

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. 35

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 129, No. 35

Van Buren Township may join the lawsuit filed by several downriver communities against Wayne County regarding the use of sewer funds.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 35

Summit on the Park community recreation center in Canton will close Sept. 1 for annual upkeep and improvements. The facility will reopen at 6 a.m. Sept. 6.

See page 5.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 67, No. 35

The Inkster Public Library needs volunteer help at the upcoming used book sale to help stock books and collect sales money during the Sept. 4 and Sept. 6 event.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

Vol. 14, No. 35

Northville Township and the City of Novi have about 45 days left to comment on a draft of a new City of Northville master plan.

See page 5.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

Vol. 14, No. 35

Township officials refused last week to postpone the controversial amphitheater plan despite a formal motion from one trustee and vocal public support of the delay.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 129, No. 35

Voters in Romulus will be asked to change the city charter allowing bids for material purchases by the city to be published electronically, rather than in newspapers.

See page 4.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 35

A 15-year-old Wayne youth may face charges in the death of a 55-year-old family friend from Westland following an Aug. 17 concert at DTE Energy Music Theatre.

See page 2.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 67, No. 35

The Wayne-Westland Fire Association has received a \$56,250 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA to purchase five thermal imaging cameras.

See page 2.

Radioactive waste will be meeting topic

Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs is confident that much of the controversy surrounding the dumping of 36 tons of radioactive waste at the EQ facility in her community can be quieted with information.

Combs said that a meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 at township hall with a representative from EQ, the operators of the dump site.

"This is nothing new," she said, "we've been aware of this since it began."

EQ has announced that the landfill in Van Buren will suspend acceptance of the low-level radioactive waste produced in oil and gas mining "fracking" operations until a review of safety procedures is

"I am absolutely confident that they (EQ) are not doing anything to endanger the public."

completed by state officials.

"I am absolutely confident that they (EQ) are not doing anything to endanger the public," she said.

Combs said that the federal oversight of the permits for accepting and dumping this waste are "very strict" and that other sites in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio do not meet that stringent criteria.

Recently, news reports have claimed that these states have imposed stricter health standards and have refused to allow

the disposal of the hydraulic fracturing or fracking waste in their states, something Combs disputes.

"It isn't that other states won't take this waste, it's that they can't."

She added that the waste emits a very low level of radiation and is nearly undetectable. She said it does not affect dump site employees and that the facility is under federal oversight.

State Rep. Douglas Geiss (D-Taylor), however, said Michigan

allows radiation levels 10 times higher than surrounding states.

"Michigan allows radiation levels up to 50 picocuries, which is 100 times greater than naturally occurring levels," he said in a prepared statement. "Pennsylvania and Ohio limit their waste to only 5 picocuries. The dumping in Van Buren Township is of concern due to the proximity of this waste storage facility to both densely populated areas and to the Huron River watershed," said Geiss.

State Rep. Dian Slavens (D-Canton) said this week she is introducing a bill that would ban the practice of other states dumping their fracking byproduct in Michigan after it gets turned away in other states.

Friday feast Fall Festival Taste Fest tickets limited this year

Those hoping to buy tickets to the Friday night Taste Fest at the Plymouth Fall Festival Sept. 5 better act quickly.

The overwhelming success of the event, managed for the third year by the Civitans club, has forced the group to limit sales to only 500 tickets, explained Kathy Turnquist, the club member who oversees the event.

"We are very fortunate to have that kind of crowd," Turnquist said, "and it just keeps growing every year. We just had to limit it because of the amount of food the restaurants have to bring."

The event takes place from 6-8 p.m. next Friday, Sept. 5, in a landscaped garden in the lower parking lot at Station 885 restaurant in Old Town Plymouth. This year, once again, Turnquist said, Mark Baldwin Landscape Design will bring in sod, trees, plants and flowers to build the garden for the evening. "Many of the plants and flowers come from Christensen's. It's really lovely," she added.

