

# THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

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. 11

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## THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 130, No. 11

Mac Butler, 17, of Belleville officially signed his letter of intent to play soccer with Tiffin University in Ohio Feb. 4 during national signing day.

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## THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 11

Registration for 2015 Canton Leisure Services summer camp programs will begin in person and online Saturday, March 14, at the Camp Fair at the Summit on the Park.

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## THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

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A jury deliberated for only three hours last Thursday before finding two men charged with the execution-style death of a 2-year-old Inkster child guilty on all counts.

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One of the rites of spring is about to begin at Maybury Farm in Northville with the annual Maple Syrup Tours which will continue through March 29.

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## THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

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Plymouth Township will spend \$219,275 to upgrade the financial management software at the administration building, approved by a 6-1 vote of the board of trustees.

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## THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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The Romulus Public Library has some special programs available during the month of March, according to Library Director Patty Braden.

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Members of the Wayne Rotary Club went back to school last month as they distributed dictionaries to third-grade students at Roosevelt, Taft-Galloway, Hoover, St. Joseph, St. Michael and St. Mary schools.

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## THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 11

Debra Peck has been appointed as the new budget director for the City of Westland by Mayor William Wild who said she has a wealth of financial experience.

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## Emergency dispatch times criticized by official

Don Howard  
Staff Writer

In an “Administration Update” last month, Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock targeted the Plymouth Township Police Department dispatch operation as “...having a difficult time in processing calls for service in a timely manner.”

His critical assessment was addressed to members of the Northville Plymouth Fire Advisory Board, made up of elected and appointed officials from Northville and Plymouth. The board was established to oversee the current Plymouth and Northville joint fire department following the 2010 dissolution of the Plymouth Community Fire Department which included both the city and township of Plymouth.

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*Don't drive a wedge where  
a wedge isn't needed.*

Dispatch of critical emergency calls for police and fire services in the City of Plymouth is still handled by Plymouth Township dispatch operations.

In his memo, Sincock said an Inter-City-County Management Association (ICMA) report showed the response to 911 calls in the City of Plymouth was taking nearly two minutes before on-call firefighters were actually dispatched, which exceeds national standards set by the National Fire Protection Association. ICMA is a Washington D.C. based think-tank management association that specializes in consult-

ing in public safety and performance measurement.

Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington said he takes exception to Sincock's claim that there is any delay or problem with the current dispatch operation.

He said he is proud of the performance of the dispatch center and his 11 full-time civilian employees who are Police Service Aides (PSAs) and his communications supervisor, Lt. John Brothers.

Brothers said 99 percent of the thousands of emergent calls the department processes are dispatched within seconds by radio, computer and tone-out on pagers. He said he prepares a monthly report in which

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## Fight For Air Teams compete to earn funds for lung association

While not many fear being in need of a firefighter at the top of a 70-story building, if the situation occurs, Canton firefighter Maureen Stoecklein will probably get there first.

Stoecklein, carrying 70 pounds of turn out gear, finished the Fight For Air climb organized by the American Lung Association, faster than any other woman participating last Sunday.

Stoecklein was a member of the eight-man team from Canton Township who entered the Firefighters Challenge portion of the event which is timed and recorded.

Also participating in the event which drew hundreds of participants, was a local team from Romulus who fought their way up all 1,035 stairs at the Detroit Renaissance Center to finish the event which was a fundraiser for the national charity.

Some ran, many walked and the Canton firefighters, in full turn out gear, fought their way to the top of the building. To participate, every climber was required to pay a \$100 entry fee, which went directly to American Lung Association efforts to promote the fight against chronic lung disease. Many of the teams also collected pledges for donations from supporters.

The team from Romulus climbed in support of their friend and coworker Linda McNeil. Three of the Romulus team members work with McNeil at the city and were joined by McNeil's brother and three friends. McNeil had finished the climb the past two years but was unable to participate this year as she is battling cancer. McNeil was able to meet each of her support team at the finish of the climb where she presented them with their completion medals.

