

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. 52

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 130, No. 52

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce recently named the winners in the Winter Fest competitions among several entries in various categories throughout the city.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

A special "Irish tree" has been installed in the lobby of the Summit decorated with tags designating items needed to help the therapeutic recreation program at the facility.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 68, No. 52

More than 100 Inkster families will be helped with the gift of groceries and toys for the holiday season, funded by the Inkster Legends annual Christmas raffle.

See page 4.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

Vol. 15, No. 24

District officials reported that students in the Northville Schools "performed comparatively well overall" on the first-ever MSTEP test.

See page 2.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 15, No. 52

Teachers in the Plymouth Canton Community Schools rejected a proposed two-year contract with the district during a recent vote.

See page 2.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

The 25th District Court in Wayne has made what can be a stressful experience far more understandable and comfortable for those who visit the facility.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

The Westland Local Officers Compensation Commission recommended increases to the salaries of the mayor, members of the city council and the city clerk.

See page 5.

School superintendent is 'replaced' by board

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Members of the board of education relieved superintendent of Schools Michael Meissen of his duties.

Following a closed session meeting with the district legal counsel, Monica Merritt was named as interim superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District last week, replacing Meissen.

Merritt, who was an assistant superintendent under Meissen, began her new duties effective immediately following the Dec. 15 meeting. The announcement was presented as an "administration transition plan resolution" and was approved by a unanimous vote of the board of education members.

Meissen, who was not present at the meeting, was hired as the superintendent of schools in March of 2013. According to the

plan approved by the board members, he will be required to fulfill the remaining six months of his contract although the resolution clearly removes him from any day-to-day operations of the district.

Meissen's salary was \$212,000 per year plus benefits.

No reason for the transition was offered by members of the board or by district Community Relations Director Nick Bandon, who read a statement announcing the change during the meeting. In the formal resolution, Meissen was character-

ized as "an effective superintendent" but no further comment was made regarding his tenure with the district. The statement thanked Meissen for his two years with Plymouth-Canton and went on to call his successor "a great administrator who can seamlessly take over the day-to-day operations of the district."

Meissen issued a prepared statement regarding the transition.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. I will work collaboratively with

the BOE (board of education) and Educational Team to transition the district to new leadership and build upon the successful work that has been completed during our partnership together.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this exceptional school district and to serve these outstanding students, teachers, staff, principals, parents and community. It is my desire to pursue other educational leadership positions in public education that are compatible with family needs and priorities," Meissen's statement said.

"Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to working with the team to ensure a smooth transition," Merritt, a resident of the district, said at the end of the meeting.



And the winners are

Named as the 2017 Distinguished Young Women of Wayne Westland during a presentation last week was Riana Hardyne, above left, a senior at Wayne Memorial High School. First runner-up at the event was Kaitlyn Wysocki, also a senior at Wayne Memorial High School. The 2017 Distinguished Young Woman is Kaitlyn Balko, below left, a junior at John Glenn High School and first runner up for the 2017 honor was Antunika Alonzo, also a junior at Wayne Memorial High School. Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a showcase of their accomplishments, according to the non-profit organization website. Each of the winners was awarded scholarship money to help continue her education. The students will compete in the state program next month.



Teen suspects arrested

Four area teens face up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of breaking and entering Wayne Lawm & Garden Center earlier this month.

Canton police reported that the burglary took place at about 1 a.m. Dec. 6 at the Michigan Avenue business. Officers were alerted by an alarm company and through live audio could hear a loud noise in the building. Police said they believe the suspects may have used some type of tool to get inside the business, located near Lotz

Road. The suspects fled the scene when officers arrived, according to police reports. Officers arrested two of the teens at the scene and a third was arrested the same morning. The fourth suspect was identified and arrested later in the morning, police said, but is not being identified as he is a juvenile.

Not guilty pleas were entered for London Myles McLeod, 17, of Belleville, Ledell

See Teens, page 6

Purchase of police body cameras is OK'd

Members of the Canton Township Board of Trustees last week approved the expenditure of \$30,000 for 60 body cameras to be used by the police department.

