

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

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

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Members of the Michigan Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 295, legislation sponsored by Senate Minority Floor Leader Tupac A. Hunter, who represents Inkster.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

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The Northville Educational Foundation awarded \$15,000 in grants on Dec. 8 to 11 teachers and 12 projects in the district.

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The Plymouth Community Arts Council Holiday Art Sale exceeded expectations this year despite the ice storm the day of the event, explained Arts Council Director Lisa Howard.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcuff will present the 2015 State of the City address at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce luncheon in January.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE

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Anthony Wayne Miller was appointed to the Wayne City Council to fill the term vacated by James Hawley who was chosen to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Al Haidous, elected to the Wayne County Commission.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Westland City Council chambers were packed with families and friends of newly promoted and newly-hired Westland Police officers last week.

See page 2.

Legal battle for DeHoCo land continues

Don Howard
Staff Writer

Detroit filed suit against the township and the Wayne County Treasurer on April 5, 2013 and amended their claims April 18.

The legal battle regarding ownership of the former Detroit House of Corrections farmland in Plymouth Township continues to march through the court system.

The township and the City of Detroit have been disputing the ownership of the 190-acre property on Five Mile Road, between Napier and Ridge roads, for more than a year. The property once housed the Detroit House of Corrections prison farm. The land dispute has been in court since the Detroit bankruptcy filing in 2013.

Plymouth Township paid \$606,150 in 2011 for two parcels of acreage at a foreclosure sale by the Wayne County treasurer's

office. The land was foreclosed on by the county when the recorded owners, Demco 54, owned by DeMattia Corp., failed to pay taxes on the land.

Richard Sharland, a retired farmer whose township property abuts the land in question, was prompted to question the true ownership of the land when he discovered discrepancies in the payment of rents on the property. Sharland discovered that Demco 54 LLC had purchased one section of the property from the City of Detroit, but the remainder of the land, the

190-acre parcel, was still owned by the City of Detroit. While Demco had purchased an option on the 190 acres in dispute in 2006, that option was never exercised, according to land transaction records. Further investigation proved that the ownership of the land had been improperly recorded in the township offices and that tax bills had not been issued to actual owners of the land. Sharland claims the township combined the parcels improperly for tax purposes, and should have known that the parcels

were separate. Township Supervisor Richard Reaume is also the official tax assessor ultimately responsible for accurate property records.

Detroit filed suit against the township and the Wayne County Treasurer on April 5, 2013 and amended their claims April 18.

The Detroit legal filings agree that following the 2006 sale of 133 acres on the eastern-most part of the 323-acre site to Demco 54 LLC, a property transfer affidavit was filed and a property split approved. The Detroit attorneys, however, claim that the recording documents should have indicated Detroit had kept the remaining 190 acres. The filings cite Michigan State Law, specifically

See **Land**, page 4

Historic effort Scout working on grave marker restoration

The Westland Historical Commission will be partnering with the Boy Scouts of America on a project to help restore damaged grave markers in Chubb Cemetery.

Leading the effort is Sam Bernhardt, a member of Boy Scouts of America and a senior at Garden City High School who is working on his final project to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Bernhardt has already begun the process of researching the names of those buried in Chubb Cemetery and creating new permanent markers to be placed this spring.

He and his father, Jim Bernhardt, have completed several markers but are still looking for donors who are willing

to assist in the purchasing or donating of supplies to complete the work.

Chubb Cemetery, located on the north side of Warren Road, east of Newburgh, is the final resting place for a pair of Civil War veterans who called Nankin Township their home, including the cemetery's namesake who died from wounds suffered at the Battle of Gettysburg.

"I want to thank Sam and the Boy Scouts of America for their help to restore the destroyed markers," said Mayor William R. Wild. "This project will certainly bring dignity back to this final resting place."

The Westland Historical Commission, a 501(c)3 non-prof-

it organization has pledged to match the funds the Scout collects up to \$500. Any additional money raised will be used for future upkeep of the cemetery.

Donations are being accepted at the Westland Historic Village Park located at 857 North Wayne Road in Westland between 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays, except the Saturdays following Christmas and New Year's Day.

For more information, call the Westland Historic Village Park at (734) 326-1110.

The revitalization of the cemetery is a key component for the Westland Historical Commission plan to continue to help educate visitors about the past of the city.



Eagle Scout Sam Bernhardt

Canton to use animal shelter in Westland

Stray pets in Canton Township will be sent to the Michigan Humane Society facility in Westland beginning Dec. 31, a move that prompted some concern from local residents.