“Although I was unable to do the climb this year it was truly heartwarming that family, friends and co-workers decided to do the climb in my honor. Keep in mind that some of them had never done the



The Canton Township firefighter Fight For Air team included, back row, left to right, Duane Lowe, Nick Lombardi, Maureen Stoecklein, Chris Stoecklein and Kevin Henderson. In the bottom row, from left, are Ryan Molina, Jim Henderson and Brian Switzer.

climb before and had little to no training for it. Even more heartwarming was the fact that I was allowed to present my team with their medals as they crossed the finish line. It is my hope to be in remission next year and that I will be able to participate in the climb with my team,” McNeil said.

Merrie Druyor has participated in the climb with McNeil since they started two years ago.

“It's been amazing to see how our team and support has grown every year. Our motto is 'RomTown Strong' and even though we did the climb in Linda's honor this year, it's important to know that we are fighting for all of those with lung issues; my own grandfather battled with emphysema, so I climb for him as well,” Druyor said.

The Canton team participated in the Firefighter Challenge division of the event for the first time this year. The firefighters raised \$2,415 for the American Lung Association, and Stoecklein earned first place among all female firefighters with



Members of the Romulus Fight For Air team included, back row from left, Dawn Denison, Merrie Druyor, Ron Witten, Linda McNeil, Joanne Jensen and Paulette Matlock. In the front row are Robert McCraight and Larry Lindenmuth.

her recorded time of 13.49 minutes. Stoecklein was also 33rd among all finishers in the race. The average time for all the Canton team members was 24 minutes.

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff expressed his gratitude to the team from his community.

“I'm proud of our employees for all they do to support one another, and our community. This event was just one more example of the compassion and dedication that comes from our team.”

The Canton team said they are looking forward to next year when they plan to improve both their finishing times and contribution amounts.

To donate to the American Lung Association visit [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org).

## Whistle blower lawsuit continues in Van Buren

”

*The township claims that Karver  
was terminated based on his failure  
to pass the Fire Inspector II test.*

Circuit Court Judge David Allen last week denied Van Buren Township attorneys' motion for a stay of proceedings and a motion to adjourn in a Whistleblower lawsuit filed by Fire Captain Anthony Karver.

The township attorneys indicated they will also be filing an appeal of Allen's earlier denial of a motion to dismiss the case.

Allen adjourned the Case Evaluation from March 17 to sometime in May and discovery time was extended to April 30.

The Whistleblower lawsuit was filed against Van Buren Township on behalf of Karver who alleges that he was fired last March after threatening to publicize the misconduct of Van Buren Township Police Lt. Kenneth Floro, the highest paid township employee. Floro was paid \$214,579.66

by the township last year;

Attorney Richard G. Convertino, who represents Karver, called Floro's wages “bloated and unjustifiable.”

In his lawsuit, Karver claims he was fired March 10, 2014 because he threatened to report Floro's misconduct on the job. He alleges that Floro, who was being paid \$96,247.31 as a police lieutenant and another \$71,049.49 in wages at a time-and-a-half blended rate from the fire department, repeatedly left his on-duty shifts at the fire station for hours at a time for per-

sonal business. Floro also received an additional \$48,282.95 in benefits, according to figures Convertino cited.

Karver claims he informed both Fire Chief Daniel Besson and Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain that he had proof that Floro continually and regularly left the fire station, in his personal vehicle, for several hours on a regular basis, despite being warned that he was being derelict in his duties and putting the safety of township residents at risk.

The lawsuit, which also names Besson, Supervisor Linda Combs, Laurain and Fire Department Battalion Chief/Fire Marshall David McNally, claims that Floro was paid a “blended rate” or the hourly

See Lawsuit, page 3



# NORTHVILLE - PLYMOUTH



Visitors enjoy seeing the sap flow from maple trees at Maybury Farm.

## Sweet treat Syrup season begins at Maybury Farm

One of the rites of spring is about to begin at Maybury Farm in Northville with the annual Maple Syrup Tours.

The tours include a hayride to the sugar bush to see how the maple trees are tapped and the sap is collected. Visitors will help take the sap back to the evaporator at the Sugar Shack and watch as maple syrup is being made. The tour not only includes step-by-step instructions in the making of the sweet treat, but participants will share in the process.