The body cameras will become standard equipment for the officers next spring, according to officials who cautioned that the township will need to develop policies and procedures regarding the use of the cameras to ensure that privacy rights are not violated in certain situations.

Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said the cameras are critical for officers in an effort to record their actions and that the cameras will detail each public contact or arrest incident from the officers' viewpoint.

"It really levels the playing field," Mutchler said the board of trustees.

He added that policies would need to include activating or deactivating the cameras and the response of the township to

requests to view the tapes under the Freedom of Information Act. The township opted to purchase the cameras from BodyVision. These cameras are compatible with the in-car mobile camera already being used in Canton patrol cars.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy detailed his reasons for supporting the purchase and the need for the cameras including the documentation of arrests and encounters with police officers and the use of the video evidence in the investigation of crimes. He noted that the cameras is a means of providing more transparency and can help improve and increase public trust in officers. He also cited the use of the videos of actual encounters as a training tool for new officers.

He explained that the cameras can also provide the evidence needed to evaluate citizen complaints and protect officers from false claims of misconduct.

Fire fighters union files for arbitration

The union representing the Belleville firefighters has filed for binding arbitration in an effort to settle a contract with the city.

Under the rules of Public Act 312, the city will be required to pay the cost of the arbitration after the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters filed the necessary paperwork claiming that all attempts to negotiate a contract have failed.

Belleville Firefighters are paid-on-call and are all members of the union with the exception of Chief Brian Lorange. Attempts to negotiate a contract have been ongoing since firefighters joined the union more than 2 years ago. That move was prompted by the failure of the city to increase the training hour wages for firefighters to \$10 an hour from the \$5 previously paid. Belleville Fire Department Lt. Brian Blackburn said that paying the men in training less than the minimum hourly wage of about \$7.70 an hour at the time was technically illegal. He also noted that the firefighters provided the city officials with a

Belleville Firefighters are paid-on-call and are all members of the union with the exception of Chief Brian Lorange.

complete wage comparison and analysis, but no change was forthcoming, despite promises made to the firefighters by city officials.

Blackburn said the union organization was deemed necessary by the firefighters as the city was not taking their requests seriously.

Labor attorney John Clark and City Manager Diane Kollmeier negotiated with the union regarding the wages for the 18 firefighters.

The union representatives claim that Clark and Kollmeier repeatedly cancelled and

See Contract, page 3

CANTON

Wish Tree installed at Summit for donations

A special "wish tree" has been installed in the lobby of the Summit decorated with tags designating items needed to help the therapeutic recreation program at the facility.

The items include stress balls, gardening tools, art and craft supplies, puzzles, books, gift cards and specialty sensory integration items, all important to the success of the program but not included in the budget.

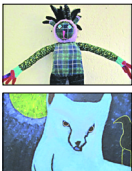
The program serves 150 disabled individuals from throughout western Wayne County each year and provides help in the form job-building skills, swimming, holiday dances, movies and other activities. The activities are all designed to help disabled people become more independent and increase their social skills. The pro-

gram includes activities for those with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities, officials said.

Once again this year, the \$75,000 Wayne County grant that funds the program is in question. Without the funding from the county, the program will be reduced or be forced to increase fees, officials said.

The program serves people ages 15 and older year-round and, during summer months, it expands to include children 8-14 years old.

Monetary donations are also welcome and checks can be made payable to the Canton Community Foundation with Camp A.B.L.E. In the memo line, and mailed to the Canton Community Foundation, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200, Canton Township, MI 48187.



New police program set

The Canton Police Department is beginning a new program, Partners in Your Safety, designed to build a partnership with law enforcement and neighborhoods, promoting problem solving and creating safer neighborhoods.

Partners in Your Safety will empower individual neighborhoods with the resources and tools necessary to succeed in creating a safe community, officials said in a prepared release. Participating neighborhoods will have the opportunity to achieve accreditation status upon completion of the program requirements.