Canton Township trustees voted last week to change the provider of animal shelter services from the Humane Society of Huron Valley to the Westland facility, noting the move was more cost effective for the township.

Some residents expressed their support for the Huron Valley operation and claimed the Ann Arbor facility does a better job of saving and adopting out animals. Residents noted that the Huron Valley operation has a lower euthanasia rate than the Michigan Humane Society.

Chief Operations Officer of the Michigan Humane Society David Williams said that his organization works diligently to reunite lost pets with their families and tries to save as many animals as possible. He said that his organization has a near-perfect adoption rate for healthy or treatable dogs and a 68 percent adoption rates for cats. Williams said that the MHS policy is to neuter any stray or feral cats brought into the

Westland shelter before releasing them to homes. One local resident noted that there is a feral cat problem in Canton in the area of some restaurants, particularly at night.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton chose to make a change in the shelter provider because of soaring costs for the service. He said fees rose from \$14,669 in 2011 to \$82,362 in 2013. The township had been using the Humane Society of Huron Valley for about 15 years.

The Michigan Humane Society will be paid \$2,000 a month or \$24,000 a year for the services and expects to handle

about 500-600 animals from Canton annually.

LaJoy said township representatives visited the Westland facility and received positive reports from communities already utilizing the Westland services, including Livonia, Westland and Northville and Redford townships.

"They all are very satisfied with the service that's being rendered," LaJoy said.

The Westland facility has also begun a program to provide free microchip identification for up to 2,000 cats, one of the ways

See **Shelter**, page 3

No weapons found in Northville High lockdown

Northville High School administrators responded quickly to information that a student planned to bring a weapon to school last Thursday morning.

At about 10:45 a.m., Dec. 18, administrators were notified by an anonymous tip through the new Michigan OK2Say hotline that a student at the school might have brought a weapon into the building with the intent of using the firearm. The building was immediately put into lockdown and the Northville Township Police Department

notified of the situation. According to information from the school, the lockdown was lifted at about 1 p.m. after police determined there was no threat to any students or teachers in the building.

"The investigation confirmed that at no time were there any weapons on the school grounds," the statement from the school sent to parents confirmed. "We take any such information seriously," said school officials in an email. "The building was immediately put into lock down, and

police dispatched. The high school staff worked together with the Northville Township Police Department to assess the threat and respond as quickly as possible."

According to police, the school liaison officer was informed and immediately went to the classroom where the student alleged to have the weapon was in class. The officer interviewed the student who identified a second student who was also interviewed about the alleged threat. Police said no

arrests were made and no weapons found.

Police said, however, that it is an ongoing investigation.

"We appreciate the fact that the threat was reported to the authorities, allowing for swift action. We likewise appreciate the support of the Northville Township Police Department and the manner in which our students and staff conducted themselves throughout the lockdown, as student safety remains our utmost priority," administrators said.

Romulus - Westland

City hires 7 new officers and promotes 6

Westland City Council chambers were packed with families and friends of newly promoted and newly-hired Westland Police officers last week.

Seven new officers were hired, three veteran officers were promoted to the rank of sergeant and three promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the department during induction ceremonies. The hirings and promotions followed three retirements and the awarding of a \$500,000 federal COPS grant, which will fund the four new officers.

The new hires include two individuals who were formerly involved in the Westland Police Department. Jennifer Boljesic is a former Westland Police Service Aide and the daughter of an officer with 36 years of experience in law enforcement. Robert Schurig started with the Westland Police Department at age 16 as a Westland Police Explorer and left his job as an officer in Auburn Hills to join Westland.

The new hires also include a Marine veteran and veteran officers from other departments. John Halaas served in the US Marine Corps from 1995-1999, and was recalled for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002 and completed another tour in Iraq after joining the reserves in

2004; Halaas is also a former Pittsfield Township police officer. Jason Nevell formerly served with the Detroit Police Department won the 2010 Detroit Police Officer of the Year Award, and he has received a Lifesaving Award on two occasions. Kristopher Richardson, a lifelong Garden City resident, recently retired from the Detroit Police Department after 20 years of service, and has served on a variety of units.

Rodney Donald, is also a second-generation officer whose father served with Garden City; Donald graduated from Brevard College with a degree in Criminal Justice, while also starring at running back for the football team. Ed Pawlowski has been working as a cadet for the Dearborn Heights Police Department and graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy in May 2014.

“I am proud to welcome these highly qualified police officers to Westland,” said Mayor William R. Wild. “Our community looks forward to their service and dedication to the residents.”

