member of the Downriver HAZMAT Team and he also served as a member of the Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue Team. He was part of the unit that responded to such tragedies as a building collapse in Wayne and a tornado in Monroe.

A Romulus native, Wilhide and his wife, Lauren, are the parents of two children.

Burcroff called the promotion ceremony “a good positive day in the City of Romulus.” The mayor has close ties to the fire department. His late father was a volunteer firefighter. As a member of the City Council, Burcroff served as a member of the commission that formed the full-time Fire Department.

## Township will pay sidewalk cost

While the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has agreed to pay \$17,000 toward the installation of sidewalks on the Tucker Insurance property, the board members denied a request to fund part of the water main installation at the site.

The insurance agency is planning to construct a 5,700 square-foot building on the property located on the I-94 service drive. The new building will house the Tucker offices and a future tenant.

The request for township financial involvement in the sewer project came from Wayne Hoppe, the architect working on the new Tucker building. He asked the DDA board to pay a portion of the cost of installing a new sewer system to reach the building. The township water department has already

agreed to pay \$25,000 for 250 feet of sewer line necessary to connect to the border of the Tucker property.

Hoppe said that the sewer line would be complete a loop, improving the water quality for those living on Dewitt Road. The sewer line continues along Dewitt up to Jeanette Avenue.

“We believe that the DDA has funds set aside for development within the right of way, and that's what we are doing, we're trying to improve the right of way area,” said Hoppe. “This site will be visible from the highway, when you are getting on the highway and as you are coming down the highway. It is kind of a gateway site as well. It matters to Van Buren.”

The cost of the water main project is estimated at \$90,000.

## Students

FROM PAGE 1

Hook tragedy. Kellogg lived in the village of Sandy Hook for 35 years. They viewed the book as a celebration of life and a tribute to the qualities that make each person

unique.

After the book was read at Wick Elementary School and the snowflakes were unveiled, several fifth-grade members of the Wick Student Council and class representatives talked their memories of the fateful day when Lanza took a gun into school and shot the children and staff before shooting himself.

## Alligator art

Last Saturday, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) and the Bayou Grill hosted the "Alligator Artists Kids Club at the Bayou Grill" during which artists Becky Hasen and Angelica Renaud led the students through two different make and take projects with a Valentine's Day theme. Heart shaped fishes and Valentine colored necklaces and bracelets were created by the youngsters who were also treated to personal pizzas. The next meeting of the "Alligator Artists Kids Club at the Bayou Grill" will take place from noon until 2 p.m. March 1. Pre-register by calling (734) 697-2300 or by emailing bayou.grill@att.net. All project materials are provided by BACA. Pre-registration is not required, but is appreciated.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 27, 2014 for the following:

2014 GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org), or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish 02/13/2014

EC021314-0877 2.5 x 1.983

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 27, 2014 for the following:

ROOFING CONSULTANT SERVICES

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org), or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish 02/13/2014

EC021314-0878 2.5 x 1.983

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 27, 2014 for the following:

MOWING AND LAWN CARE MAINTENANCE

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org), or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish 02/13/2014

EC021314-0879 2.5 x 1.983

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

Gwyn Belcher, ADA Coordinator  
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48188  
(734) 394-5260

Published: February 13, 2014

EC021314-0874 2.5 x 1.557

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 2014 for the following:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SERVICE PROVIDER

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance & Budget Department, on our website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org), or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish 02/13/2014

EC021314-0876 2.5 x 1.983

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
NOTICE TO PUBLIC  
BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Terry G. Bennett, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the Charter Township of Canton: that all persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. All petitions must be received in the Assessor's office by March 13, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

The Board of Review will be held in the Canton Township Hall on the first floor, at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Entry into the building can be accessed through the front doors of Township Hall. Please come prepared, as an eight (8) minute limit before the Board will be strictly adhered to.

The following is the schedule for March Board of Review.

Tuesday, March 4, 2014	Organizational Meeting - 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (No Appointments)
Monday, March 10, 2014	Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Tuesday, March 11, 2014	Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Wednesday, March 12, 2014	Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Thursday, March 13, 2014	Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Please be advised that on Tuesday, March 11 after 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 12 after 4:30 p.m. entry to the building can only be accessed through the front entrance of the Township Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the March Board of Review, you may call Jamie Rohrhaft, Secretary to the Board of Review (734) 394-5111.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK  
Charter Township of Canton Township

Publish: The Eagle  
February 13th, 20th, 27th 2014

EC021314-0875 2.5 x 4.645



# INKSTER - WAYNE - WESTLAND

## Inkster library re-opens with February programs

The Leanna Hicks Inkster Public Library is now open after being closed for two weeks in January for roof repairs.

According to Youth Services Librarian Angela Scott, the library has planned programs for Black History Month and Valentine's Day, along with new programs for children, teens and adults.

She said Black History Month events will include a presentation by African drummer Jeffrey Nzoma from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Feb. 22. The performance was arranged in collaboration with Starfish Family Services and will be interactive so audience participa-

tion is expected.

From 6-7 p.m. Feb. 26, storyteller Gwen Lewis, a members of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers, will visit the library to present a folktale. The event is open to the public.

New children's programs include Family Literacy Night at McDonald's, at Inkster Road and Cherry Hill, from 4-7 p.m. Feb. 12. There will be activities for children of all ages. Pre-registration for this event is available at McDonald's or at the library, Scott said.