According to the release, the involve-

ment of individuals residing in each neighborhood is vital to the success of the program. As residents become more involved, they will become aware of incidents and issues occurring in their neighborhoods. In turn, they will be able to move in a direction of crime reduction and prevention, with the guidance and assistance of the Canton Police Department.

For additional information, or to start the program in a neighborhood, contact Community Relations Officer Patty Esselink at (734)394-5194 or email her at communityrelations@canton-mi.org.



Welcome

Canton Public Safety Todd L. Mutchler, left, congratulates new police officer Lacey Polderdyke, after she took her oath of office administered by Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett. All new police officers in Canton are required to successfully complete a 16-week instructor-led field training program, prior to working on their own. This program is designed to orientate and develop recruit officers, maximizing their potential and providing them with the tools necessary to successfully make the transition into their new position as a Canton police officer.

Art exhibit continues

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will present "Dream Creatures," a mixed media solo exhibition featuring the works of Took Gallagher through Jan. 31 in the Gallery@VT.

Displayed works include collages, plaster cloth sculptures, and hand-sewn items turned into dreamlike creatures based on the images the artist has seen emerge from the layers of paper, paint, and cloth that were used in her pieces.

Gallagher is a self-taught artist whose inspiration comes from many sources, including song lyrics, fairy tales, dreams, and misheard snippets of passing conversations, according to a prepared release.

This self-taught artist allows these influences to work their way into her art subconsciously, which provides the artist with much surprise at the final results, the release continued.

This multi-media art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday - Friday and during public performances at the theater. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantontownshiptheater.org.

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**PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton, that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A - ZONING, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING ARTICLE 800 - AMENDING THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ON THE ZONING MAP AS FOLLOWS:

UNIFORM COMMUNITIES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 128-09-000-000 (PACED SUBDIVISION) FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (4 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE), TO C-3, REGIONAL COMMERCIAL. Property is located south of Michigan Avenue and west of Beck Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 7, 2016, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Grosse, Chairman
Public Hearing - December 24, 2015

BC120151210 2.0 x 6.0 0.00

Unified Communities Federal Credit Union 128-RZ-3062

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CISMAN REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 128-09-000-001 FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (4 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE) TO R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (4 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE). Property is located south of Geddes Road and west of Denton Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 7, 2016, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Grosse, Chairman
Public Hearing - December 24, 2015

BC120151210 2.0 x 6.0 0.00

Cisman Rezoning 128-RZ-3059

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INKSTER - ROMULUS - WESTLAND

Bond sale for court project is approved

Members of the Romulus City Council have taken the first step toward the renovation and expansion of the 34th District Court.

At their regular meeting last month, members of the council unanimously approved the sale of up to \$11 million in bonds for the project, which will be repaid by the court. The capital improvement bonds will be used to add and upgrade courtrooms, reconfigure the traffic flow at the facility and improve

the municipal parking lot in the complex which also houses the Romulus City Hall and the Romulus Library. Romulus owns the court building and the other buildings on the property. The 34th District Court serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Van Buren, Sumpter and Huron, including 13 police departments including Metro Airport, Metroparks, Wayne County Sheriff, Michigan State Police and the Department of

Natural Resources. The proposed renovations will add about 15,000 square feet to the court complex which has not been upgraded, according to officials, since the early 1990s.

Court Administrator/ Magistrate Al Hindman explained the plans in detail to members of the Romulus council during a study session prior to the Nov. 23 meeting. He told the council members that the Romulus court handles twice as many cases in half as much

space as other district courts in the area. He said the project has been in the planning stages for more than eight years.

Plans include the addition of a courtroom and a new hallway which will provide better access to the two new and one refurbished courtrooms. The current hall will be used for interoffice traffic. A new entryway is planned at the front of the building including provisions for those going to the probation or cashier's office in a

separate traffic pattern from those heading to the courtrooms.

The Romulus City Clerk will now publish a notification of the intent to sell the bonds. If taxpayers do not petition for a referendum vote on the matter within 45 days, the council can proceed with the bond sale after bid prices on the project are received.