Officers Jerry Farrar, Christopher Gazdecki, and Timothy Liess were each promoted to sergeant. Farrar has 14 years of police experience, including nine with



Mayor William Wild, far right, and Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik, second from right, congratulate the six officers recently promoted to new ranks in the department. Mayor Wild & Chief Jedrusik with the promoted officers.

Westland. Gazdecki has served the past 14 years with Westland after starting his career in Detroit. Liess is a Westland veteran who also completed two tours of duty in Iraq working Counter-Terrorism Operations with the US Navy Seals.

Officers Kyle Dawley, Randy Thivierge, and Jason Blanchard were each promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Dawley has served Westland for the past decade in a variety of roles, and he has now been assigned to the Detective Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, and the Special Investigations Unit. Thivierge has nearly 20 years of experience in law enforcement and was an original member of the perimeter Rifle Team and currently leads the Firearms Program for Westland. Blanchard began his law enforcement

career in 1994 and was hired by Westland in 1995; he has been assigned to the Patrol Division.

“Our promoted officers have displayed leadership and a commitment to protecting and serving our community that deserves recognition,” said Wild. “We look forward to your continued service, and as you can see by this packed house, our community appreciates all the great work you have done so far.”

Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik added, “I am very proud of what this department has accomplished in the past five years and what we intend to complete over the next five years. These officers will be fine additions to our department and these supervisors are true leaders who will help take us to the next step.”

State of City address scheduled at Chamber of Commerce lunch

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff will present the 2015 State of the City address at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce luncheon in January.

Burcroff, who is currently serving his first four-year term as mayor, is a life-long resident of the city and a graduate of Romulus High School.

Prior to his election as mayor, Burcroff served the community as a planning commissioner, a city council member, chairman and board member of the Romulus Boys and Girls Club, and is the founder of the Romulus clean Sweep program.

Burcroff is an active member of the

Community United Methodist Church and the chamber of commerce.

Burcroff will speak at noon at the luncheon program and registration and networking will begin at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6

at the Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport, 8000 Merriman Road in Romulus.

Organizers from the chamber noted that seating is limited and that reservations will be accepted until Jan. 2. The cost

is \$20 for chamber members and \$25 for non members.

For reservations or more information, call (734) 893-0694 or visit info@romuluschamber.com.

Check us out online at www.associatednewspapers.net.

Funeral cost donations sought

A group of volunteers is organizing a spaghetti dinner to help pay the funeral expenses of 12-year-old Raymond Joseph Patton was killed by a train in Wayne Nov. 23 when he tried to cross the tracks at Venoy while a train was oncoming.

The dinner will take place from 5-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4 at the Westland Friendship Center. Donations will be accepted at the door.

For more information or to donate, contact buddyshuh@me.com.

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CANTON - INKSTER

Civitans donate to Therapeutic Recreation Program

Canton Leisure Services has received a \$500 donation for its Therapeutic Recreation programming from the Plymouth-Canton Civitans that will assist in funding Camp A.B.L.E., a summer camp for children aged 8-14 with a broad range of disabilities.

"We feel so incredibly honored that the Plymouth-Canton Civitans chose to make this very generous donation to the Therapeutic Recreation program," said Jennifer Provenzano, recreation coordinator. "We can't begin to express our gratitude to these deeply caring individuals who truly embody charity and good citizenship. We hope that others are as inspired by their acts of kindness as we are."

The Civitans elected to make the donation after ambassadors from Canton Leisure Services spoke about the Therapeutic Recreation program during a Civitan meeting, and the group has also donated a rocking chair and gift cards for camp use.

Plymouth-Canton Civitan Treasurer/Secretary Kathy

Turnquist called it a great opportunity to support an "awesome" community service. "This community is phenomenal when it comes to supporting those with special needs," Turnquist said.

Camp A.B.L.E., which stands for Achieve, Believe, Learn and Experience, is one of several activities and services offered by the Canton Township Therapeutic Recreation program. Therapeutic Recreation offers year-round program opportunities, socialization and support for individuals with disabilities of all ages residing in Western Wayne County.

Camp A.B.L.E. is funded in part by a Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation Grant. However, the need for specialized supplies, transportation and other important programming assistance remains. Donations to the Camp A.B.L.E. fund can be made online at www.cantonfoundation.org or by writing a check to the Canton Community Foundation and earmarking those dollars in the memo line with "Camp A.B.L.E. Fund."