The library is also hosting Lego nights

from 4-5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday for children 10 and younger.

Starfish will host Come Stay and Play from 10:30 a.m. until noon for children 5 and younger on Feb. 17 and 24. This is an open play time with toys, a story and activities and crafts with Starfish representative Sue Powers.

Crafty Storytime takes place from 5-6 p.m. every Tuesday for children 10 and younger and Preschool Storytime takes place from 3-4 p.m. every Thursday for children 5 and younger Storytime usually includes educational games and activities,

Scott said.

The Teen Club Kick Off Meeting for teens 13-19 will take place at 2 p.m. Feb. 15. The meeting includes free pizza while the members map out the agenda for the club for the next six months.

The library board members meet at 4 p.m. Feb. 20 in the community room, Scott said.

She suggested that residents "like" the library on Facebook to stay up to date on all library programs and events or check out the events page at: <http://inksterlibrary.org/events.html>.

## Relay for Life meeting set

Relay for Life organizers have planned an organizational meeting beginning with registration at 6:30 p.m. March 6 at the Wayne Recreation Center on Howe Road near Annapolis. The kick-off program will take place between 7-8 p.m.

The 2014 Westland-Wayne American Cancer Society Relay for Life event will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8. This year will mark the 13th years of Westland participation and the second year with Wayne.

Participants will spend 24-hours walking the track in Attwood Park and stay overnight

in a tent during the 24-hour fundraiser.

Event chairperson Meriem Kadi said anyone who is at all interested or even thinks they might want to get involved in the event should come to the meeting.

Team members obtain pledges in advance of the event and during their time on site. Last year, Kadi said, 23 teams generated \$64,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"We are hoping for 25 teams this year and \$70,000," she said.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/RFLWestlandWayne](http://www.facebook.com/RFLWestlandWayne).

## Shopping Center expansion OK'd

Members of the Westland City Council unanimously approved plans for an expansion at Westland Shopping Center.

A site plan for construction of a 3,427 square-foot addition on the south side of the mall between Kohl's and JCPenney was OK'd by council members at a recent meeting. The project will be part of a 10,400 square-foot ULTA Beauty store soon to open at the center.

Westland Planning and Building Director Bruce Thompson said that this was a good project and that many older malls don't

upgrade or expand.

In the past year, Westland Shopping Center has installed a new digital marquee sign and upgraded the entrances to the parking lots.

The proposed expansion will take up six current parking spaces and move the mall sidewalk further south. The ULTA Beauty store will have an entrance into the mall but will not have a direct exterior entrance. Thompson said the plans show that the materials used will match the current mall exterior.



Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik, left, new officer Eric Monson and Mayor William Wild were all smiles at Munson's swearing-in recently.

## New police officer introduced

Eric Monson was officially sworn in Feb. 3 as the newest member of the Westland Police Department.

Monson, who was sworn in during a regular meeting of the Westland City Council, was hired as a Police Service Aide by the Westland Police Department in January of 2013. After completing the Westland Police In-Service training, he began the police field training program.

Monson graduated from the Washtenaw Police Academy, where he

earned his Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) certification. Monson also has a degree in Criminal Justice from Washtenaw Community College.

"The Westland Police Department prides itself on a tradition of hard work and professionalism. I am confident that Mr. Monson will be an exceptional police officer and serve our Westland community well," said Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik.

## Inkster City Council rescinds water shut-off policy

Members of the Inkster City Council unanimously approved a suggestion from Treasurer Mark Stuhldreier to rescind the current water shut-off policy in the city.

Councilman Marcus Hendricks said that the city has an ordinance in place which already supersedes the policy, so the council members

agreed to rescind the policy that had a \$350 limit before water could be shut off by the city at the Feb. 3 meeting.

"Less than \$350 in delinquency, there was no shut off," Hendricks said. "Now, there is no threshold on the amount. Any amount of delinquency could be subject to

shut off," he said.

Hendricks explained that the provisions of the current ordinance require that residents receive a delinquency notice when they fail to pay water bills within the time allowed by the city. "Once they have received a delinquency notice, then if there has been no

payment or partial payment within five days, they will receive a shut off notice. After that notice, water can be shut off," Hendricks said.

Hendricks said that the council members are in the process of changing the ordinance to allow for hardship cases and to allow for

payment arrangements and partial payment provisions for residents facing delinquent water bills.

"We directed the administration to come back to us with a proposed revised ordinance within 30 days," he said, "so I expect we will see something very soon."



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# CANTON - NORTHVILLE

## Township Leisure Services may hire 50 workers

With spring fast approaching, Canton Leisure Services is offering a variety of job opportunities for both teens and adults. Within the next four months, Leisure Services may be hiring up to 50 employees for both seasonal and part-time positions. Canton is currently looking for dedicated individuals to help ensure that township parks, facilities, and programs continue to provide premier services.

Available seasonal and part-time positions include: Lifeguards, Summer Camp Counselors, Summer Camp Supervisors, Preschool Instructors, Therapeutic Recreation Camp staff, Special Events Coordinators, Park Laborers, Pheasant Run Golf Course staff, Canton Sports Center staff and more.

“Many of these positions may offer college students, school teachers and others a chance to experience the challenges and rewards of working for an active leisure services agency,” said Jennifer Provenzano, recreation coordinator. “We look forward to adding dedicated, friendly and outgoing staff who will help enhance our guests' experiences.”

