

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. 23

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 129, No. 23

A world record attempt and fundraiser at the Yankee Air Museum is successful, saving part of the historic World War II Willow Run B-24 Liberator Bomber plant and preserving an important piece of history.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 23

Canton Township's Emergency Management Planner earned the Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Team Leader Award recently for her role in that community program.

See page 4.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 67, No. 23

John Adams is named Inkster Fire Chief and will take over day-to-day operations of the Inkster Fire Department in July.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

Vol. 14, No. 23

The Northville Public School District hired one new principal and removed the 'interim' title from another to prepare for next school year.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

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Summer concert series heats up with free noon concerts on Wednesday in Kellogg Park

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 129, No. 23

Summer reading programs for teens and younger children are getting under way at the Romulus Public Library. The library will host a variety of activities for young people all summer long.

See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 23

Wayne Lawn and Garden owner surprised to repair a tractor sold by the store five decades ago.

See page 6.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 23

Farmer's market opens today at the old site, will move to a new pavilion later this year when it becomes available.

See page 6.

Former police chief enters guilty plea

In an unexpected move last week, former Romulus Police Chief Michael St. Andre entered a guilty plea to corruption charges in Wayne County Circuit Court during a pre-trial hearing.

St. Andre, 53, pleaded guilty to charges of conducting a continuing criminal enterprise, embezzlement by a public official and misconduct in office. In what was apparently a plea bargain, charges including criminal enterprise conspiracy, uttering and publishing, failure to file or filing a false tax return, obstruction of justice, witness bribery, intimidating or interfering in a case with over a 10-year penalty and receiving and concealing stolen property over \$20,000 were dropped. St. Andre will be sentenced before Circuit Court Judge Michael Hathaway Oct. 17 and will serve 5 years in

prison as part of the plea agreement. He is not in police custody. The charges against St. Andre, his wife, Sandra Vlaz St. Andre and five Romulus police detectives were filed by the office of the Wayne County prosecutor in September of 2011 following a 3-year investigation by the Michigan State Police, the FBI and the prosecutor's office. The investigation was prompted by a request from a highly-placed police official who alleged misconduct, corruption and embezzlement of drug forfei-

ture funds by select members of the Romulus Police Department Special Investigation Unit and highly-placed police command personnel, according to the prosecutor's office.

Also charged, along with St. Andre and his wife, were former Det. Sgt. Richard Allan Balzer, Det. Richard Bruce Landry, Det. Donald Ralph Hopkins, Det. Jeremy James Channells and Det. Larry Droege.

Sandra St. Andre was convicted of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$20,000, failure to

file or filing a false tax return, conspiracy in a criminal enterprise and maintaining a criminal enterprise by a jury Jan. 27. She was sentenced in February and is serving 7-20 years in prison. Prosecutors alleged that drug forfeiture money from the Romulus Police Department was used to pay for a tanning salon in her name in Westland, home improvements, gambling funds and trips.

Channells was found guilty of two counts of misconduct in office and two counts of neglect of duty and was sentenced March 31 to 3 years probation. Droege was found guilty of misconduct in office and neglect of duty and was also sentenced March 31 to 18 months probation.

Balzer, Landry and Hopkins

See Guilty, page 3

At Liberty 35th annual festival set for next weekend

When the huge tent goes up in Heritage Park in Canton Township next weekend, it will mark another new attraction at the annual Liberty Fest.

This year, the township will celebrate the 23rd annual Liberty Festival with performers from the Detroit Circus, a troupe of high-flying performers who specialize in aerial antics on fabric, trapeze and lyra, fire dancing and eating, contortion and feats of acrobalance and strength along with circus sideshow acts, or so claims the website dedicated to the group.

These cirque-style performers will join the traditional events at the Liberty Fest slated for June 12-14 this year.

While the circus performances will begin Friday, the festival will open Thursday when the carnival rides start up at 1 p.m. Thursday will also see the annual Zumba anniversary party which has plans to turn Heritage Park pink during a fundraiser on the amphitheater stage.