After the tour, visitors can warm up with a cup of hot cocoa in the Welcome Center where Michigan-made maple syrup is for sale and free maple syrup recipes will be distributed.

Tours leave promptly at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through March 29. Executive Director of the Northville Foundation Jessica Striegle said that the tours are a huge attraction

at the farm every year and hundreds of families participate.

“Don’t miss out,” she cautioned.

Admission is \$6 per person and children younger than 2 are admitted at no fee. Striegle suggested visitors dress warmly and wear boots.

Maybury Farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile Road in Northville. It is 1-1/4 mile west of Beck Road on Eight Mile, 1/2 mile west of Maybury State Park. Enter at the Maybury Farm sign, do not enter the State Park. Parking is free.

Maybury Farm is operated by the Northville Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Maybury Farm is a historic farm that provides interactive educational opportunities for the public. For more information visit [www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org) or [www.facebook.com/mayburyfarm](http://www.facebook.com/mayburyfarm).

## Film fest entries sought

Entries are now being accepted for the 5th Annual Reel Michigan Film Festival planned for downtown Northville in June.

The event is part of the Arts and Acts Festival and will feature a diverse collection of Michigan-made short films beginning at 5 p.m. followed by a question and answer session with filmmakers.

Reel Michigan will accept Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films, less than 20 minutes in length until the deadline April 17. All film genres are eligible, from student films to the experimental, organizers said. The entry form is available at <http://northvilleearthhouse.org/special-events/reel-michigan/>.

## Board OK’s new computers

Plymouth Township will spend \$219,275 to upgrade the financial management software at the administration building.

The expense was approved at the recent meeting of the board of trustees by a 6-1 vote with Trustee Chuck Curmi voting in opposition to the purchase.

The new software, to be installed by BS&E Software, will replace a 22-year-old system and allow the use of credit cards and online bill payment of taxes and water bills. The approved payment will include software, installation, training, data conversion and support of the system.

The new system was proposed by Treasurer Ron Edwards who told the trustees in a letter that the current system was cumbersome and difficult to learn and did not have the ability to prepare specific reports, track projects or prepare budgets.

He said that the new \$200,000 system will provide those features, prepare property taxes, special assessments, utility billing, dog licensing, accounts payable, generate purchase orders and includes several other features. The installation of the new system is expected to take about 9 months.

## Times

FROM PAGE 1

every single call that exceed 30 seconds is addressed. He said that the report is reviewed with the dispatchers and that a written report is sent to City of Plymouth Chief of Police Al Cox. Cox also serves on the Fire Advisory Board and reports to Sincock.

“Sometimes it takes longer than 30 seconds to determine if a response is needed, like the case of a carbon monoxide detector that was going off but now stopped,” Brothers explained.

In 2010, after the acrimonious dissolution of the joint fire department with Plymouth Township, Sincock recommended the city commission authorize payment to ICMA to create the Emergency Services Review. The joint agreement with Plymouth Township for fire and EMS services established in 1995 generated \$950,000 annually to the township for emergency services. The dissolution of the inter-governmental operation has caused an ongoing disagreement between the communities regarding the financial obligation of the city to the township for pension costs accrued while the joint operation existed.

The City of Plymouth followed the rec-

ommendation of the ICMA consulting team which included Leonard Matarese, a retired Miami Florida police officer; Ken Chelist, an engineering management professor from Wayne State University and Jerry Zapolnik, Huron Valley Ambulance chief operating officer, when the Northville Fire Department on-call fire-fighter model was adopted.

Sincock’s memo says while the dispatch center is “taking nearly two minutes to process emergent calls...this is a significant improvement over the ICMA 2010 report which showed that call processing took three minutes.”

“Beyond politics, our officers have a good working relationship with the City of Plymouth. If there’s ever an issue, it’s always resolved. We back up each other every day,” Tiderington said.

Sincock said he was not familiar with Brothers’ monthly Fire Department Issues Report sent to Cox.

“The city and the township... regularly work together on many projects, many you know nothing about,” Sincock said.

“Let me say this, it’s a work in progress,” he said of his memo regarding the dispatch operation. “It’s an ongoing process of improvement.”

“Don’t drive a wedge where a wedge isn’t needed.”