Station 885 owner Rob Costanza said he was enormously impressed with the work the Civitans had done on the event. "I helped them on the first year, but they have really stepped up to this, especially Kathy," Costanza said. "It's quite a tribute to them and to the area restaurants that this event is so popular that now they have to actually limit tickets."

This is the third year the Civitans have



organized the event, Turnquist said. The first year, it rained on the Friday night event and they still sold about 325 tickets. Last year, in the great weather, Turnquist said she was sure the event drew more than 500 people. "We actually ran out of seats and had to set up more tables and chairs."

Costanza will provide full bar service inside the event along with the Wile E. Coyote Band. "These are guys who all play in other bands. They are just fantastic," Costanza said. He will keep the bar service open and the band will continue to play until 10, he said, for a small after party.

This year, for the \$15 ticket, diners can

sample treats from more than 16 local restaurants including: Bahama Breeze, Claddagh Pub, Cupcake Station, Elite Catering, Grand Traverse Pie Co., Happy's Pizza and Ribs, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Max & Erma's of Plymouth, Mitchell's Fish Market, Noodles & Co., Plymouth Roc, Rocky's of Northville, the Rusty Bucket, Station 885, Vintners Canton Winery and Zoup Salad and Sandwiches.

Tickets for children 10 and younger are \$5 and children younger than 5 are admitted at no cost.

Tickets are available at almost all the participating restaurants and at Station 885.

Man faces 20-30 years in child criminal sex case

The 38-year-old man who disappeared with a 15-year-old Plymouth girl last October was sentenced last Friday to 20-30 years in prison by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Qiana D. Lillard. The sentence came as part of a plea bargain with Robert L. Messer of Northville Township who pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of accosting a child for immoral purposes. In exchange for his guilty plea,

four other charges were dropped by the prosecutor's office.

Messer will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison and will have lifetime electronic monitoring after prison.

He is also barred from having contact with the victim who has since given birth to a son, fathered by Messer. He will also be barred from contact with the girl's family, according to the Wayne County prosecutor's office.

The 15-year-old and Messer

disappeared together last Oct. 27, leaving notes declaring their love for one another. The girl's family reported her missing and following widespread media reports, a witness saw the pair in Messer's truck parked in Washtenaw County. The witness called police who arrested Messer at the scene without incident.

The girl's family said that Messer had been a friend of the family and that he attended the same church as the family. Family members said it was not

unusual for Messer and the girl to go on outings together prior to their disappearance.

Messer has remained incarcerated in the Wayne County Jail since his arrest. His trial on six of the original charges ended with a hung jury and a subsequent mistrial about four months ago. A retrial had been scheduled to begin Aug. 11 just days before his guilty plea was entered.

His defense attorney, Jonathan Jones said that all sides agreed to the plea bargain.

Federal auditors request drug-forfeiture records

The ongoing audit of the drug forfeiture funds of the Plymouth Township Police Department required township officials to provide specific and detailed information regarding use of the \$1.6 million revenue listed on the 2012 annual township report.

Three auditors from the Chicago office of the Drug Enforcement Division of the

Department of Justice arrived at the Plymouth Township Police Department Aug. 18 to audit the accounting records of the drug forfeiture funds.

Plymouth Township participates in a statewide Drug Enforcement Administration task force.

In a letter announcing the audit sent to Police Chief Tom Tiderington and Supervisor

Richard Reaume Aug. 1, federal auditors stated, "The U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General is initiating an audit of the equitable sharing funds provided by the Department of Justice to the Plymouth Township Police Department. The objective of the audit will be to assess whether equitable shared revenue and property have been

accounted for properly and used for allowable purposes by your agency."