To ensure that every new employee finds success in their new role, Canton provides extensive, hands on training, Provenzano said. Those applicants looking to get ahead in the field of recreation may want to also sign up to take Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructor courses held throughout the winter and spring at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, she added.

For a complete list of open positions with Canton Leisure Services, visit [www.canton-mi.org/humanresources/jobs.asp](http://www.canton-mi.org/humanresources/jobs.asp). From here, applicants can view the job description, hiring process and download an employment application. Completed applications must be returned directly to Human Resources.

Canton Township is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Canton resident to seek state representative seat

Carol Ann Fausone, the first woman to earn the rank of Brigadier General in the Michigan National Guard, will seek the office of State Representative in Michigan's 21st District, which encompasses Canton Township, Belleville, and Van Buren Township.

“I served my country for 36 years in the Air Force and in the National Guard as a citizen soldier, and now I want to continue to give back and serve my community as a citizen legislator,” Fausone said. Fausone, who is running on the Republican ticket, also noted that she is not a career-politician, and that is one of her greatest strengths.

“The people of Canton, Belleville, and Van Buren deserve a representative who will serve with integrity, and who will listen to their issues and work with them toward solving those issues,” Fausone added, “I’m excited to go to work and do just that.”

Fausone served as the assistant adjutant general of veterans' affairs for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs from 2003 to 2011. With a bachelors in nursing from the University of Michigan and a masters from Madonna University, she was also the first Michigan medical officer to achieve the rank of a general officer.

The 21st district seat will be a target race in 2014, and Fausone has jumped out to a fast start. Former State Sen. Bruce Patterson and State Sen. Patrick Colbeck have endorsed her candidacy.

“Carol Ann will serve with honesty and integrity, and that's what I look for when I want someone to represent me,” Patterson said of Fausone, “She has the most experience, a track-record of leadership, and she is undoubtedly the right person for the job.”

Fausone and her husband, Jim, Fausone, live in Canton and are active in a variety of community organizations. Currently, Fausone sits on the Madonna University Board of Trustees, in addition to running her own small business, The Veteran Advocate, LLC.

She also works with her husband, a lawyer, at Legal Help For Veterans, PLLC. The two businesses provide legal and consulting aid to veterans and their families.



Carol Ann Fausone

## Toy will vie for 9th District Wayne County Commission term

Laura Toy has officially announced her candidacy in November's election for the 9th District seat on the Wayne County Commission, which represents the City of Northville, Northville Township and Livonia.

“I am running for the District 9 Wayne County Board of Commissioners seat,” Toy said in a news release. “Nine out of the 15 current members of the board are former legislators whom I have worked with. As a member of the Legislature and local government, I have built relationships with members of both parties. This has allowed me to work across the aisle and achieve real results.”

Toy, a current Livonia City Council member, said she is running on her proven track record of accomplishments at the state and local level.

“I strongly believe if elected my years of leadership experience and ability to work in an inclusive fashion will be a benefit to the residence of Wayne County,” Toy said. “At the end of the day these positions are about public service, not partisan politics.”

As the possibility of an emergency financial manager looms over Wayne County, Toy said she was optimistic that would not happen.

“I am not philosophically opposed to an emergency financial manager. However, I don't think we are to that point yet. If we put strong leaders in place who are unafraid of making tough decisions, then we can lead Wayne County out of this fiscal crisis without resorting to intervention from the state.”

A lifelong resident of Livonia, Toy has owned and operated Cardwell Florist for the last 35 years.

“As a small business owner I know what it means to balance a budget.

“Just like a personal budget, with a small business you either make tough decisions, or face the consequences,” she said.

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# OPINION

## The public really does have a right to know

Recent personnel events challenging management skills in Plymouth Township are a more common occurrence in municipalities than most of the public knows.

The reason is simple. Police chiefs, fire chiefs, township supervisors and mayors aren't real eager to air their dirty linen in public, no matter how serious. If they have personnel matters that need handling, they would prefer to do it within the confines of their own municipal building. We understand that, and really, with the current laws in place, it is often necessary for department managers to be very cautious about the privacy rights of employees. Often, they walk a fine line, knowing that an individual may not be exactly suited for the rigors of public safety work. Finding a means to redirect them, protect the integrity of services to taxpayers and not be responsible for the individual taking up the same profession in a different community isn't a task for amateurs.

Late last month, two police officers in Plymouth Township resigned after being on paid administrative leave for almost four months. Their resignations came as a result of an illicit sexual relationship one of them had with another officer who is now suing the township for wrongful termination. When her attorney subpoenaed township emails and other communications, the relationship, along with the dereliction of duty of

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*We think his philosophy would be a good one for some local officials and chiefs to at least consider.*

another officer; and the lack of attention paid to the situation by the sergeant in charge, were discovered.

There has certainly been no effort by the township to make any of this public, not the particulars of the lawsuit, the internal investigation or the conditions of the resignations. We can almost understand that, after all, why send the message that these kinds of things are going on into the public forum? Isn't it best to protect the confidence of the public in the efficiency and ethics of the police officers enforcing the laws? We understand that opinion, but depending on the situation, our answer is no.

One of the finest police chiefs we've ever encountered in decades of covering municipalities used to say that it was part of his job to keep the public informed. He told us many times that he believed that if he provided the information about any situation, he could get in front of it, and let the public know what he had done to ensure that the problems had been solved in the best way possible.