Sincock insisted Cox was “unavailable for comment.”

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# CANTON - BELLEVILLE

## Canton Camp Fair Saturday

Registration for 2015 Canton Leisure Services summer camp programs will begin in person and online on Saturday, March 14, at the 2015 Camp Fair at the Summit on the Park community center.

The Camp Fair will take place from 10 a.m. until noon in the Summit banquet center, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. In addition to registration and information, refreshments and children's activities will be free to attendees.

"With a summer filled with exciting opportunities for kids of all ages, registration will fill up quickly," said Recreation Specialist Jennifer Girard. "Register early and don't spend your summer on the wait list!"

The Camp Fair represents the opening of Canton summer camp registration and also begins the in-person registration for

Canton Leisure Services spring and summer classes and programs.

The theme of Canton summer camps in 2015 is a "Michigan-Made Summer." Summer camp offerings include day camps, preschool camps, sport camps, special needs programs, art camps, science and education camps and many more.

For those new to the Canton area or to summer camps, Canton Leisure Services will be providing Summer Camp Concierges at the Camp Fair. To schedule an appointment with a Summer Camp Concierge during the event, call (734) 394-5474.

For more information on the Canton summer camp offerings and other recreation and education programs, contact (734) 394-5460 or visit [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org).

## Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

rate paid to a Van Buren Township employee who is also employed as a duty-crew firefighter at one of the two township fire stations. The fire stations are usually staffed by two paid-per-call firefighters working 12-hour shifts. According to the court documents, Floro was being paid the blended rate of \$48.47 per hour when on a duty crew while regular firefighters were paid \$18.40 per hour.

Karver became Floro's supervisor in the fire department in 2013. He said he was made aware by other firefighters working with Floro that Floro abandoned his shift on the duty crew on several occasions without authorization from a supervisor and without notice to his duty crew partner. Karver informed Besson in writing that a review of the Station 1 video showed that on one day alone, Floro left the station, nine times, for a total of 5 hours and 16 minutes.

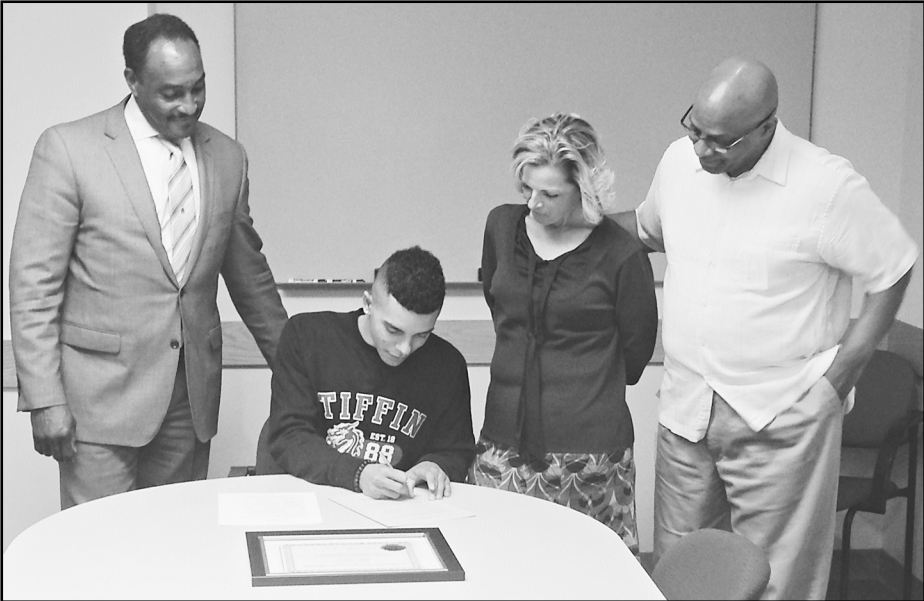
The lawsuit states that on March 3, 2014, Besson came to Station 1 to meet

with Karver. During that meeting Karver says he informed Besson that if Laurain and Besson continued to allow Floro to leave the fire station without authorization while on duty crew for personal business, Karver would feel constrained to notify and inform members of the township board of the issue.