To that end, the auditors asked for documentation from years 2012, 2013 and 2014 and provided a list of 13 separate categories and or documents from the scope of the investigation. In addition, the Regional

See Audit, page 3

PLYMOUTH

Board refuses to delay amphitheater project

Don Howard
Staff Writer

When Plymouth Township resident Jackie Peters emailed Supervisor Richard Reaume asking why the controversial amphitheater project couldn't be delayed until a promised recreation survey was complete, she didn't expect the response she received.

In her email, Peters urged Reaume and other board members to reconsider their decision to build the \$350,000 amphitheater in the Township Park.

"As a resident of Plymouth Township, I am urging the Board to reconsider their decision to build an amphitheater in the Township Park. We do not understand why this action is being taken without the support of the public," she wrote to Reaume.

The hotly contested 300-seat amphitheater and bandstand project is part of a \$2.5 million capital improvement project board members approved last year. The township sold \$1.9 million in bonds to pay for the

majority of the project. Last year, township Treasurer Ron Edwards budgeted \$50,000 for a recreation survey but to date no public opinion poll has taken place.

In recent months hundreds of irate residents and concerned citizens, many with homes adjacent to the park, purchased lawn signs, wrote letters, signed petitions and filled the township hall board meetings saying they were not consulted and the project is not suited for the area or the roads and infrastructure. Residents have complained about the likely noise and congestion from the amphitheater and about the cost of the project.

Reaume's reply to Peters angered her, she said.

"Thank you for your email. The architect has a contract for their work, the soil borings have already been contracted and completed and the environmental evaluation has also be paid for and is currently being evaluated by the DEQ."

Trustee Mike Kelly also questioned the project during a regular board meeting last week. He described the amphitheater

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I understand change is part of life in the township.
I look forward to change, and I look forward to changing this board.

project as "a bad fiscal policy." Kelly made an official motion to delay the project until completion of public recreation survey.

"Just because we can spend money without raising taxes seems to ignore the basic question we need to answer: What do the people of the community really want? Since this project has not started construction yet, it should be put on hold until we complete the recreation survey. To build projects and take on added debt with no data showing the people want these type of projects is bad fiscal policy."

"I move to place the amphitheater on hold until we have the results from the Township Recreational Survey showing the desire for this project from the residents before moving forward on the project."

Township officials placed

Kelly's request last on the agenda on page 461 of the 536 page board packet. Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, noting the large crowd of residents in attendance, made a motion to move the amphitheater discussion forward, but it was defeated by a 5 to 2 board vote.

"We need to listen to the community...I've seen a public outcry like I've never seen before," said Doroshewitz in an impassioned plea for approval of Kelly's motion.

"If we ask them...and put together a credible survey, that's the only way this controversy is going to go away. We're up for a fire and police millage next year. There's no downside to putting it on hold."

Trustee Kay Arnold thought differently.

Citing the past construction

of a play-scape, soccer field, dock at the pond and improvements to the golf course, Arnold said, "Nobody complained then." Arnold referred to the dissident residents as the "same people who complained about the fire department" and said, "change is part of life in the township."

Edwards said he didn't see any reason to "stop it."

"There was a bond issue, and no one opposed it...they could have got signatures. We're moving forward...we've got the money," Edwards said.

Kelly's motion was defeated by a 4 to 3 vote. Kelly, Doroshewitz and Trustee Chuck Curmi favored the delay while Reaume, Edwards, Clerk Nancy Conzelman and Arnold voted against any delay in the project.

Arnold was later chastised by Chris Hunter, one of the residents strongly opposed to the amphitheater project. "I understand change is part of life in the township. I look forward to change, and I look forward to changing this board," Hunter said to loud applause from the audience.



Audit

FROM PAGE 1

Audit Manager Carol S. Taraszka enclosed a 10-question form and a certification document to be signed attesting to the accuracy of answers to those questions.

The department was required to provide the identification of all affiliated organizations and immediate family members of senior officials or managers to whom the Plymouth Township Police Department has paid federal asset forfeiture or other Department of Justice grant and contract funds.