The Dan Rafferty Band will take to the state from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to provide entertainment for the crowds.



On Friday, the Motor City Street East will bring a variety of food trucks to the park to offer a wide selection of exotic foods including tacos, vegan foods and wood-fired pizza. The food trucks will not replace the usual concessionaires at the festival who will still have roasted almonds, elephant ears, gyros and sausages for sale, but will provide some unexpected choices for festival visitors.

On Friday, the PG rated Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 will be shown on the movie screen in the park beginning at dusk.

The nationally-known local Canton band TwentyForSeven will take to the amphitheater stage Friday evening, followed by The Candy Band.

On Saturday, the day will begin with the annual Liberty Run and end with the traditional fireworks display. During the day, the Canton Multicultural Committee will add to the festivities with presentations of various music, dance, arts and traditions of the many diverse cultures of Canton on the stage.

Church donation thief waives preliminary exam

Northville resident Anton Nrecaj will face felony charges in the theft of donations from Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville, after he waived his preliminary examination last week.

Nrecaj was arraigned on charges of larceny from a building in the 35th District Court in

Plymouth. He has also been charged with similar thefts from churches in both Plymouth and Birmingham. He was interviewed by a Northville detective following his arrest by Birmingham police, according to police reports.

Staff members at Our Lady of Victory in Northville told police that on March 16, someone had

pried open three votive donation boxes and removed the money, used to buy candles.

Surveillance cameras in the Northville church recorded a man entering through the northeast entrance of the building, prying open a votive box and removing the money. Police in Northville took a still photo from the surveil-

lance video and distributed it to neighboring police departments. Nrecaj was identified by witnesses at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth when Plymouth City officers showed the still photo to them.

Nrecaj, 30, was remanded to the Wayne County Jail in lieu of a \$150,000/10 percent bond.

Westland officials kick off construction for fire station

Progress continues in the City of Westland.

As the new city hall takes shape on Warren Road, officials kicked off the construction of a new fire station that will be located nearby.

The new Ralph Savini Fire Station will be located at 35701 Central City Parkway, next to the former Service Merchandise building.

The city hosted a groundbreaking ceremony there Tuesday afternoon.

Mayor Bill Wild said the city continued to lead by example in investing in the center of

Westland's 'Shop and Dine' District.

"Our Shop and Dine District is in the midst of a much-needed economic and community redevelopment," said Wild. "The city's reinvestment is a positive course for business owners, residents and visitors to follow to ensure the continued growth in this vital part of our city."

The new station will cost about \$3.1 million, and be funded through the Westland Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA), so no additional millages are needed for it. When the project is complete-which should be



Westland Council Members break ground for the new Ralph Savini Fire Station on Central City Parkway. Photo by Don Howard

in November-the city will move operations from the existing station on Ford Road into the new, 11,223-square-foot facility.

"The result will be a more mod-

ern, functional fire station with the most up-to-date technology," said Wild. "It will serve the residents and businesses of Westland for years to come."

BELLEVILLE - ROMULUS

Record set, funding secured at Yankee Air Museum

Yankee Air Museum supporters, officials and board members have had a lot to celebrate this month. Not only did they make their \$8 million fundraising goal, they set a world record doing so.

Museum founder Dennis Norton said last week that the group had raised the \$8 million needed to save part of the historic World War II Willow Run B-24 Liberator Bomber plant which will now become the new home of the museum.

In addition, publishers of Guinness World Records have officially recognized the 778 "Rosies" who gathered at Willow Run Airport on March 29 as establishing a new world record.

The effort, organized by Yankee Air Museum members, was one of the many fundraisers organized to help preserve part of the bomber plant. In a letter to museum officials, publishers from the Guinness book said; "We are delighted to confirm that you have successfully achieved a new Guinness Worlds Records title for 'Largest gathering of people dressed as Rosie the Riveter'. We would like to congratulate you on your record-breaking achieve-

ment. You are officially amazing."