On March 10, Karver was contacted by his union representative, Firefighter and Police Sgt. Mark Abdilla, who told Karver that he was ordered to Combs' office. When they arrived, Laurain informed Karver he was fired because he had failed the Fire Inspector II examination. Laurain ordered him to turn over his badge and his VBT employee identification and Karver was then escorted from the building by township police officers.

The township claims that Karver was terminated based on his failure to pass the Fire Inspector II examination. He alleges that Laurain and Besson assured him that the examination was not a problem and that they would "get him through it."

He has requested reinstatement, back pay and a monetary award in his Whistleblower suit.



### It's official

Mac Butler, 17, of Belleville officially signed his letter of intent to play soccer with Tiffin University in Ohio Feb. 4 during national signing day. Butler was presented a Certificate of Achievement for academic and athletic excellence by Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright. Also in attendance for his signing at Van Buren Township Hall, were his parents, Michele and Norman Butler and Township Treasurer Sharry Budd. Butler's favorite Coach Tony Dukley of the Van Buren Soccer League also attended the event.

## Police to host forum

Representatives from the Canton Police Department, the 35th District Court and the local and county prosecutor's offices will be on hand to answer questions and discuss topics of interest with the public at an open forum in Canton Township from 7-9 p.m. March 31.

The Canton Public Safety Department is hosting the open forum in an effort to bring members of the community and law enforcement together for an open discussion at the PDC Room at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton.

The assembled panel of representa-

tives from various branches of local law enforcement system will field questions from the audience regarding the legal system, and their agency's respective responsibilities to the community.

"There is a growing anxiety nationwide between communities and law enforcement-by opening a dialogue now, we hope to build a bridge of unity between law enforcement and the citizens and organizations of Canton," said Todd Mutchler, director of Canton Public Safety.

This is a free event, open to the public. For additional information contact the department at (734) 394-5400.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon a two week notice to the Charter Township of Canton. These services include signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting. 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: March 12, 2015

EC031215-1085 2.5 x 1.557

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON  
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2015 for the following:

PURCHASE OF 1 INCH SOFT COPPER (K) TUBING

Bids 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 bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid 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 3/12/2015

EC031215-1087 2.5 x 1.949

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 26, 2015 for the following:

DESIGN AND BUILD RESTORATION OF SUMMIT ON THE PARK

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 3/12/2015

EC031215-1089 2.5 x 2.062

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 26, 2015 for the following:

DESIGN AND BUILD RESTORATION OF HERITAGE  
PARK BALL FIELD CENTER ROOM

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 3/12/2015

EC031215-1088 2.5 x 2.062

"NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS"  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

TO THE OWNER OF OCCUPANT OR ANY PERSON OR PERSONS, FIRM OR CORPORATION HAVING CHARGE OF ANY LAND IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON:

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the Charter Township of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan must be cut and destroyed on or before the first day of May, the first day of June, the first day of July, the first day of August, and the first day of September in each year and/or as needed and as often as may be necessary to prevent same from going to seed. Any owner, occupant, or person having charge of any such land must notify the Township that such weeds have been destroyed within three (3) days of such cutting. Any person failing to comply with this notice shall be liable to the imposition of the penalties set forth in Noxious Weed Ordinance, Chapter 24, Article III of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the Township in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the Owner or occupant, shall be spread against the property on the next County and State tax roll or the next general Township tax roll and/or place a lien upon the property to secure the collection of such expense. The Township of Canton may notify by certified mail with return receipt requested, the owner, agent or occupant as shown on the current County and School tax roll, of any lands on which said noxious weeds are found growing. Such notice shall contain a summary of the provisions of this section of the Ordinance. Failure of the Township to give such notice shall not, however, constitute a defense to any action to enforce the payment of any penalty provided herein or any debt created hereunder.

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

TERRY G BENNETT  
CLERK

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# Wayne - Westland

## Council OK's refunds, new rates at community center

Members of the Wayne City Council have authorized both the pro-rated refunds of memberships at the community center and a discounted annual fee for new users.

Mayor James Hawley inquired if any of the council members might question selling memberships in light of looming decisions that have to be made regarding the center, which operates at a significant loss every year. The city will face a projected \$2 million budget shortfall next year.