We think his philosophy would be a good one for some local officials and chiefs to at least consider.

If this former chief had been faced with the Plymouth Township situation, we would have gotten a call detailing what happened, then a written statement, explaining what had been done to correct the problems and the actions taken by the township. He would have caged the account in language demonstrating that the department would not tolerate any type of misconduct or dereliction of duty. He would always emphasize the integrity of the public safety profession and would promise to continue to be diligent in providing the best service possible to the public, even if it meant dismissing less-than-stellar officers.

He would have stopped the gossip and innuendo, which is always far worse and more salacious than the facts, immediately. He would have faced the situation head on, taken charge and controlled the tenor of information, despite any attempts from politicians to control him.

He knew that if reporters had to dig for the information, had to search for it through miles of legal filings or be informed by sources with personal agendas, the situation could quickly get out of his control.

As we said, he believed it was part of his job as a police chief to keep the public informed. We think so, too.

## Police study is overdue

Inkster City Council members have approved a \$19,000 study of the municipal police department.

Not a moment too soon.

After months of controversy and complaints from officers and not one, but two, letters of no confidence in Police Chief Hilton Napoleon, the city has agreed to investigate the claims of officers regarding the serious, and even life-threatening, problems they perceive in the department.

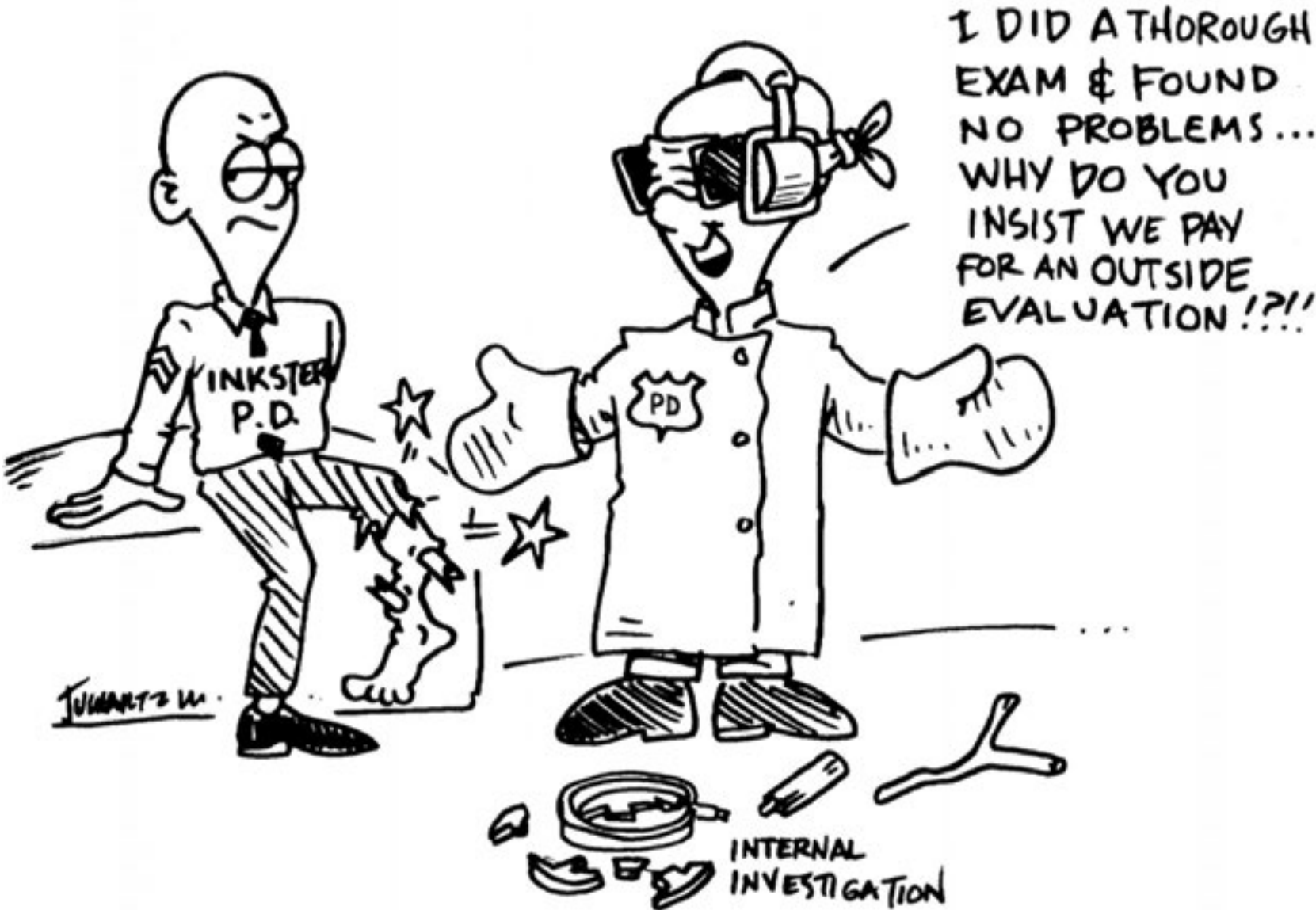
A study of this nature was discussed months ago, before the early retirement of seven officers was negotiated in an attempt to save wages in the department by bringing on younger, less-senior patrolmen.