The auditors also demanded to know if any loans of asset forfeiture funds had been made and, if so, to whom. They required the department to identify any expense paid for with federal asset or grant funds "in whole or in part as an accommodation to any party in return for, or as an inducement for, any other business with any other party."

The auditors inquired about any audit that reported any deficiency or irregularity regarding costs incurred to the federal asset forfeiture account.

A deficiency was reported in a township audit last year by outside auditors Plante Moran who suggested the township accounting procedures were "materially weak."

The auditors also asked about lawsuits against the police department with descriptions of the litigation and to account for any "personal benefit in excess of \$50 per year received by any official or employee from vendors or other companies working with your agency that have been paid with federal asset forfeiture of DOJ grant and contract funds."


The auditors have also requested copies of both the police and non-police budgets for the last three years and "the most recently approved planned budget for the next fiscal year; if available."

The auditors are expected to return to the police department next week for further examination of records.

A better 'way'...

Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) President Marie Morrow recently accepted a \$5,000 check from Robert P. Jones, AT&T Director External Affairs. The nonprofit provides human services in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County. AT&T is a strong supporter of United Way at the local and national levels. In 2014, AT&T gave \$5.33 million to 568 local United Ways across the country, Morrow said. "We appreciate the generous support from AT&T," said Morrow. "In addition to the recent corporate contribution, employees provide funding for PCUW programs through AT&T's annual employee giving campaign." "AT&T shares United Way's commitment to strengthening communities and improving lives, said AT&T President Jim Murray. "Plymouth Community United Way's support for innovative programs with proven results improves the lives of residents by connecting them with the resources and expertise they need." For information about giving and volunteering, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org. Serving the Plymouth and Canton community since 1944, Plymouth Community United Way focuses on basic needs, education and stability, according to Morrow.

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Belleville - Romulus

Van Buren trustees may join suit against county

Van Buren Township will join the lawsuit filed by several downriver communities against Wayne County regarding the use of sewer funds.

Members of the township board of trustees voted to join the suit at a July 15 meeting, after postponing the vote from July 1 in an effort to obtain more information regarding the matter. The issue is the transfer of sewer funds into the general fund budget by the county, which the customer communities claim

is illegal and a misuse of the funds.

Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp met with members of the administration and department heads last month. Helmkamp told those in attendance that the county used funds in the enterprise fund of the sewer system budget and that those funds have now been restored and interest paid on the money. Helmkamp said the action was legal and done with the advice and review of legal

counsel to ensure there were no improprieties. Township Clerk Leon Wright, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Executive Assistant to the Supervisor Karen LaMothe, Trustee Jeff Jahr and DPW Director James Taylor were present at the meeting.

Taylor recommended joining the lawsuit and suggested the proposed motion to the board members last month.

“The board must understand that I'm recommending approving the resolution,” Taylor said.

“But it won't be filed tomorrow or the next day. Our attorney recommended this. We really have to go forward to protect the interests of Van Buren Township.”

“We have to protect our interest in that (sewer) system,” said Supervisor Linda Combs.

Jahr said he objects to the county shifting the general fund deficit back to customers of the sewerage system.

Taylor said that five or six of the affected 13 communities have voted to join lawsuit. Some,

he said, have not yet met to discuss the issue.

“Almost half are in favor of the suit,” Taylor said.

“I wanted to hear both sides,” Wright said. “Litigation is absolutely the last resort. If the bargaining fails, we authorize our attorney to do that (file suit).”

“No one wants litigation,” said Trustee Reggie Miller.

Meetings to discuss the issue are expected to continue this month throughout the affected communities.

Voters will be asked to change city charter

Voters in Romulus will be asked to change the city charter allowing bids for material purchases by the city to be published electronically, rather than in newspapers.

The ballot question will ask voters to approve an amendment to Chapter XIII, Section 13.1 Limitation and Section 13.2 for Material purchases in the Romulus City Charter.