Councilman Anthony Miller said he was concerned about sending "mixed messages" regarding the community center in light of the situation.

Councilman Al Damitio questioned the suggestion that the center could be closed and said it was a "viable operation" despite repeated references to the annual financial losses. Damitio said he didn't want to send the message to residents that the center might be closed.

"We will keep operating it," he said.

Councilman David James commented, "Maybe we should stop picking up trash. We've got to make a decision there."

Residents wishing a refund for annual fees paid at the center will be credited on the basis of when the membership was purchased and when it will expire, according to Wayne Interim Parks and Recreation Director Juan Bradford.

Currently, discounted memberships at the partially-closed facility are available for \$20 a month for Wayne and Westland residents and \$25 for non-residents, a \$5 discount from usual fees.

City council members closed the aquatic center last month and the ice arena at the facility was closed last year. Currently, only the recreation and fitness areas are open and the meeting and banquet rooms available for rent.

Bradford said annual memberships would be discounted by \$10 or \$15 through March 31. Annual fees for residents would be \$215 for residents and \$250 for non-residents and discounts are also available on couples' rates.

## New budget director named in Westland

Debra Peck has been appointed as the new budget director for the City of Westland.

Peck was named to her new position by Mayor William Wild who said that Peck has several years of experience in budget financing and is bringing that background to Westland.

Prior to joining the Westland staff, Peck held several positions with the City of Novi including - most recently - assistant city treasurer.

She also served as the senior financial manager and Water and Sewer Financial Services Specialist in Novi.

"Deb Peck comes to the city with a wealth of knowledge and vast experience," said Wild. "Ms. Peck's financial acumen and leadership qualities make her a fine addition to Westland's financial team," Wild said.

In her new position, Peck will be responsible for developing and monitoring the annual and five-year budget forecast for the 10th largest city in the state of Michigan with a population of more than 84,000 residents.

"I am looking forward to providing the necessary expertise that will assist the mayor, city council and the administration in making sound financial decisions benefiting the Westland community," said Peck.

Peck will assist the finance director in management of the city financial administration, including managing general ledger; debt service, grant reporting, financial analysis, financial reporting, and other accounting functions. She will also be involved in the supervision and training of the finance department staff.

Peck is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who began her career with Plante Moran, LLP as a member of their municipal audit practice. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA). She also holds the Advanced Certified Public Funds Investment Manager certification. Peck is a member of the MGFOA, GFOA, MACPA, AICPA, APTUS&C and MMTA. In addition, she has served on several non-profit boards stating, "I believe it is important to give back to the community. I am very excited to be a part of Mayor Wild's team," said Peck. "Westland has a dynamic government and management team that truly values the community and its residents. I see positive things happening in Westland. I look forward to joining the team and serving this community."



Debra Peck

## Rotary Club donates books to students

Members of the Wayne Rotary Club went back to school last month as they distributed dictionaries to third-grade students at Roosevelt, Taft-Galloway, Hoover, St. Joseph, St. Michael and St. Mary schools.

The dictionary program has been a part of the Rotary Club for about nine years, according to Rotary member and past District Governor David Carpenter. The group has been donating the dictionaries to students in an effort to help them learn to read, write and communicate, while having a book of their own as a reference. The effort was spearheaded by longtime Rotary Club member Nate Weiser. Weiser read an article in the monthly Rotary Club magazine about a California club that was donating dictionaries to third-grade students. Weiser took the idea to the Wayne club in 2006 and the project has been a part of the club annual agenda ever since.

Last year Rotary Clubs throughout the nation gave out 41,976 dictionaries to third-graders. The 392-page book Wayne students received has photographs, illustrations, and maps, as well as word histories, spelling notes and cultural- and gender-inclusive definitions. During the presentation of the dictionaries at Roosevelt, Carpenter told the students about the activities of the Rotary Club and the goals of the club. He stressed that the uppermost goal of the club internationally is the eradication of polio worldwide. The club members also work to provide clean water in underdeveloped countries and members of the Wayne Club have traveled to Honduras to help install wells, along with members of the Plymouth Rotary Club.

"We're an eclectic organization, we do a little bit of everything to make the world a better place," Carpenter told the class. "With polio, we're down to three countries - Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. We may almost be there in Nigeria. It had six cases last year."