That plan had to be approved by the state as the City of Inkster remains under a deficit reduction agreement with the state due to the dire financial condition that exists in the city. The police department study will be performed by Risk Management Associates, a company that claims no existing or previous ties to Inkster or Inkster officials and which maintains that the \$19,000 is about half the usual fee for such a consultation. That certainly sounds like a good deal.

The financial crisis in Inkster, exacerbated regularly by lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit, needs to be addressed at the cause, rather than continuing to attempt to patch the symptoms. Police officers, and other employees, have successfully sued the city multiple times, receiving huge monetary awards from the courts for the failure of the city to adhere to both state and federal employment laws, civil rights guarantees and union contracts.

Finding out why correct procedures and policies, along with employment laws, are not followed in the community is long overdue.

See **Study**, page 7



## Congratulations to me on my new award

Whether you realize it or not, you are now reading the work of a genuine celebrity. I am pleased to announce that I have been named Journalist of the Year by the prestigious National News Writers Association. Yep, you are reading the work of a real superstar now. Are you impressed?

I have been named the best of the best and nobody even came close to beating me out for the honor. That may be because I was the only one in the competition, but hey, you take your glory where you can get it, right?

Now, some people, those in my league of cynicism, may be asking, what is the National News Writers Association? Mighty fine question, that, particularly since I made up the name and am the only member of this imaginary group.

No wonder I won, right?

I decided to take this step after reading about several honors bestowed by some less-than-well-known groups on a couple of our local communities and on some local services. I thought to myself, hey, if some internet app that has never set foot in the community they are honoring can choose the best community in the state, why can't I form a group and honor my own self, too. I mean, let's face it, nobody else is going to do it. Seriously.

I suspect that's also the reason some of these "honors" have been so overplayed locally. The crackerjack officials in these municipalities fig-

”

*Yep, you are reading the work of a real superstar now. Are you impressed?*

ure if some unknown internet apartment locator application in Toronto is going to honor them, they might as well take advantage of it and make as big a deal as possible. Like me, they know legitimate trade organizations and groups might have standards just a bit higher than these less-than-credentialed entities. They figure nobody is going to look these groups up on the internet and discover exactly what qualifications members and officers may have for choosing the honorees. And, since bad publicity and "unfortunate incidents" are as prevalent in their communities as bovine residue on a dairy farm, they opted to make the most of any good words that came their way.

Hey, me too, on both counts.

But, unfortunately, in an effort to publicize these same municipal honors and ratings, I did look the group and organization up and almost lost control of my bodily functions laughing when I saw the results.

One of my favorites is a particular group of "former public safety officials" who rated the public service performance of a local community. These guys said the community is doing just fine and is performing within the "new model." Of course, these are the same guys who

dreamed up the "new model" and sold the adoption of it to the city. One of them was employed by a company that is making a bundle from the use of this plan.

I suspect nobody has asked people who have been subjected to some of the services using the "new model" to rate them, either. I can sorta guess what they think about the tiered response times while they wait for emergency medical services and a cop with a first aid kit and a portable defibrillator in the patrol car trunk shows up rather than an ambulance. But, hey, I've been wrong before, although I'd appreciate it if that weren't mentioned at my upcoming award presentation.

I also discovered that the group who chose a local township as one of the best places to live in the state was nothing more than an internet computer application, and my disillusionment was complete. These people never set foot in the community they honored with the title but based their opinion on demographics, unverified statistics, random comments and the census. Nobody has ever seen them and no former honorees know how to find them, other than at the handy computer site.

But, hey enough about them, let's

get back to something important, my newly-acquired honor:

See, now I have to decide exactly what kind of plaque to get engraved for myself to hang on my office wall, y'know, now that I am such a big damn deal. Then I need a nice venue for the presentation ceremony where I talk about all my accomplishments before I hand myself the award.

Geez, now I gotta work on an acceptance speech.



But what do I know?

by Susan Willett

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Study

FROM PAGE 6

We suspect that the prevailing attitude in the city, that of being able to disregard employment laws due either to ignorance or arrogance, or both, will be cited as a large part of the problem.

We have to commend City Manager Richard Marsh for finally getting this analysis started. It was suggested months ago and the proposals for the investigation were submitted back in October. Still, even with that delay, this is an important step in protecting the city from even more and more expensive lawsuits filed by mistreated and disrespected employees whose rights have been violated repeatedly by the very people charged with protecting the public.

The City of Inkster cannot afford the \$19,000 expense for this study. But on the other hand, the City of Inkster cannot afford not to investigate the cause of the continued lawsuits which are costing 50 times than amount both in damages and legal fees.

We only wish this effort and expense had been authorized prior to the loss of the experienced and senior officers who recently retired. We think the city lost some fine officers in an effort to save money. Our other concern is that politics and political debts may keep the administration from actually making the changes recommended by this group of independent law enforcement professionals.

We're hoping the will be one of the first steps to solving one of the myriad of problems currently faced by Inkster:

Send us your letters

The Associated Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to:

The Editor,  
Associated Newspapers,  
P.O. Box 339  
Wayne, MI 48184.

All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Dance tickets on sale

Tickets for the Mother Son Valentines Dance at Romulus High School will be on sale from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Road.