Finalization of the bond sale is expected to take place in late summer or early fall of 2016.

Schools seek public input for future planning

Wayne Westland school administrators are developing a strategic plan to guide the direction of the district through the next 10 to 15 years.

That plan will include some big dreams, according to a statement from the district, and school officials are hoping to enlist the aid of local residents in shaping those dreams for the future of students in the district.

The strategic plan will be the

'stimulus for continued innovation and excellence in our district, both now and into the future.' The plan will be a guide to success and a chance for students, staff, parents, city officials and community members to share their dreams for the future of the district, officials said.

A series of 2-hour meetings has been scheduled through the end of January and will culmi-

nate in a presentation to members of the board of education in spring 2016.

Meetings are set for:

- Jan. 7, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting, David Hicks Elementary School, 100 Helen, in Inkster
- Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren, in Westland
- Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Seniors (open

to all community members), Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, in Westland.

- Jan. 19, 1 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Jefferson-Earns Community Vitality Center, 31250 Dorsey, in Westland
- Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, in

Wayne.

• Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting (all parents welcome), Taft-Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, in Wayne.

Suggestions can also be submitted to <http://wevcsd.net/home/strategic-planning/information/>.

More information about the meetings and the process is available from Cheryl Watson or Sue Rawson at (734) 419-2010.

Brownfield district OK'd for former city hall site

Members of the Westland City Council approved a Brownfield Development plan for the Ford Road site of the former city hall during the Dec. 7 meeting.

The plan is an effort to promote the economic development and redevelopment of the site for the overall benefit of the community and spur additional redevelopment along the Ford Road corridor, according to a prepared statement from the office of Mayor William Wild. He

said the plan provides for the redevelopment of the eligible property and makes the redevelopment eligible for reimbursement of certain eligible activity costs through tax increment financing.

The project is comprised of approximately 45 acres of land and the Brownfield plan includes four vacant buildings, all located on Ford Road. Along with the former city hall building, the plan includes the Bailey

Recreation Center, a former fire station and the recently purchased Michigan Motor Exchange. The redevelopment may include environmental investigation and remediation, the abandonment and demolition of existing buildings, mass site preparation activities and the construction associated infrastructure improvements to accommodate the redevelopment, according to Wild's office.

This project has been iden-

tified as an ideal location for mixed-use development with potential residential, retail, medical/educational, office and institutional uses, the statement continued. The project also may include additional recreational and entertainment venues as well as complementary public space.

Under the approved Brownfield plan, the Westland Downtown Development Authority will be eligible for

reimbursement of costs incurred to demolish the structures on Ford Road when the land is redeveloped. Those reimbursable estimated costs are projected at \$75,000 for abatement of asbestos and hazardous materials; \$350,000 for the demolition of the structures; \$25,000 for administrative expenses and another \$50,000 for plan preparation and due care activities and contingencies.

Classified

61. Databases	21. Help Wanted Drivers	53. Pets & Supplies	64. Lawn & Garden Supplies	78. Hunting / Fishing	98. Manufactured/Mobile Homes	118. Loss for Sale
62. Memoranda	22. Help Wanted Drivers	54. Rummage Sales	65. Tree Service	79. Wanted to Buy	99. Pests for Rent	119. Out of State Property
63. Cards of Thanks	23. Child Care	55. Estate Sales	66. Landscaping / Nurseries	80. Room for Rent	100. Will Share	120. Commercial Leases
64. Memoranda	24. Socialized Services	56. Free Markets	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	81. Outlets for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	121. Real Estate Wanted
65. Situations Wanted	25. Situations Wanted	57. Antiques	68. Garden / Produce	82. Apartments for Rent	102. Storage	122. Auto Accessories
66. Personal Announcements	26. Business Opportunity	58. Garage and Yard Sales	69. Musicians / Bandwork	83. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	123. Autos for Sale
67. Legal Notices	27. Health and Fitness	59. Auctions	70. Cleaning Services	84. Business Places for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	124. Antique & Classic Cars
68. Money to Loan	28. Moving Services	60. Moving Sales	71. Musical Merchandise	85. Barquet Halls	105. Mobile Homes for Sale	125. Trucks & Vans for Sale
69. Entertainment	29. Musical Lessons	61. Misc. Items	72. Sporting Goods	86. Houses for Sale	106. Houses for Sale	126. Franchises
70. Lost & Found	30. Adult Care	62. Building Supplies	73. Boats / Accessories	87. Real Estate	107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale	127. Auto Repairs
71. Coming Events	31. Private Schools/Instructors	63. Business and Office Equipment	74. Remodeling & Renovations	88. Houses for Rent	108. Lake and Resort	128. Motorcycles
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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Raises recommended for Westland elected officials