Carpenter told the students that literacy is also important to the club and that each of them should become a "lifelong learner."

The dictionary program is only one effort of the Wayne Rotary Club which hosts several fundraisers throughout the year to pay for the donated books.

## Michigan Rediscovered to be topic

The Wayne Public Library will host author/adventurer Ron Rademacher who will share 10 unique destinations that most people may overlook at 6:30 p.m. March 17.

Rademacher will discuss his travels along the highways, byways, and back roads of the state and discuss the unexplored natural wonders, unusual festivals, and out-of-the-way hidden travel treasures in the state.

To register for this free program, call the library at (734) 721-7832 or visit the Adult Reference Desk. The library is located at 3737 South Wayne Road.

## Wayne County Parks offers Nankin Mills area history classes

Wayne County Parks is offering a series of 90-minute local history presentations on select Saturdays throughout the year. For ages 12 and up, all programs take place at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland.

"Learning is a lifelong process and it is important that we continue to exercise our brains," said Wayne County Executive Warren Evans. "Wayne County Parks offers a variety of educational programs and I hope residents take advantage of these fun learning opportunities."

• April 18 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Native American History Part II: Historic Era  
The tribal cultures we are most familiar with today arrived in the Great Lakes after the Hopewell Culture disappeared. Learn about the many tribes that settled in the Great Lakes and how they lived.

• June 20 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. First Settlement Families of Nankin Township  
Local settlers Marcus Swift and William Osband brought their families to wilds of Michigan in 1825. They became prominent figures in the formation of Nankin Township, building the first schools, churches, anti-slavery societies and homes. Their lives are a fascinating story of perseverance in the face of many hardships, as well as an inspiration.

• Sept. 12 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Henry Ford's Village Industries  
As part of his "Village Industry Project," Henry Ford developed 20 different sites along rivers in southeastern Michigan. Nankin Mills was the first site purchased in 1918 for this "decentralization of industry" concept. Learn about The French arrived in the Great Lakes as early as the 1500s. Learn about their influence here and why Michigan was significant in the fur trade.

Advance registration and prepayment is required. The program fee is \$2 per adult for Wayne County residents and \$3 for out-of-county residents.

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, MI 48185.

For more information or to register by phone, call (734) 261-1990.

## Wayne interim city manager official title approved by council

The City of Wayne will have a city manager for the next six months.

Members of the city council approved a contract with Interim City Manager David Murphy during a meeting last month. The new contract was negotiated with Murphy by Mayor James Hawley and Councilwoman Susan Rowe.

The six month contract will include Murphy's current salary of \$2,000 per week but will add healthcare, vacation time and a 10 percent contribution to his pension fund. The new contract also includes a severance package of three months of wages and benefits, if he is terminated.

Murphy said the six-month term would allow him to have an even better grasp of the difficult financial situation in the city.

Murphy previously served in South Lyon. He also worked in Almont, Caro and Brighton Township. Since he left South Lyon in October 2013, he has filled interim positions in Franklin and Huntington Woods.

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# INKSTER - ROMULUS

## Jury finds pair guilty in death of toddler

A jury deliberated for only three hours last Thursday before finding two men charged with the execution-style death of a 2-year-old Inkster child guilty on all counts.

The pair will be sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin March 24.

A jury found Raymone Jackson, 24, guilty of first degree murder, torture, two counts of assault with intent to murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and felony firearm.

Raphael Hearn, 24, was found guilty of first degree murder; two counts of assault with intent to murder; felon in possession of a firearm and felony firearm.

The two were charged in the death of Kamiya Gross who was sitting on the porch of a Carlyse Street home with her father and another relative at about 8:30 p.m. July 1 when authorities say Jackson carried out the shooting on behalf of Hearn.

Kenneth French, the father of the murdered child, was also wounded in the shooting as was 12-year-old Chelsea Lancaster, a relative of French.

Prosecutors say the shooting was an act of revenge against French in retaliation for a shooting three months earlier at a local club where French was working security. French told the court during a hearing that Jackson shot the child in an effort to make him suffer. The child was shot in the eye and died almost immediately from the wound. Witnesses told the court that Jackson walked calmly up to French, Lancaster and the child and said, "What's up?" before turning to fire his gun at point-blank range at the toddler. He then turned the gun on the 12-year-old and then on French.