The dance will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and the cost is \$18 per couple. There is a fee of \$7 for each additional son. The price includes a flower and photo with mom, pizza, music, dancing and other entertainment.

For more information, call (734) 635-6995.

Vintage Project Runway opens

The Plymouth Historical Museum's new special exhibit, "Vintage Project Runway," will continue through June 8. Inspired by the hit TV series, "Project Runway," this exhibit showcases American men's and women's fashion from two centuries, 1820-1970.

In keeping with the runway theme, the fashions are displayed down a runway on the Museum's Main Street. Many of the items shown have never been exhibited before, while others are from a private collection. In addition, the special exhibit highlights three stores that were part of the fabric of downtown Plymouth in years gone by: Davis & Lent, Dunning's, and Cassidy's.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main St., just north of Kellogg Park in Plymouth. The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Special group tours with Textile Historian Pam Yockey can be arranged by calling (734) 455-8940 or emailing secretary@plymouthhistory.org.

Community Baby Shower is planned

Plymouth Community United Way is planning a Baby Shower and everyone is invited.

Individuals as well as companies, service clubs, and churches can join in the fun by donating new bottles, formula, bibs, crib sheets, blankets (handmade accepted), diapers, baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car seats, cribs, strollers, and monitors. The items will be distributed to low-income mothers in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County.

United Way is offering a range of ways to participate from drop-

Calendar of events

ping off items at the office to holding a special event like a baby shower:

"We want to help low-income mothers and single mothers who can't afford these items and may fall through the cracks when they seek help," said Marie Morrow, Plymouth Community United Way president.

Donations are being accepted at Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For information, contact Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 7 or randi.williams@pcuw.org.

Art House members exhibit work

The 8th Annual Members Exhibit at the Northville Art House will continue through March. 1.

The exhibition will open with a reception from 6-9 p.m. tomorrow and continue from 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. This yearly show was designed to say thank you to everyone who has supported the growth and creativity of the arts in Northville as the artist members exhibit their various techniques and styles.

For additional information, call (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearthouse.org.

Love Thy Neighbor effort begins

Love Thy Neighbor, a Valentine's Day effort supporting the Salvation Army Food Pantry will continue through Feb. 16.

Donations will be accepted at the Salvation Army Plymouth office, 9451 S. Main from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

Currently, the pantry is in need of body soap, dish soap, detergent, shampoos and conditioner, Hamburger Helper, canned chicken and tuna, deodorant and shaving items for both men and women and toilet paper.

For more information, contact Laurie Aren at laurie\_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or (734) 453-5464.

Tribute concert planned

The Progressive Club in Romulus will host a Valentines Tribute to the Legends beginning at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15.

Included will be tributes to The Blues Brothers, Toby Keith, Ray

Charles, Stevie Wonder and Ronnie Milsap by professional artists.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. Only 150 tickets at \$15 are available and can be purchased at the Romulus Chamber of Commerce office at the corner of Shook and Bibbins roads. Reservations are available at (734)893-0694 or (734) 718-3137.

All proceeds will be used for The Progressive Club Maintenance Fund, a 501 © 4 organization. The club is located at 11580 Ozga Road in Romulus.

Library fundraiser includes auction

The annual auction fundraiser to support the Plymouth Historical Museum will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 15 at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 North Territorial Road.

Tickets are priced at \$75 per person and include dinner, a live auction, raffles and performances by 12-year-old Makenzie Ryder and the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Tickets are available at the museum or at www.plymouthhistory.org using PayPal. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

Hospital hosts blood drive

Oakwood Hospital-Wayne will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

The American Red Cross is facing a major blood shortfall because the severe winter weather experienced throughout the country has forced the cancellation of dozens of scheduled blood drives. To make an appointment, visit www.red-cross.org and use the sponsor code Oakhosp or call 800-RED-CROSS.

Grief workshop set

New Hope Center for Grief Support will have eight-week workshops starting in February for people who are grieving after the death of a loved one. The workshops are offered at no cost to participants and are open to anyone grieving after the death of a loved one and will be presented by New Hope's Executive Director Karen Laing and New Hope's Speaker Team. Each session will begin with an informational presentation about one aspect of grief followed

See **Calendar**, page 8

Elder law seminars planned

Plymouth Community United Way in partnership with the Plymouth Community Council on Aging will present a free Elder Law Series with attorney Gary S. Allen beginning 10-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty.

Allen, an estate planning and elder law attorney, continues the series Thursdays, Feb. 27. March 6 and March 13 with sessions offered at 10-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Advance registration required. To reserve a space, call Plymouth Community United Way at 734-453-6879, ext. 7.

Topics include **Estate Planning**, Feb. 20. Avoiding probate, discussion of wills and power of attorney for financial and healthcare purposes, Lady Bird deeds, changes to 2013 Federal Estate Tax.

Learn why you do not want to hold a deed for recording after death.

**Outliving Your Assets**, Feb. 27. Seventy-percent of retirees need long-term care. Learn about long-term care insurance and combining it with life insurance, how to qualify for Medicaid, convert financial assets into guaranteed income. Create a guaranteed lifetime pension for you and your spouse.

**Retirement Accounts**, March 6. IRAs. 401K, 403b, etc. Avoid up to 40 percent taxation on accounts at death, 10 percent and 50 percent tax penalties for improper withdrawals from retirement accounts. Convert taxable IRA to tax-free inheritance.