Voters will be asked to approve language that will allow the city to contract for the performance of any new public improvement or performing public work without the currently required advertisement for sealed proposals in a paper of circulation with in the city.

Voters will be asked to vote yes or no on the question of allowing the contracts without the publishing of the request for bids.

The second question will ask voters to approve a change that will allow the city to pur-

“
The amendment to the charter is necessary, according to the resolution...

chase any material, tools or apparatus without an advertisement for sealed proposals in a paper of circulation within the city.

Bids would be placed in alternative mediums such as electronic proposals and extendable or cooperative bids from other government agencies, according to the resolution which was approved by a unanimous vote of the members of the city council at the regular meeting July 14.

The amendment to the charter is necessary, according to the resolution, to allow the city to take advantage of the other methods of advertising for the purchases.

Council OK's new city dog park

Since it was closed following a failed millage vote, Merriman Park in Romulus has figuratively gone to the dogs.

Under a plan discussed by the Romulus City Council members in a study session Monday night, the park would re-open in as little as four weeks and go, literally, to the dogs.

The city council unanimously approved a plan to re-open the park and convert about half of it into a dog park, the first of its kind in the city.

“This is a beautiful idea,” said City Councilman William Wadsworth. “I'm thrilled with it.”

The city has been working diligently to re-open parks this year, with Elmer Johnson and Eugenio Fernandez Park being recently brought back into service. The concept of a dog park came up during the community visioning sessions that took place throughout the summer, said Bob Dickerson, Mayor Leroy Burcroff's chief of staff.

The plan would be to essentially split Merriman Park, which opened in 1973 and is off Colbert Street near Merriman

Road, in two. The northern portion, where existing playscapes and swing sets sit neglected and overgrown with weeds and tall grass, would be kept for a 'people portion.' The southern half, where an old baseball field is located, would be converted to a fenced in dog park, with areas set aside for large and small dogs. There would also be hoops, ramps and tunnels for the dogs to jump through, climb or run through. A small parking lot would be developed as part of the plan.

“We think it's a pretty good plan,” said Burcroff.

Dickerson said the existing playground equipment would be kept and cleaned up.

“It's actually in pretty good shape,” he said. “The plan is to keep all that historic equipment, but clean it up and fix it up.”

He said the entire plan, including the fencing, lot, clean-up and new dog equipment would cost about \$99,000, but could be completed without using additional tax revenue. That's because the city settled a delinquent tax bill with Wayne County earlier this year, paying

the county a reduced amount of the debt; one of the stipulations of that lower payment was that the city set aside some of the money saved and earmark it toward parks and recreation services. Dickerson said the city would use about \$85,000 from that fund and match it with a \$15,000 grant from the county to pay for the project.

Council members unanimously approved the plan and entered into a contract with the Brickman landscape management company. Dickerson said the park could be open in as little as four to six weeks.

Other park improvements are on the way, as well. He said the old archery range at Elmer Johnson Park will be open as soon as Sept. 2.

The city also entered into an agreement with the Romulus school district to lease Mt. Pleasant Park, which is attached to Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, for \$1.

“Everywhere I go, people say to me: 'We're so proud that are parks are opening back up',” said Council President John Barden. “You can see the happiness on their faces.”