Leaders of the Save the Bomber Plant Campaign said they were equally delighted that the record was achieved but even more so that so many women, many with family members in tow, took time out of their busy lives on a cold Saturday in March to help set this record. Campaign leaders were especially moved by the participation of 18 original Rosies, actual World War II female war workers in the record setting event.

Among the younger women dressed as Rosie in honor of the originals was Vickie Croston who came up from Texas to participate in honor of her mother, Rose Will Monroe. Monroe was the very first Rosie, the Willow Run riveter featured in the War Department film in which the phrase "Rosie the Riveter" was first applied to female war workers.

Norton, president of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation which conducted the Save the Bomber Plant Campaign, said, "All of us are incredibly grateful to every one of the Rosies, all 778 of them. Ranging in age from three months up well into their 90s,

these women came out on a cold Saturday in March to set this record and help Save the Bomber Plant."

Ray Hunter, chair of the Yankee Air Museum board, said, "We were especially honored that so many of the original Rosies came out to set this record and help mobilize support around our effort to save a piece of the Bomber Plant for future generations. Watching these amazing women march out to take their places at the front of the group was incredibly moving."

"The enormous turnout for this event is an unmistakable expression of the passion of this community to never forget the important role of Willow Run and the women who played a crucial part in World War II to help preserve our freedom," said Airport Authority Public Affairs Director Michael Conway.

The Save the Bomber Plant Campaign was launched a little less than a year ago to preserve part of the historic World War II Bomber Plant at Willow Run. The Yankee Air Museum will move from its current location on the east side of Willow Run Airport to a 150,000 square-foot section of the

former bomber plant, which is adjacent to the airport's western boundary.

The Willow Run Bomber Plant built nearly 9,000 B-24 Liberator Bombers during the war, at peak production finishing a plane every 54 minutes. At the time of its con-

struction, the plant was the largest factory in the world and at peak employment had more than 40,000 men and women workers.

For additional information about the Willow Run bomber plant, visit www.savethebomber-plant.org.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON TRUTH IN TAXATION

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
36540 Grant Road
Romulus, MI 48174

A Public Hearing on its proposed 2014-2015 tax levies will be held by the Board of Education of the Romulus Community School District on:

Monday, June 23, 2014

at 5:45 p.m.

in the

Board of Education Office

36540 Grant Road

Romulus, MI 48174

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED L-4029 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE ROMULUS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. ON JUNE 20, 2014

Romulus Board of Education

Publish: June 5, 2014

Summer reading, programs rev up in Romulus

Summer reading programs for teens and younger children are getting under way at the Romulus Public Library.

This summer, events for teens will usually take place at 1 p.m. at the library.

On June 26, there will be a Henna tattoo artist available and on Thursday, July 3, an exhibition of "Don't Try This At Home" science projects is planned.

On July 10, a Romulus police officer will discuss real forensic evidence as compared to that seen on TV.

Video games will be on hand during Gamefest planned for July

17 and the movie Divergent will be shown on July 24.

From noon until 4 p.m. July 31, the program will conclude with a swim party at the Romulus Athletic Center.

Throughout the summer, the library will be having prize raffles for ages 12-17.

For the younger set, ages 6-11, the library is planning a visit from the Nankin Mills Interpretative Center which will include live animals beginning at 1 p.m. June 25.

The movie, DisneyNature: Chimpanzee will be shown at 1 p.m. July 2 and on July 9 at 1 p.m.

storyteller Lois Keel will visit with youngsters.

At 1 p.m. July 16, representatives from Dynamic Schools Assemblies will teach participants about the science of music.

From 11 a.m. until noon and again from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. July 23, teachers from the University of Michigan will display some science experiments that can be done at home.

The series will conclude with a swim party from noon until 4 p.m. at the Romulus Athletic Center.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589 or access www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

Guilty

FROM PAGE 1

are scheduled for trial July 7.