**Taxes**, March 13. Income and estates taxes are expected to rise in the future. Convert taxable assets into tax-deferred or tax-free assets. Reduce taxes on Social Security income. Learn about gift taxes and using a charitable remainder trust to reduce taxes.

Classified

1. Obituaries



**Leonard Akridge**  
**Jan. 1, 1938**  
**Feb. 4, 2014**

Leonard Akridge died Feb. 4, 2014. Among those survivors left to cherish his memory are his wife, Fay Singhi Akridge; his children, April K. (Rodney) Garrett; Glynis (Craig, Sr.) Akridge-Peterson and Leonard Scott (Keshia) Akridge; grandchildren, Dumar Peterson, Brianna McNulty, Chanel Cabbil, Craig Peterson, Jr., August Garrett, Ryan Peterson, Jordan Peterson, Cameran Akridge, Kyle Peterson and Braylen Akridge; a sister, Ruby Williams; his long-time companion, Grace Tate; his aunt, Virginia Colquitt; brothers-in-law, Al Bennett, Jr., and Ronnie Bennett; a sister-in-law, Maxine Bennett; many nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives, and many friends. Funeral services took place at the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster with the Rev. Gloriane Hymon-Wiley officiating. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery on Michigan Avenue in Wayne.

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**Dorothy Murphy**  
**July 11, 1927**  
**Feb. 3, 2014**

Dorothy Murphy died Feb. 3, 2014. Among those survivors left to cherish her memory are her husband, Lemar Murphy, Sr.; her children, Dorothy (Freddie) Bishop, Billy (Lillian), Barbara Jean Smith, Tyrone (Barbara), Gregory (Sheila), Lemar, Jr. (Ruby Kay), Carl (Sharon), Elphonso (Kimberly) and Marsha (Craig) Barker; two sisters-in-law, Ethel Williams and Ruth Murphy; a brother-in-law, Marzell Harris; 31 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services took place at Romulus Community Baptist Church on Fourth Street in Romulus with the Rev. Hiram McBurrows officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster. Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia.



**Georthy Mae Wiley**  
**Sunrise: Sept. 3, 1942**  
**Sunset: Jan. 29, 2014**  
Georthy Mae "Gert" Wiley died Jan. 29, 2013. Among the survivors left to cherish her memory are her loving husband, Alvin Wiley; her

children, Jeffrey Dion (Myrna) Wiley of Jacksonville, NC; Donald Edward (Lynne) Wiley of Romulus, Deborah Glennise (David Ledbetter) Wiley of Inkster, Bryant Anthony (Minnie) Wiley of Wayne and Kenneth Wiley, also of Wayne; grandchildren, Cassandra Cheatham, Lametrika Dashaun (Lee) Williams, Dametrika Lashaun (Dee) Williams, Amar Rashard Williams, Marcus Allen Ledbetter, Niquita Shelanda Burnette, Kevin Anthony Ledbetter, Alyse Janay Reed, Annise Renee Wiley, Kerry William Harper and Emanuel Bernard Wiley; great-grandchildren, Rainelle Brianna Hamlimon, Amir DaVaughn Burnette, Michael Gemell Reed, Ameilia Myotte Ledbetter and Malik Isiah Reed; sisters, Naomi Kennedy and Stephanie (Powell) Bonner, all of Inkster; Lorraine (Joseph) Flicking of Belleville and Lournette (Steven Tomlinson) Matthews of Taylor; a brother, Frederick Matthews; sisters-in-law, Betty Thomas Wiley of Clinton ML and Sally Matthews of Inkster; a brother-in-law, William Lee (Bishop) Wiley; a host of nieces, nephews and other family members, and many friends. Funeral services took place at Sunset Church of Christ on Ecorse Road in Taylor with Brother Burke officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster. Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia.

To advertise in

The Eagle,

call

734-467-1900.



**Laundary Hampton**  
**Sunrise: March 28, 1955**  
**Sunset: Jan. 28, 2014**

Laundary "Lonnie" Hampton died Jan. 28, 2014. Among those survivors left to cherish his memory are his loving daughter, Nakia Hampton; five sisters, LueAnn Hampton, Betty Hampton, Doris Tate, Sarah Hampton and Toni Colley; two brothers, Jean Hampton and Jerome Hampton; a host of other relatives, and many friends. Funeral services took place at Strong Tower Ministries in Ypsilanti with Pastor Michael Rosier officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster. Interment was at Hopewell Cemetery in Brooksville, Mississippi.

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59. Auctions

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1FM2U73K642B04443  
1999 CHEVY  
1GNDX03E7XD162884  
1999 PONTIAC  
1G2NE52T9XM773357  
2005 DODGE  
2D44V48T25H533412  
2003 CHEVY  
1G1JF12F627253662  
2006 FORD  
1FAFP56U66A229417  
1999 CHRYSLER  
2C3HD46J5XH520638  
2000 PONTIAC  
1G2NW12E4YM880633  
1990 COLEMAN  
1CLFF11CXL5901025  
2008 FORD  
1FMCU03Z98KB49031  
1989 GMC  
1GTDK14K4KZ529480  
2003 FORD  
2FTRX17273CA61018  
1991 MERCURY  
1MEPM60T5MH616430  
1993 FORD  
1FTHF26H4PLA48202  
2007 CHEVY  
1GNDS13S072287358  
2005 CHEVY  
1GNDT13S252164591  
2003 LINCOLN  
1LNHM87A63Y673686  
1993 FORD  
1FTEF15Y5PLA95575  
1995 FORD  
2FTHF25H1SCA73434

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# Calendar

FROM PAGE 7

by small group participation guided by trained facilitators. Attendees are placed in groups with others who have had similar losses. The upcoming workshops will take place from 7 until 8:45 p.m. starting Feb. 17 at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville. For a listing of upcoming workshops and events, visit [www.newhope-center.net](http://www.newhope-center.net). To register, call New Hope at (248) 348-0115.