Elected officials in Westland will have a few extra reasons to smile in the New Year.

The Westland Local Officers Compensation Commission recommended increases to the salaries of the mayor, members of the city council and the city clerk during their Nov. 13 meeting.

Diane Fritz, a former Westland City Clerk, was recently named as chairman of the compensation commission, which by statute is required to meet every odd numbered year to review the salaries of elected officials and make a recommendation regarding any changes.

The commission reviewed comparable salaries in other cities and noted that Westland elected officials' pay scales have remained unchanged since 2008. Fritz said, "Through the committee's discussion on the matter, they determined that, at present, the salaries of the city clerk and the mayor are lower than several of the city's department heads, which are covered under a separate pay plan," she added.

Commission members unanimously voted to set the city clerk's salary at the

maximum salary of pay grade one of the plan that is applied to the top department heads. The commissioners were also unanimous in their decision to increase the salary of the mayor to 5 percent more than that paid to top department heads. City council members will now be paid 15 percent of the top department head's salary in the city.

Commissioners also set the salary for the council president pro tem at 2.5 percent more than the other council members while the council president's salary will be 2.5 percent higher than the council president pro tem.

The new pay rates were established at: \$147,171 for the council members, \$135,558 for the council president pro tem and \$162,554 for the council president.

Newly-elected City Clerk Richard LeBlanc will now be paid \$108,140 annually and Mayor William Wild will be paid \$108,297.

The salary determinations by the commission will be effective for 2015 and 2016. Members of city council had until Dec. 17 to reject the Commission recommendation.

Court receives high marks

The 29th District Court in Wayne has made what can be a stressful experience far more understandable and comfortable for those who visit the facility.

For the third consecutive year, court users said they were satisfied with their experiences in the Wayne court. Using a survey that was administered statewide, users were asked questions about their level of satisfaction with court services. Across the board, court users said that the 29th District Court was accessible, timely, fair, and that they were treated with courtesy and respect.

"The public's input and perception of the court is vitally important because it helps us improve the efficiency of our court operations," said Chief Judge Laura Mack. "Getting high marks for three years in a row shows how hard our staff is working at the 29th District Court."

Survey results included a 94 percent result from users saying they were treated with courtesy and respect by court

staff; 82 percent said the way the judge or magistrate handled their case was fair and 91 percent said they understood what happened in their case before leaving the court.

The survey was developed with input from judges and court administrators statewide and tabulated by the State Court Administrative Office. The survey enables courts to identify strengths, provide positive feedback to employees, and target areas for improvement, according to a prepared statement from the court. The survey was completed by a range of court users, including parties to cases, attorneys, jurors, and others.

The public satisfaction survey is part of a statewide initiative of the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office to measure and report on court performance. In 2013 and 2014, a total of nearly 30,000 surveys were completed in courts throughout Michigan. More information is available at www.courts.mi.gov.



Thing One and Thing Two, otherwise known as members of the Books for Benefits student literacy group from the University of Michigan, act out a skit from The Cat in the Hat for students at Hoover Elementary School.

Books for Benefits 'delivers'

Students at Hoover Elementary School in Wayne welcomed some very special visitors recently who brought along some early Christmas gifts.

Representatives from Books For Benefits, a student-led University of Michigan organization, made their very first official trip to Hoover, bringing along two books for each student.