Cheryl Van Vliet, left, and Carol Swan of Plymouth-Canton Civitans, Jennifer Girard of Canton Leisure Services and Kathy Turnquist of Plymouth-Canton Civitans celebrate the recent donation to the Therapeutic Recreation program.

The Therapeutic Recreation program is also seeking gifts of supplies. Those interested in making a donation of supplies can visit the "Giving Tree" in the lobby of Summit on the Park community recreation center, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. The Giving Tree is decorated in ornaments with desired gift items for the program, such as educational toys

and gift cards for recreation opportunities. The tree will be located at the Summit from now through the end of the holiday season.

To learn more about the Canton Leisure Services Therapeutic Recreation Program, visit www.cantonfun.org.

The mission of Civitan International is to build good cit-

izenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities. The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club has been dedicated to the needs of the local community for 40 years. For more information, visit www.plymouthcantoncivitans.com.

Senator's land speculator bill OK'd in Legislature

Members of the Michigan Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 295, legislation sponsored by Senate Minority Floor Leader Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) that is designed to improve neighborhoods and reduce blight by banning certain landowners with delinquent blight fines from bidding in county tax foreclosure auctions.

Hunter who will leave the senate this year due to term limits, has long represented the 5th District which includes the City of Inkster as well as portions of Detroit and Dearborn Heights.

"Our tax foreclosure auctions are currently being abused by tax-dodgers, slumlords and schemers that are letting their properties fall into foreclosure rather than paying their property taxes, and this bill will go a long way toward cleaning up

our neighborhoods and creating safe communities," said Hunter. "I sincerely appreciate the support of the Legislature to address this important issue facing Detroit and other communities, but I also want to recognize Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz and Deputy Treasurer David Szymanski for all of their hard work in concert with Mayor Mike Duggan to address land speculation and blight in Detroit."

Senate Bill 295 would require prospective bidders in tax foreclosure auctions to register with the foreclosing governmental unit at least 14 days before a sale. It would prohibit any person or entity that has had a property go into tax foreclosure in the last three years or has unpaid local blight or nuisance ordinance violations from bidding on properties in tax foreclo-

sure auctions.

In the Wayne County 2014 tax foreclosure auction, 10,704 properties were sold for about \$61 million countywide. About 14,800 properties went unsold. Loveland Technology, a company that surveyed Detroit for this year's auction, found an 85 percent correlation between tax-foreclosed and blighted properties.

The company also speculated that 35,669 occupied residential homes in the city are set to enter tax foreclosure next year.

Hunter has been a leader in the fight to

combat blight through other avenues as well. He sponsored a bill that was passed and signed into law as part of a legislative package to address blight. His bill, Senate Bill 39, allowed for a lien against property involved in a blight violation to be enforced and discharged by a city in the same manner as liens for delinquent taxes.

Hunter serves as the minority Floor Leader and is a member of the Senate Government Operations Committee, Legislative Council, and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Shelter

FROM PAGE 1

used to reunite lost pets with owners.

Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome said that Humane Society of Huron Valley indicated it handled 541 animals in 2013 and 481 through early December of this year. She said Canton records indicate that only 142 animals were sent to the Ann Arbor facility in 2013, after being captured by Varmint Police of Westland, an outside contractor with the township. There are animals taken directly to the shelter by residents, which could account for the variance in numbers.

Newsome advised residents who might observe an animal that appears to be lost, stray, injured or otherwise in need of assistance, to call the Canton Public Safety Department at (734) 394-5400 for help. She advised owners who have lost a pet, to contact the department at the same number. The department maintains a list of all animals picked up, in order to assist with quickly uniting pet owners with their lost animals, she said.

The Michigan Humane Society in Westland is open for pet retrieval from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday with extended hours from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Michigan Humane Society is located at 900 N. Newburgh Road in Westland and can be contacted at (734) 721-7300 or www.michiganhumane.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

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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 12 of 2008, 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 12, 2015 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:

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT (2015-1) - SMOKING LOUNGES

Consider Canton Township-initiated amendment to the following articles:

Article 1.00 - Rules of Construction and Definitions
Section 1.03, Establish a definition for Smoking Lounge.

Article 16.00 - C-2 Community Commercial District
Section 16.02, Principal Uses and Structures.
Add, "Smoking Lounge per the requirements of Chapter 18, Business Regulations".

Article 17.00 - C-3 Regional Commercial District
Section 17.02, Principal Uses and Structures
Add, "Smoking Lounge per the requirements of Chapter 18, Business Regulations".