Classified

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|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 01. Obituaries 02. In Memoriam 03. Cards of Thanks 04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots 05. Personals/Announcements 06. Legal Notices 07. Attorneys 08. Entertainment 09. Lost & Found 10. Coming Events 30. Help Wanted | 31. Help Wanted Sales 32. Help Wanted Drivers 33. Child Care 34. Specialized Services 35. Situations Wanted 40. Business Opportunity 42. Health and Fitness 43. Money to Loan 44. Music/Art Lessons 45. Adult Care 46. Private Schools/Instruction 47. Riding/Horses/Stables | 50. Pets & Supplies 54. Rummage Sales 55. Estate Sales 56. Flea Markets 57. Antiques 58. Garage and Yard Sales 59. Auctions 60. Misc. Sales 61. Misc. Items 62. Building Supplies 63. Business and Office Equipment | 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies 65. Tree Service 66. Landscape / Nurseries 67. Garden Plant / Supplies 68. Garden / Produce 70. Masonry / Brickwork 72. Cleaning Services 73. Musical Merchandise 74. Sporting Goods 75. Boats / Accessories 76. Remodeling & Renovations 77. Recreation Vehicles | 78. Hunting / Fishing 82. Wanted to Buy 87. Room for Rent 88. Duplexes for Rent 89. Apartments for Rent 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent 92. Business Places for Rent 93. Banquet Halls 94. Farm Land for Rent 95. Real Estate 96. Houses for Rent 97. Cottages for Rent | 98. Manufactured/Mobile Homes 99. Flats for Rent 100. Will Share 101. Wanted to Rent 102. Storage 103. Business Property for Sale 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale 105. Mobile Homes for Sale 106. Houses for Sale 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale 108. Lake and Resort 109. Income Property | 110. Lots for Sale 111. Out of State Property 112. Commercial Lease 113. Real Estate Wanted 114. Auto Accessories 115. Autos for Sale 116. Antique & Classic Cars 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale 118. Freebies 119. Auto Repairs 120. Motorcycles 121. Autos Wanted |
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Obituaries



Mamie D. Williams
Sunrise: Feb. 27, 1912
Sunset: Aug. 17, 2014
Mamie D. Williams died Aug. 17, 2014 at the Maple Manor.

Among those left to cherish her memory are a host of cousins, nephews and nieces, great, great-great and great-great-great nephews and nieces; her goddaughter and god son and her caregivers, Betty and Alvin Holmes.

Funeral services took place at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland with the Rev. Dr. John e. Duckworth officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster.

Interment was at United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth.

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Cynthia Denise Pope-Meads
Sunrise: May 6, 1963
Aug. 13, 2014
Cynthia Denise Pope-Meads died Aug. 13, 2014. Among her survivors left to cherish her memory are her husband, Vance E. Meads; four daughters, Vanessea (Asher) Kirkland-Meads of Ypsilanti, Vanise, Vanjelica and Vanae Meads of Milan; three brothers, Alexander (Sylvia) Pope, Jr., of Las Vegas, NV, Charles (Priscilla) Pope of Kokomo, IN and Donald (Carlas) Pope of Milan; a granddaughter, Alianna Kirkland; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives, and many friends.

Funeral services took place at New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Ypsilanti with the Rev. Dr. J. N. Crout officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster.

Interment was at United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth.

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Aaron Reese, Jr.
Sunrise: Feb. 25, 1950
Sunset: Aug. 18, 2014
Aaron Reese, Jr. died Aug. 18, 2014.

Among his survivors left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Fatima (Leslie) Pratt and her mother Patrice and Erin Reese and her mother, Jackie; a sister, Linda (Talmadge) Turner; three grandchildren, Donte' Reese, Deandre Cain and Courtney Bailey; a very special uncle, William Albert Reese who treated Mr. Reese as his own son; four nephews; six nieces; a host of other relatives and cousins, and many friends. Mr. Reese was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Juanita Wood and a niece, Tammy Wood.

Funeral services took place at the Penn Funeral Home on Inkster Road in Inkster. Final rites were accorded by Tri-County Cremation Services.

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Wayne 2 BR Apartment

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Wayne 2 BR Apartment

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Wayne 2 BR Apartment

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CANTON - NORTHVILLE

Summit to close for annual maintenance work

The Summit on the Park community recreation center in Canton will close Sept. 1 for annual upkeep and improvements. The facility will reopen at 6 a.m. Sept. 6.