The goal of the Books For Benefits group is to promote literacy for at-risk students. The visit to Hoover was the first Literacy Day effort of the group. Members of the Books for Benefits group read a poem to the students and

then performed a skit from the Dr. Seuss classic, The Cat in the Hat.

In addition to two books, each student was also presented with a bag, a bookmark, a pad of paper and an eraser. Books for Benefits has also participated in reading and tutoring in the Metro Detroit area, and sets up events to promote literacy. The group volunteers also work with pen pals, book clubs and book drives, a spokesperson said.

For more information about Books for Benefits, email nkjawad@umich.edu.

Arena upgrades to begin

Renovations at the Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland will be completed by Emvision Builders, Inc.

The contract for the \$843,000 job was awarded to Emvision Dec. 7 during the regular meeting of the Westland City Council. The lowest bid among 12 received by the city for the work.

The expansion and renovation of portions of the ice arena will include: a four locker room addition with separate showers and bathrooms, something currently shared; an activity room for community gatherings; the re-purposing of the exist-

ing locker rooms into female locker rooms; a referee locker room and a storage room for a second Zamboni.

Construction is expected to be under way during the next 4-6 months, officials said, but will not disrupt activities within the arena. Funding for this project will come from the city capital improvement fund along with money raised during several years of community fundraising efforts, and a notable donation from The Mike Modano Foundation. The Mike Modano Ice Arena is located at 6210 Wildwood.

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Calendar of events

Northville Concern needs donations

Northville Civic Concern is in critical need of help in filling shelves. More than 180 Northville families rely on Civic Concern's assistance and support of the community is both necessary and appreciated. Gas and gift cards are particularly needed, along with non-expired canned or boxed food, including canned fruit, soup, cereals, side dishes and canned meat/fish products, a spokesperson said.

Donations can be taken to the Northville Civic Concern office at 6231 West Seven Mile Road located in the Highland Lakes Shopping Plaza between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. During other hours, items can be dropped off at Cassel's Restaurant or World Wide Alterations also located in the Highland Lakes Shopping Plaza. Food donations are also accepted at Geniti's Restaurant. The UPS Store, Great Harvest Bread Company and Northville City Hall.

The Simply Give program at the Northville Meijer (Eight Mile Road and Haggerty) will continue through the first of the year. The purchase of a \$30 donation card at each register directly benefits Northville Civic Concern. The Meijer Corporation matches each \$30 donation. Visit <http://northvillevolunteerwix.com/civicconcern> or call Northville Civic Concern at (248) 344-1033 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

Blankets are needed

Plymouth Community United Way is holding a Blanket Drive in support of the homeless community through Jan. 15.

Blankets must be new, or handmade, and can be dropped at the Plymouth Community United Way office. The address is 990 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.

For more information, call Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuow.org.

County Lightfest is open

The 4-mile Wayne County Lightfest holiday display is now open.

Lightfest features more than 47 giant animated holiday-themed displays. The entire light show has been converted to environmentally beneficial LED lights.

Lightfest is open from 7-10 p.m. Monday - Thursday; from 6-10 p.m. Friday - Sunday through Dec. 31. The exhibit is closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Visitors enter Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph

Road in Dearborn Heights. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday - Sunday.

Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest drive will be open through Dec. 23, concurrent with the Lightfest hours of operation.

Letters to Santa can be mailed in the giant mailbox outside Santa's Workshop.

For more information, call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

Museum seeks volunteers

The Wayne Historical Museum is seeking volunteers to help with various jobs including tour guides, display assistants and promotions.

Training will be provided and volunteers can choose their schedules and hours.

Applications are available at the museum from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. For more information, call (734) 722-0113.

Circus comes to Canton

The Village Theater is bringing unique New Year's Eve fun to families on Thursday, Dec. 31, when the Detroit Circus comes to town. This high energy performance is set to take place at 7 p.m. on the main stage, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI.

This is an animal-free circus. In addition to the exciting performance on stage, audience members can enjoy a special preschool event starting at 6 p.m., featuring on-site face painting artists and strolling circus entertainers.