Article 18.00 - C-4 Interchange Service District
Section 18.02, Principal Uses and Structures
Add, "Smoking Lounge per the requirements of Chapter 18, Business Regulations".


Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday January 8, 2015 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Greg Greene, Chairman
Publish:

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December 26, 2014

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Belleville - Plymouth

Arts Council hosts successful holiday sale

The Plymouth Community Arts Council Holiday Art Sale exceeded expectations this year despite the early morning ice storm the day of the event, explained Arts Council Director Lisa Howard. Fourteen local artists sold handcrafted and original art pieces while the Western Michigan Ceramics Guild sold more than \$1,000 worth of unique student pottery. Illustrator Nick Bair took custom orders for his designs that sold out earlier in the morning, she said.

Fourth grade student Beatrice Savage sold almost all of her colorful hand-knit hats while high school jewelry designer Heather Graham sold two dozen of her hand-painted watercolor pendants and original bracelet designs, she added. As a result of her experience at

the arts council, she was invited to sell at a private home party gift sale in Northville. Other hot items were felted Nana's knits gloves and mittens, along with Christina Evans photographic jewelry and Lori Barry's fused glass trays and night lights. For additional information visit www.plymoutharts.com.

The sale featured one-of-a-kind art pieces with the dual goal of promoting local artists and bringing in funds for art programming.

"We don't charge for tables as many art fairs do, but work with artists on a 70/30 split on their sales for the day. It is an arrangement that benefits the artists, who don't have to put out any initial money, but only pay on their actual sales," said Howard.

Students from the Plymouth Canton Educational Park



Plymouth Educational Park National Honor Society volunteers helped out at the holiday arts sale.

National Honor Society served as volunteers for the event, helping with customer checkout, carrying customer packages, working the bake sale and making sure the Holiday music kept playing. All proceeds from the Bake Sale went directly to the

National Honor Society, she noted.

There are still a few pieces of pottery available for sale on site, along with gift-able art block prints by Tony Roko and Brian Rizza, Howard said. "Gift certificates can also be purchased in

our office or over the phone, and sent directly to the recipient," she added.

For more information, call (734) 416-4278 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The arts council is located at 774 Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Belleville police need matching funds for body cameras

The Belleville Police Department may soon have some cutting edge equipment that protects both officers and the public. To make that a reality, however, the department will need a little help from citizens.

The department is eligible for a grant of \$2,750 to fund 10 body

cameras for patrol officers through Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. The cameras and supporting equipment, however, cost \$5,500 and the local community or department must match the grant funds. That leaves the department short \$2,750 for the pur-

chase of the equipment, now considered by many to be crucial to police work.

According to Police Chief Hall Berriman, the department has until April to match the grant funds.

He recently told members of the Belleville City Council that

he was confident the community would help with donations to ensure the officers had the body cameras.

The total cost for the 10 cameras is \$4,000 while the supporting equipment is \$1,500.

Berriman said the grant application was originally submitted

by former Police Chief Gene Taylor. Because of the lack of matching funds, the application went dormant, he said. Berriman said he reapplied recently for the funding.

There was no specific plan for solicitation of donations announced.

Land

FROM PAGE 1

from the State Tax Commission, that forbids the foreclosure of publicly-owned land.

In November 2013 attorneys for the City of Detroit were forced to withdraw their request for a hearing in Wayne County Circuit Court regarding the lawsuit filed against Plymouth Township and Wayne County demanding the return of the land. The withdrawal was based on the relationship of Plymouth Township with the law firm Miller-Canfield, the same firm chosen by the City of Detroit officials to represent the municipality in the city bankruptcy filing.

"The case is moving along and is on track," said attorney John Nader, who is representing Detroit in the matter. "We're going to unwind this in court."

The case is in the court of Wayne County Circuit Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr.

Last Friday a court motion hearing was cancelled after when township attorney Kevin Bennett filed for a delay. Attorneys for both Detroit and the township are each seeking a Summary Disposition in their respective favor and are working to coordinate a hearing date in early 2015 according to informed sources. A Summary Disposition allows parties to a civil action to submit an agreed-upon stipulation of facts to enable the court to render judgment rather than engage in a trial.

The land in question was on the tax rolls valued at more than \$15 million several years ago, but that value was decreased markedly by assessors in the years immediately preceding the sale to the township. The prison farm property involved in the Detroit vs. Plymouth Township lawsuit is not part of the 126-acre plot owned by the state east of Ridge; an area littered with abandoned cellblock buildings. The highly-contaminated property, once used as a dump, has been moved by state legislators into the Fast Track Land Bank Authority with hopes the state can find a buyer for clean-up and sale.