Investigators concluded that the five detectives and St. Andre embezzled funds from an investigation of liquor license violations, prostitution and narcotics trafficking at the Landing Strip Bar in Romulus and Subi's Place in Southgate. Those illicit funds

were used by the accused for solicitation of prostitutes and drug and alcohol purchases, according to the prosecutor's office. All the officers were accused of filing false police reports. St. Andre was accused of siphoning City of Romulus-owned assets earmarked for law enforcement purposes for his and his wife's personal gain. Investigators also claimed that another \$49,000 in cash seized by the Romulus Special Investigations Unit went missing while under the direct control of St. Andre.

NOTICE

The Romulus Board of Education will conduct a Regular meeting on June 23, 2014 at 6 p.m. to approve the 2014-2015 Budget. The Meeting will be held in the Board of Education Office at 36540 Grant Rd., Romulus, MI 48174.

Copies of the Budget will be available for review in the Romulus Board of Education Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. on June 20, 2014.

Publish: June 5, 2014

Continued from page 2

Chambers, Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Makowski, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

14-196 6A5. Moved by Makowski, seconded by Abdo to schedule a study session on Tuesday, May 27, 2104 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss medical marijuana. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Makowski, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

14-197 6A6. Moved by Abdo, seconded by Wadsworth to approve first reading of the city services fee schedule. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Makowski, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

6B. Treasurer's Report

7. Public Comment

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business Councilman Wadsworth mentioned signage for the Charlie Lau Field at the high school has been down for quite some time. Mayor Burcroff offered the City of Romulus to make new signs if the school will install them. Councilwoman Abdo will follow up with the school.

10. Communication Councilwoman Choate, on behalf of the Cemetery Board of Trustees, thanked The Sacred Spaces and Restoration Group for their hard work restoring headstones in the Romulus Memorial Cemetery and also many city workers who helped and Jet's Pizza for their contribution to the effort.

14-198 11. Moved by Choate, seconded by Makowski to approve Warrant 14-09 in the amount of \$708,304.93. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Makowski, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

12. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Makowski to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout, Makowski, Wadsworth. 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 from the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on May 12, 2014.

Publish: June 5, 2014

Michigan Department of Education Summer Food Service Program

MEET UP and EAT UP

Healthy food to fuel your summer.

The Romulus Community Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the site(s) listed below:

SITE LOCATION	DATES/DAYS*	SERVING TIMES
Romulus Middle School 37300 Wick Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 No Meals served June 30 to July 4, 2014.	6/16/2014-7/17/2014 Monday-Thursday	Breakfast: 8:30AM-9:00 AM Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12 NOON

Wick Elementary School 36900 Wick Road Romulus MI 48174 No Meals served June 30 to July 4, 2014.	7/21/2014-8/14/2014 Monday - Thursday	Breakfast: 9:00 AM -9:30AM Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:30 AM
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Romulus High School 9650 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 No Meals served June 30 to July 4, 2014.	6/16/2014 - 7/31/2014 Monday-Thursday	Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12 NOON Snack: 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM
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Cory Elementary School 35200 Smith Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 No meals service July 4, 2014	6/16/2014 - 8/15/2014 Monday - Friday	Breakfast: 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Lunch: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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For more information, contact Romulus Community Schools at 734-532-1144

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PLYMOUTH - NORTHVILLE

Digging in

Kathy Browne of Green USA, a charitable, religious, education and humane scientific non-profit organization dedicated to protecting natural resources since 1635, is digging deep in her efforts to help beautify downtown Plymouth. She has adopted three planters through the Downtown Development Authority since 2006 and just last week finished planting some annuals in a Forest Street planter in front of Opn Dohr. This planter is the twin of another Browne planted in front of the Afton Tea Room, on the other side of the driveway between the businesses. "We chose colorful perennials which often spread, allowing them to be divided later. We try to teach families how to 'green up' their homes with more perennials and a few annuals to add color without as much repeated cost," she said.



Northville district hires 2 new principals

When students return to Northville High School and Ridge Wood Elementary School this fall, there will be some new faces to greet them in the principals' offices.