"I made sure they got the kids off to the hospital before they ever touched me," French said. "I told them who shot me just in case I didn't make it," he said in court. He and Lancaster, now 13, have recovered from their wounds.

## Library programs announced

The Romulus Public Library has some special programs available during the month of March, according to Library Director Patty Braden.

To celebrate March is Reading Month, the library has a special wall of photos for those "caught" reading, she said. Anyone, adults included who wants to have their photo taken while reading can come into the library and have their picture taken for the "I Got Caught Reading Wall."

"We really want people of all ages to participate in this program," Braden said. "Anyone can also post pictures of those caught reading to our Facebook page."

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. the library offers Preschool Story Time when library staff will read stories with little ones and do a craft. Story time for those 3 ½ to 5 years old is free. Dates for story times this month are March 17 and 24.

Toddler Story Time takes place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Toddlers can sing songs, read stories and play at this free event designed for those 2-3 1/2 years old.

The dates this month are March 18 and 25.

The library is also offering Reading with the Fur Angels at 2 p.m. March 21. Visitors can bring their own book or choose one from the library and read a story to a dog. The program is limited to those ages 4-10.

To celebrate Easter, the library will host a Family Story Time at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. The event is free for the whole family who can read an Easter-themed story and do a craft.

Sign-up is available for all the programs at the front desk in the library but space is limited for all programs.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information, call (734) 942-7589.

## Expansion of health facility is on schedule

When the new offices of Western Wayne Family Health Center open this summer in Inkster, employees won't have far to go.

The new facility is located at 2700 Hamlin Court, less than a block from the current center; is expected to open this summer. The building is the former Michigan Department of Human Services facility which is being completely renovated to suit the needs of the health center patients.

The new facility will triple the space at Western Wayne Family Health Care with 39 medical examination rooms, a seven-chair dental suite, dozens of rest rooms, an onsite pharmacy and expanded administrative offices.

"Our Inkster center has long outgrown the space we have, and our new site will let us continue to offer the most community centered and innovative care to anyone in the area who wants high quality, comprehensive primary health and dental care," noted Linda Atkins, chief executive officer. The architectural plans were created by Hooker DeJong of Muskegon using an integrated behavioral health model which embeds offices for behavioral health consultants and therapists into the patient care areas which allows improved communication and team based coordinated care.

"There are distinct areas of care offered such as women's health, adult medicine, pediatrics, lab, dental, storage space, offices and meeting rooms. Everything is laid out to give excellent care and to operate more efficiently," Atkins said of the new facility design.



### Jazzed

More than 50 people enjoyed the performance "Celebrate! The Music of African Americans" by the renowned jazz ensemble Straight Ahead on Feb. 28 at the Leanna Hicks Public Library of Inkster. Straight Ahead is a Grammy-nominated, groundbreaking jazz group with strong inventive instrumentalists and vocalists with roots in the Detroit music scene. The group is well known for their eclectic approach to creating music. Straight Ahead has shared the stage with Nina Simone, Kem, Tony Bennett, Jean Luc Ponty, Stanley Clarke, and George Duke among others. "The Leanna Hicks Inkster Public Library is proud to have been able to present such an experience for its patrons to enjoy," said Denise Bearre, library director. "We hope to have more opportunities to present to our patrons."

## Library to show movies

The Leanna Hicks Inkster Public Library will show the movie "Fault in our Stars" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday March 21. The showing will include light refreshments.

Pizza Reading Robots will be starting again at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. This is a reading club for those between 8 and 12 years old where members talk about books, eat snacks and play games.

The movie "Hop" will be shown at the library at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 28. After the movie, there will be an egg hunt.

The Teen Reading group is starting again on Wednesday March 25. The book, "Unwind" by Neal Shusterman will be the discussion topic. This is the beginning of a series of dystopian fiction. The book is available at the library check out desk.

The library is located at 2005 Inkster Road. For more information, call (313) 563-2822 or email dbearre@inksterlibrary.org.

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