Arts group still hopes to buy school

Negotiations to sell Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth to the Plymouth Area Recreation Complex (PARC) group will continue.

Members of the Plymouth Canton Board of Education agreed to continue negotiating with the group, which plans to renovate the school into a regional community center. All seven members of the board agreed to continue the negotiations last week, the district will also entertain other offers for the building and property located on Main Street near downtown Plymouth.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Meissen said the resolution will help in finalizing a sale, if a potential agreement is negotiated for the Central property which include 4.25 acres occupied by the Plymouth Cultural Center, 1.15 acres utilized by the Miracle League of Plymouth special-needs baseball field and nearly 10 acres of athletic field. The school occupies about 6 ½ acres of land.

"For me (the resolution) makes clear

we recognize there has been an ongoing negotiation, and we don't want that momentum to stop," Meissen said. "If there's a deal to be done there, we want to do what we need to do to bring it to fruition."

Neither the cultural center or the Miracle League field would be included in any sale, according to appraisers who claim the value to buyers would be diminished by the long-term leases in place.

The board of education opted to close the historic middle school at the end of the next school year in June of 2015. A new middle school, located at Canton Center and Cherry Hill roads in Canton Township is expected to open in September, housing the majority of middle school students who are Canton residents, according to a population survey the district executed.

Organizers of the PARC group said they were not ready to discuss the status of any negotiations for the purchase of the property at this time.

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Obituaries



Esther May Stovall
June 29, 1926
Dec. 11, 2014

Esther May Stovall died Dec. 11, 2014. Among those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 69 years, Benjamin; an only son, William Leroy (Pauline); daughters, Mary Elizabeth Stovall, Prescella (Mabry) Sealie, Constance Williams and Renee Stovall; 12 grandchildren, George, Benjamin (Vianney), Annette, Crystal, James (Sayaka), Darnel, Cawhana, Destiny, Cordell (Shakyra), Miesha, Neika, Tomika; a host of great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; several other family members,

and many friends. Services took place at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Inkster. Final arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home on South Inkster Road in Inkster. Serenity Cremation Services accorded final rites.



Emily Jane Wills
Sunrise: April 29, 1931
Sunset: Dec. 15, 2014

Emily Jane Wills died Dec. 15 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Among those survivors left to mourn her passing and cherish her memory are her daughters, Deborah Wills and Diane Williams; a sister, Barbara Ann Deal; grandchildren, John, Chantel and Jason; many great- and great-great-

grandchildren; a host of other family members, and many friends. Mrs. Wills was preceded in death by her husband, Pete, and a grandson, Marcus. Funeral services took place at Womack Temple CME in Inkster with the Rev. Tyson Kelley officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted by the family to the Penn Funeral Home on South Inkster Road in Inkster. Serenity Cremation Services according final rites.

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NORTHVILLE - WAYNE



TEN HUT

Wayne Memorial High School ROTC cadets have been named the 2014-2015 Michigan-Wide JROTC Drill Champions. In the two competitions leading to the championship performance, Wayne narrowly defeated incumbent champions Lincoln Park at Centerline, and lost to Renaissance at the Grand Rapids Competition. The same schools finished in the top three, with Wayne Memorial name the champion this year. The win is Wayne's fifth in 11 years. Cadet Command Sgt. Major Jesse Medlen's Squad placed first, as did Cadet Major Nicholas Parraghi's Color Guard. Cadet First Sgt. Brie'Ona Nelson prepared the first place inspection team, and Cadet Lt. Douglas Chuong's Platoon placed third. Chuong said, "We had a slow start this year, but our success shows that perseverance and practice pay off." The victory gives the team momentum as they look forward to the Brigade Championship at Fort Knox and the National Championship in Louisville in the spring noted Cadet 1st Lt. Nicole Rodgers.



Wayne City Council names Miller to fill vacant term

Anthony Wayne Miller is the newest member of the Wayne City Council. Miller was appointed to the term vacated by James Hawley who was chosen to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Al Haidous who was elected to the Wayne County Commission. Miller has lived in Wayne for 26 year and is currently a produce manager at the Kroger store at Warren and Middlebelt in Westland. "I learned a lot of leadership and communication skills, a lot of people skills," Miller said during his interview with current council members regarding his career in the grocery industry. "You have to have that in a grocery store. I am very self-motivated, compassionate and have a strong work ethic." Miller also said he had

been attending city council meetings for several years and considered himself civic minded. He stressed the importance of communicating important issues to residents in terms that were clear and understandable. Councilman Skip Monit made a motion to table the appointment for another 48 hours which was supported by Councilman Al Damitio. Both said they wanted more time to consider the appointment. After some discussion, Monit's motion was withdrawn and Councilwoman Susan Rowe offered a formal motion to appoint Miller. Monit cast the only vote against the appointment. Miller will begin his term at the Jan. 6 meeting and serve until the election in November.