Members of the Northville Community Schools Board of Education officially approved the hiring of Anthony L. Koski, currently principal at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville, as principal of Northville High School and Heather Bauer, currently interim principal at Ridge Wood Elementary School, as the permanent principal there.

Koski succeeds Rob Watson who, at his request, will move to an assistant principal role at Hillside Middle School. Bauer succeeds Alicia Parsons, who left the district in early May to accept a position with Franklin Covey.

"Anthony Koski and Heather Bauer bring a depth of knowledge and demonstrated leadership to the district. We are fortunate to have them as part of our administrative leadership team," Northville Superintendent of Schools Mary Kay Gallagher said.

A high school educator and school administrator with 20 years of experience, Koski has been principal of Thornapple Kellogg High School in southwest Michigan for eight years. Previously, he served as assistant principal and athletic director for the high school. He also was a business education teacher and summer school principal at Hartford Union High School in Hartford, Wisconsin.

"There are so many great things happening in Northville Public Schools," Koski said. "My role as part of the Northville team will first be to recognize all of the incredible success taking place across the district and specifically at Northville High School. At the same time, I will look for those areas where I can help provide our students with increased opportunities that ensure they achieve at even higher levels."

A long-time Northville Public Schools educator and teacher leader with more than 20 years experience, Bauer has served in a number of leadership roles at Ridge Wood over the past two years. Currently interim principal, she was previously appointed assistant principal for the current 2013-14 school year; and served as Interim assistant principal for the 2012-13 school year.

Bauer joined Northville Public Schools in 1993 as a third grade teacher at Moraine Elementary School. She also was a fourth grade teacher at Thornton Creek Elementary School before joining the staff at Ridge Wood in 2003 where she has served as an elementary learning consultant, in a supervisory support role, and as interim assistant principal and assistant principal.

"Ridge Wood Elementary School is already an outstanding school, with incredible educators, students, and families," Bauer said. "My goal as principal is to take our students as far as they can possibly go."

Wednesday concert series starts soon

Kellogg Park in Plymouth is about to get busier:

The annual Wednesday noon concerts will start on June 18 when Guy Louis kicks off the season.

All shows last about an hour and are free, sponsored by the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

"For 30 years, the Plymouth Community Arts Council has proudly presented this popular concert series," said Executive Director Lisa Howard. "Each summer, 25,000 people enjoy these free-to-the-community musical events."

Scheduled this year are:

- June 18 Guy Louis
- June 25 Saline Fiddlers
- July 2 Matt Watroba & Robert Jones
- July 9 Beverly Meyer
- July 16 Jan Krist & Mustard's Retreat

- July 23 Gemini
- July 30 Barbara Bailey Hutchinson and Josh White, Jr.
- Aug. 6 Joel Tacey
- Aug. 13 Tom Seley
- Aug. 20 Guy Louis & Liberty Brass Quintet

Music in the Park concerts are also sponsored by:

- The Wilcox Foundation
- Huron Valley Ambulance
- Monroe Bank & Trust
- Kona Ice
- Plymouth Canton Montessori School
- Genuine Toy Company
- DJL Builders, Inc.

In case of mild inclement weather, the concerts are moved to The Gathering, adjacent to Kellogg park, next to the Penn Theater.

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WAYNE - WESTLAND - INKSTER

Farmer's market opens Friday

The 5th Annual Westland Farmers' Market opens for the 2014 season today, according to Mayor William Wild. The market will be open from 3-7 p.m. every Thursday through October, he added.

This year also marks the grand opening of a new location for the market starting in July, at Central City Park, located at the intersection of Ford Road and Central City Parkway. Until the market building is available at the new location, it will continue to take place in the city hall parking lot off Ford Road as in past years.

"I look forward to the market's opening every year because it has become a celebration of our local community in Westland - from the local vendors and rich culture, to increasingly health-conscious residents with a commitment to buying local," said Wild.