### Legislator is guest speaker

State Rep. Doug Geiss, D-Taylor, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Feb. 17. Registration will begin at 11:30 and lunch will be served at noon. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn, 8400 Merriman Road in Romulus.

Seating is limited and reservations will only be accepted until Feb. 14. The cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$25 for non-members.

For more information, or reservations, call (734) 893-0694 or access [info@romuluschamber.com](mailto:info@romuluschamber.com).

### Butterfly hobbyists to meet

Self-medication in Monarchs; Plants as Sources of Medicine for Foraging Animals will be the topic at the 7 p.m. Feb. 19, meeting of the Southeast Michigan, Butterfly Association (SEMBA). Mark Hunter, professor at the University of Michigan will discuss the ability of animals to self-medicate through the medicinal properties of native plants.

The meeting will take place at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking is available on Hines Drive or Ann Arbor Trail. Admission is \$3 for non-members.

For more information, call (734) 223-5510, email [semba@sembabutterfly.com](mailto:semba@sembabutterfly.com), or visit our website at [www.sembabutterfly.com](http://www.sembabutterfly.com).

### Food distribution set

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 20. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides low-income Plymouth and Northville residents with canned, non-perishable and perishable items.

All recipients must pre-register at Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth.

This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth.

For information and to register, call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7, or send email to [randi.williams@pcuw.org](mailto:randi.williams@pcuw.org).

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### Chamber hosts coffee hour

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce will host a Wake-Up Wayne coffee from 8-9 a.m. Feb. 20 at Nick's Coney Island located at 35425 W. Michigan Ave. in downtown Wayne. This is a 5-Star event so members from Wayne, Westland, Redford and Dearborn chambers of commerce will be on hand.

Coffee will be provided and breakfast is available for purchase.

### Belleville Museum hosts speaker

Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History will be the topic of Susan Nenadic at the third Thursday Lecture from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Belleville Art Museum, 405 Main St., Belleville.

The lecture is free to members of the museum and admission for non-members is \$3.

For more information, call the museum at (734) 697-1944.

### Used book sale set

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public

# Mott patients' artwork on exhibit in Plymouth

Milestones, Recognizing The Artist Within is the February exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

The artwork was created at the University of Michigan CS Mott Milestones' Pediatric Rehabilitation Program. Each artist engaged in art-making during the recovery phases from an illness or injury. These artists worked with an art therapist in the creation of the works.

The exhibit continues through Feb. 26. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, during public events and by appointment.

The gallery is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road in Plymouth.

Executive Director Lisa Howard said, "I first became aware of this amazing program during our Miracles Among Us exhibit last March which highlighted the work of many organizations that support athletes and artists with special needs."

"Part of the exhibit was a beautiful collection of photographs brought to us by the Lindlbauer family that their son,

Jesse, had created during his art classes at Milestones. You might recall that the Canton High School student suffered brain damage from a severe infection.

"I knew right then that I wanted to have another exhibit to show more of this work and bring awareness to the importance of Art Therapy. There are three components to the full-circle art process...deciding how to express oneself, the actual execution and then the presentation of the work to some kind of audience.

"The third part of this is especially important for those recovering from any kind of traumatic experience," she added.

Art Therapist Shannon Miller-Scott said, "Art-making is an amazing process that can provide healing on many levels. As each person faces their own challenges, art can reach beyond current circumstance to help each individual understand and achieve their true strength."

For more information about the exhibit, call (734) 416-4278.

Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, are planning a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22 and from noon until 3 p.m. Feb. 23.

DVDs and CDs will be priced at \$2, hardcover books at \$1 and large paperback books at 50 cents. There is a large selection of children's and young adult non-fiction available.

For information, call (734) 326-6123

A preview sale for members of the Friends of the Library is planned from 3-6 p.m. Feb. 19.

All proceeds benefit library programs.

### Record show planned

The student radio station of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools will host the sixth annual record show from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Salem High School cafeteria.

Collectors will find thousands of vinyl records, CDs, import only releases, t-shirts and other collectibles. The show will also

feature special giveaways and door prizes.

Admission is \$3. Early admission for collectors from 9-10 a.m. is \$5. Plymouth, Canton and Salem high school students are admitted at no cost.

All proceeds will benefit the student station

Dealers can contact Station Manager Bill Keith, (734) 416-7732 for more information. Eight foot tables can be reserved for \$30.

The high school is located at 46181 Joy Road in Canton. The cafeteria is on the first floor, just inside the main entrance.

### Blood drive set

The Hillside Student Council will be hosting a blood drive through the American Red Cross from 2-7:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The blood drive will take place on the auditorium stage of the school located at 775 North Center St. in Northville.

Donors can register online at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) and enter sponsor code: [northvilleschools](http://northvilleschools)

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