Educational foundation awards \$15,000 in grants

The Northville Educational Foundation awarded grants to 11 teachers and 12 projects in the district on Dec. 8. According to a spokesman for the foundation, 24 applications for funding were received. The applications were reviewed by a panel of seven judges and then scored based on their innovation, how they addressed curriculum standards in the district, their ability to be replicated, the number of students impacted and the goals for the outcome of the project. The top scores that fit within the \$15,000 budget allocated were selected. Winners included a 3D printer for the Media Center at the High School; special technology to assist visually impaired stu-

dents at Cooke School and Northville High School and pulse monitors to help physical education students at Silver Springs understand what it feels like to exercise at their target heart rate. "The Northville Educational Foundation appreciates these teachers who are willing to go above and beyond to bring extra programming into their classrooms so that their students can better experience what they are learning in textbooks," the spokesperson noted. The projects will be implemented in the classrooms beginning second semester of this school year and will impact over 4,500 students this year alone. Many of them will be able to be replicated year after year, she added.

Wayne council members divide budget negotiations

Divide and conquer seems to be the strategy employed by members of the Wayne City Council attempting to come to grips with the serious budget deficit still plaguing the community. The budget was adopted as balanced but in reality has a shortfall of more than \$500,000. An even larger deficit is predicted for the 2014-15 fiscal year. While the council members had been addressing departmental issues at study sessions, a new approach is now under way. To maximize their efforts and cut down on time, individual council members have been assigned to meet with city departments to determine any possible financial reductions. The plan, reportedly devised by new Mayor James Hawley and Interim City Manager David Murphy, will have council

members work with an assigned city department or service on their departmental portion of the projected budget. Councilman Skip Monit is working with the fire department. Councilwoman Susan Rowe will work with the police department to attempt to find solutions to the budget situation while Councilman Al Damitio will work with the finance departments in the city, preparing a preliminary budget for next year. Councilman John Rhaesa will work on economic development in the city. Councilman David James will work on public services and related projects, including the reconstruction of the roof at Wayne City Hall. Hawley will take on the parks and recreation budget and services, including the Wayne Community Center which has been operating at a loss for many years.



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Calendar of events

Special service announced

Pastor Billy J. Hales has announced a special service at Grace Community Church at 11 a.m. Sunday at Comfort Inn, South I-94 Service Drive, Belleville.

For more information, call (734) 740-4230

County Lightfest open

The 21st annual Lightfest is now open. This year, several new displays have been added and the entire light show has been converted to energy efficient LED lights. The largest drive through light show in the Midwest, the Lightfest features more than 55 giant, animated holiday-themed displays.

The Lightshow will continue through Dec. 31.

Poet to be speaker

The Northville District Library is hosting a program "Poems for Michigan with Joyce Benvenuto" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8

Poet and storyteller Joyce Benvenuto brings alive the generations of people who have lived along Grand River, both the river and the road, for the past 160 years in this presentation of beautiful Michigan poetry. Her collection of poems, "A Grand River: Poems for Michigan" crosses the state form shore to shore.

To register, call (248) 320-3020 or register online at www.northvillelibrary.org/EventsCalendar

Love & Logic classes offered

Northville Youth Assistance is sponsoring Love & Logic parenting classes in January, February and March.

Love & Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered and more skilled interactions with children, according to organizers.

Class fee is \$20 and can be paid to Northville Youth Assistance, 303 W. Main St. Northville, MI 48167.

Classes will take place from 9:30-11 a.m. Thursday mornings Jan. 8-29 at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St. in Northville; from 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesdays Feb. 4-25 at Silver Springs Elementary School, 19801 Silver Springs Dr. in Northville and from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays March 4-25 at Silver Springs Elementary School.

More information and registration is available at (248) 344-1618.

Clothing give away planned

Middlebelt Baptist Church will host another in a series of Clothing Give Aways from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Organizers said there will be items for all ages available.

The church is located at 943 Middlebelt Road in Inkster.

For more information, phone (734) 728-3838.

Jazz concert set

The Plymouth District Library will host nationally-known recording artist Cynthia Kaay Bennett in a free Jazz performance at 3 p.m. Saturday Jan. 10 during the Plymouth Ice Festival.