The facility will undergo comprehensive cleaning, refurbishing and minor repairs during the five-day period, explained Summit Coordinator Jason Lombardo. He noted that while the Summit will not be experiencing any drastic changes, the annual weeklong shutdown is necessary to keep the facility in top condition throughout the rest of the year.

“It’s an opportunity for us to do detailed cleaning and maintenance - things to ensure we will be able to provide the best in community recreation all year round,” Lombardo said.

The projects to be completed during the shutdown include:

- Cleaning of all windows, carpets and fitness equipment throughout fitness and banquet centers
- Scrubbing and acid cleaning of Aquatic Center and repairs of missing tiles
- Cleaning and disinfecting of all locker rooms and restrooms
- Resurfacing of wood floors and detailing in gym, dance studios and event rooms
- Repainting in dance studios, event rooms and lobby
- Replacing of Aquatic Center office cabinets
- Servicing, inspecting and certifying of boilers
- Miscellaneous maintenance as needed

Summit on the Park offers numerous amenities for a variety of activities, including: a banquet and conference center, aquatic center, fitness center, gymnasium, track and meeting rooms.

The Summit is open year-round and offers daily, monthly, and annual passes. Membership fees are prorated to account for the shutdown week, so Summit on the Park members will not be charged while the facility is closed.

More information is available at www.summitonthepark.org or at (734) 394-5460.



60’s Music Legends to perform in Canton Saturday

The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill will take a trip back in time this Saturday when The ‘60s Music Legends Tour will take to the stage.

The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 30.

Headlining the show will be The Vogues, one of the most successful recording groups from the ‘60s. The Vogues feature original lead singer Bill Burkette and they will perform an hour show featuring their blockbuster hits like: 5 O’Clock World, You’re The One, Turn Around Look at Me, Till, My Special Angel, Earth Angel, Magic Town and many more. The Vogues made numerous television appearances including The Tonight Show, The Ed Sullivan Show, American Bandstand and several appearances on The Mike Douglas Show. In addition 5 O’Clock World was the theme song for The Drew Carey Show.

Opening for The Vogues will be the legendary Shades of Blue from Motown.

The Shades of Blue are one of the most exciting and dynamic acts on the circuit.



The group recorded 1966 smash hit, Oh How Happy. Their lead/first tenor singer Stuart Avig is one of the first vocalists Motown Records signed back in 1959.

This production will feature a live six-piece orchestra.

Tickets are now on sale and great seats are still available for only \$35 and are priced at \$32 for groups of 15 or more, and are available online at cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734)394-5300.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

Northville prepares new master plan for future of city

Northville Township and the City of Novi have about 45 days left to comment on a draft of a new City of Northville master plan.

Members of the Northville City Council approved sending the latest city master plan draft to the neighboring communities to see if either municipality had any comment regarding the plans for the future of the community. The plan, updated at 5-year intervals, was reviewed by the members of the planning commission. It includes plans for the Cady Street and Northville Downs area should the race track be sold and available for development.

The draft plan covers that contingency with language which refers to Northville Downs as a “unique redevelopment opportunity. The intent of this area is to create a mix of single-family residential uses, the densities of which would decrease in intensity from north/west to south/east. The Middle Rouge River could become an important open space amenity if it were exposed and a greenway or riverfront pathway developed as a linear park.”

The Rouge River runs mostly underground through the area but could be opened up by a developer. Both Mayor Chris Johnson and Council member Nancy Darga said at a recent meeting that they feel the plan should be more flexible, allowing for higher density, depending on the plan of the architects and developers. Darga also said that she would like to see a more diversified tax base, rather than simply residential development. She suggested more emphasis on research and development operations or light industry in the Cady Street area.

If the neighboring communities have any comments returned to Northville, the planning commission will consider them and decide on changes to the draft plan. A public hearing will be scheduled about the draft plan and final amendments, if any, will be made before the plan comes back to the city council members for review and adoption of the document which is the official record of development policies for the city.

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