The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with their acrobatic skills and gravity defying acts. Watch as members of the aerial acrobatics troupe tie themselves into ornate poses utilizing silks hung from the rafters and captive audience members with grace, poise and incredible strength.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or in person at the Village Theater box office from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and include popcorn and a non-alcoholic beverage.

For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org

Genealogists to meet

The public is invited to attend, free of charge, a meeting of the Northville Genealogical Society from 1:15 until 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Northville District Library, 212 West Cady, in

Northville.

A roundtable discussion, Hidden Hints of Ancestry.com, will begin at 1:15 p.m. with a short business meeting and refreshments at 2:30 p.m.

Karen Krugman will present "Here Comes the Judge - Researching Court Records" at 3 p.m.

Krugman is a professional genealogist involved in many local and state genealogical and heritage societies. She has written five books based on her family history research and was co-author of The Ford Family Cemetery book. This presentation showcases the holdings available at the courthouse in the community your ancestor lived.

Individual help on genealogy is offered in the Local History Room at the Northville District Library from 1-3 p.m. Monday afternoons and also by appointment. For more information contact Grace Wilfong at (248) 349-9679 or see our website:

www.rootswest.com/~mlings

Daddy Daughter dances set

Come dance the night away at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department 5th annual Daddy Daughter Dance.

The dances will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and Feb. 6 at the Cultural Center Reception Room.

Music will be provided by a DJ from Dramatic Dimensions Entertainment. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Semi-formal, dressy-casual attire is recommended and the event is suitable for all ages. Advance ticket purchase is required because space is limited and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Register with the City of Plymouth Recreation Department, 525 Farmer Plymouth, www1.plymouth.mi.us/recreation.

For more information, call (734) 453-6623.

Dr. King's life celebrated

Canton Township will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special tribute at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 30400 Cherry Hill Road.

A display of artworks by area students and a punch and cookie reception will begin at the Village Theater at 6 p.m., followed by the main program at 6:30 p.m. This annual event is presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts,

and Heritage, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sub-Committee, and Canton Township. Admission to this special presentation is \$2 and reserved seats can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Canton Township Officials John Anthony, Terry Bennett, Phil LaJoy, Melissa McLaughlin, Steven Sneladom and Patrick Williams personally donated the scholarship and award money for winners of the art and essay contests.

The reception is sponsored annually by Darrian and Raynita Moore of Keller Williams Realty of Plymouth.

For more information about this special performance and the latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org

Eagles plan Mardi Gras

The Van Buren Eagles are planning a Mardi Gras 2016 party beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Eagles Hall, 9961 Beck road in Van Buren Township.

The event will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music will be by Monsieur Guilliams and His Zydeco Band. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, if available.

For information and reservations, call Keith and Ginger Bruder, (734) 461-2408.

New Years Eve tickets on sale

There are still a few tickets left for the City of Romulus New Year's Eve Party. No tickets for the event will be sold at the door.

Tickets are priced at \$50 per person and include a full dinner, beer and wine, a champagne toast at midnight, music and dancing. Tickets can be purchased at the mayor's office at City Hall. There is also a special offer from LaQuinta hotel for \$89 a night which includes transportation to the event which will take place at the Romulus Progressive Hall on Olga Road from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Proceeds from the party will help fund free movies for the community next summer on the 30-foot, state-of-the-art inflatable screen.

The mayor's office is located at 11111 Wayne Road in Romulus.

For more information, call the Community Services Department (734) 955-4501.

Teens

FROM PAGE 1

O'Bryant, 18 of Romulus, and Marcus Daniel Wilhide, 17, of Wayne when they were arraigned on breaking and entering charges during their arraignment Dec. 7

at 35th District Court before Judge Ron Lowe.

McLeod and Wilhide were released on personal bond while Lowe set a \$500 bond for O'Bryant. Disposition of the fourth suspect's case will be handled in the juvenile system.

A court hearing on the charges is set for Dec. 28.



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