Also featured in the performance will be Kevin Korecki on keyboard and Will Kinsey on drums. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

The library is located at 223 S. Main St. in downtown Plymouth. The concert is free but reservations are requested and can be made at (734) 453-0750 or online at plymouthlibrary.org.

Library offers warm ups

The Plymouth District Library will offer visitors to the Ice Festival warm cider and a Disney sing-along from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11 during the Plymouth Ice Festival.

The family-friendly event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

The Plymouth District Library is located at 223 S Main St. in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0750.

Drugs 101 class set

Educators from Saint Joseph Mercy Health System will travel to Hillside Middle School to educate parents, grandparents, coaches, teachers and administrators about the various forms of drugs and the peer pressures facing students to use them. The presentation is titled Drugs 101:What Parents Want to Know and is sponsored by the Northville Public Schools.

The two-hour presentation starts at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 21, when participants will enter a mock bedroom of a teenager that has been set up to resemble a teenage drug user's room. Participants are asked to identify drug and alcohol related paraphernalia that have been placed within the room.

Throughout the presentation, more than 70 trendy drug and alcohol indicators will be unveiled to show how some adolescents hide drug and alcohol use.

The goal of this program is to empower participants with the knowledge they need to spot warning signs of drug abuse in time to intervene and/or prevent it.

Any adult can register for the program by contacting (734) 398-7518 or online at www.stjoeshealth.org/classes.

Any group interested in hosting a "Drugs 101: What Parents Want to Know" program for the parents of their school, district or community, can call (734) 398-7518 or email healthed@trinity-health.org

Drama club to perform

The Northville High School Drama Club will present Almost, Maine, a play by John Cariani at 7 p.m. Jan. 30 and 31 and at 1 p.m. Feb. 1.

The play is broken into nine simultaneous stories that explore the pursuit of love and the hazards of loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine.

All tickets will be sold at the

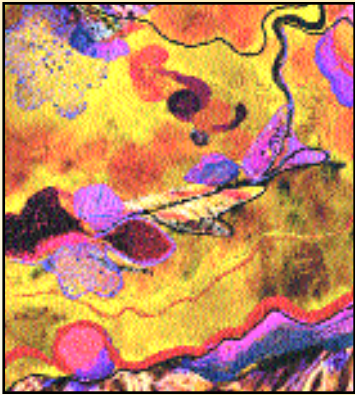
Fiber art exhibited

The collected works of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild will be on display in the Gallery@VT in Canton Township through Jan. 7.

The Fiberarts Guild includes artists who champion the enjoyment of fiber arts through information and demonstration. Works on display include a wide variety of fiber art, such as: tapestries, wearable art, textiles, fiber paper, baskets, sculpture and surface design. Techniques utilized in the creation of some of these works made of natural and synthetic fibers include: weaving, spinning, dyeing, quilting, knitting, felting, and beading, according to a spokesman.

"These one-of-a-kind textile creations contain unique color, pattern and textural details and can provide warmth and texture to enhance any environment," the spokesman continued.

Originally founded in 1956 as a club for weavers, the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild (AAFG) provides opportunities for fiber artists to meet and exchange ideas, and to learn about fiber art through lectures and workshops. This group also partici-



"Desert Flowers" by artist Anne Flora

pates in the Ann Arbor State Street Area Art Fair. For additional information about the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild, visit www.annarborfiberarts.org.

The art exhibit at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, during public performances at the theater; and by appointment by calling (734) 394-5300. The Gallery is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, is a regional center for the arts. For more information about this latest exhibition, call (734) 394-5300 or visit Cantonvillagetheater.org.

general admission price of \$10 and will be available at the box office one hour prior to each performance. Tickets are also available by contacting Denise Stacer at (248) 924-2324 or drstacer@dsemail.com.

Groups of eight or more may have reserve seating and are advance purchase only before Jan. 29. The show is appropriate for ages 10 and older.

For more information on the Northville High School Drama Club and the 2014-2015 season, visit www.nhstheatre.com.

Wild Game Dinner planned

The Wayne County Fair

Association will host a Wild Game benefit dinner at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the event. All proceeds will be used for the upkeep of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, a nonprofit organization.

Dinner tickets are \$30 if purchased in advance and \$35 if purchased at the door. The event will take place at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Belleville.

For more information or tickets, contact Mary Zellner at (734) 942-1684 or Tom Busenbark at (734) 799-3692.