Last year, a program was implemented to provide bus services to the market from six locations throughout the city. That will continue this year. Every other week on the second and fourth Thursdays, there will be entertainment and activities for the whole family at the market, too.

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will manage



the market for the 2014 season and vendor applications are still being accepted. Those interested in becoming a vendor should contact Mary Vellardita at the Westland Chamber of Commerce, (734) 326-7222, for further information.

In addition to a new location, the Farmers' Market website is in the process of integrating with the newly re-designed City of Westland website. Residents can also stay up-to-date on the Market on Facebook, at www.Facebook.com/WestlandFarmersMarket.

"Last year the market was really able to further its commitment to customer service, and I think the new location opening in July will build on the momentum from last year," said Wild. "I am excited to see the market's continued positive impact on the community."

Return to sender Wayne shop fixes tractor 5 decades after original sale

Dennis Hermatz of Wayne Lawn and Garden got quite a surprise last week when a tractor he sold 49 years ago was brought back into the shop for some work.

Ken Groesebeck, the current owner of a 1965 Wheelhorse Tractor sold to St. Norbert's Church in Inkster back in 1965, hauled the tractor back into the Wayne Road business recently to have a rototiller attachment of the same era installed on the machine. Groesebeck said he was astounded when he called the Wayne store for help in purchasing the rototiller attachment for the aging tractor:

"It was so large they wouldn't ship it to me, so I called Dennis Hermatz at Wayne Lawn and Garden and he said 'Sure, have it shipped here and we'll take care of it for you.' I couldn't believe it," Groesebeck said.

Groesebeck, now retired from Ford Motor Co., was a member of St. Norbert, and would help out at the church doing maintenance, yard work, and playing the organ. He and his family joined the church when they moved to Inkster in 1976, he said, and the church, which closed in 2004, was a big part of their lives. He said they had many family events there and his children were baptized at

St. Norbert's.

"I was still working, but I would help out with whatever they needed when I could," he said. "The church secretary would call me when the custodians needed help." Groesebeck was also the back up organist at the church for many years, and then served as the regular organist for eight years before the church was closed.

When the closure was announced and the church was getting rid of equipment and furnishings, officials told Groesebeck that the tractor he had been using for years to help cut grass and maintain the property was his. He's been using the machine since and, other than regular tune ups, hasn't had any problems.

He decided recently that he could use the rototiller attachment, but thought he might have some difficulty finding one for a tractor nearly half a century old. He found the part, and then ran into the shipping problem which Hermatz helped him solve.

"They have the part, delivered today," Groesebeck said, "and I'm going to take the tractor over and have them put it on. I think it will be a surprise for Dennis, to see a tractor he sold so long ago come back into the shop," he said.

"I think it will be a surprise for Dennis, to see a tractor he sold so long ago come back into the shop."

Adams tapped for Inkster fire chief position

Inkster will have a new chief of fire operations beginning July 1.

While Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy will keep his title of fire chief for the city, day-to-day operations will be the responsibility of John Adams the current assistant fire chief/fire marshal for the City of Westland. Adams will retire from the Wayne-Westland department June 30.

Adams will be paid by the City of Inkster, but will report to Reddy through the end of the year. Inkster will no longer pay Reddy for his services as chief under the new contract arrangement already

approved by members of the Inkster and Westland city councils.

Finances are the primary reason for the new title for Adams, leaving Reddy as the fire chief of record.

Inkster was awarded a \$347,036 Competitive Grant Assistance Program while Reddy was chief of the department. That state grant will be used to pay for a feasibility study, training for Inkster firefighters, gear and equipment to ensure compatibility with other local departments and some technology improvements.

Long-term, Inkster is expected

to join a proposed fire authority which will cover several municipalities. Voter approval in any of the communities involved would be required. When Wayne and Westland merged their fire departments, more than \$940,000 was awarded to them from the same state funding program.

Officials all agreed that the impetus for the fire mergers and the proposed fire authority was an effort to reduce costs and improve fire services and public safety for residents.

No prospective date for the new authority has been announced.

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