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## P-CCS panel formed with goal to grow district student enrollment

Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

While state funding of public education is expected to be a long-term issue for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, members of a blue ribbon panel are working on ways to increase student enrollment and develop deep support and relationships within the community.

"The district needs to work on things we can do something about," panel chair Don Soenen said. "We have to make sure we are doing everything we can in the district."

The panel was relaunched not too long ago to tackle is-



Merritt



Soenen

Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt is involved, as well as Board of Education President Kim Crouch. "They

are very enthusiastic about this," Soenen added.

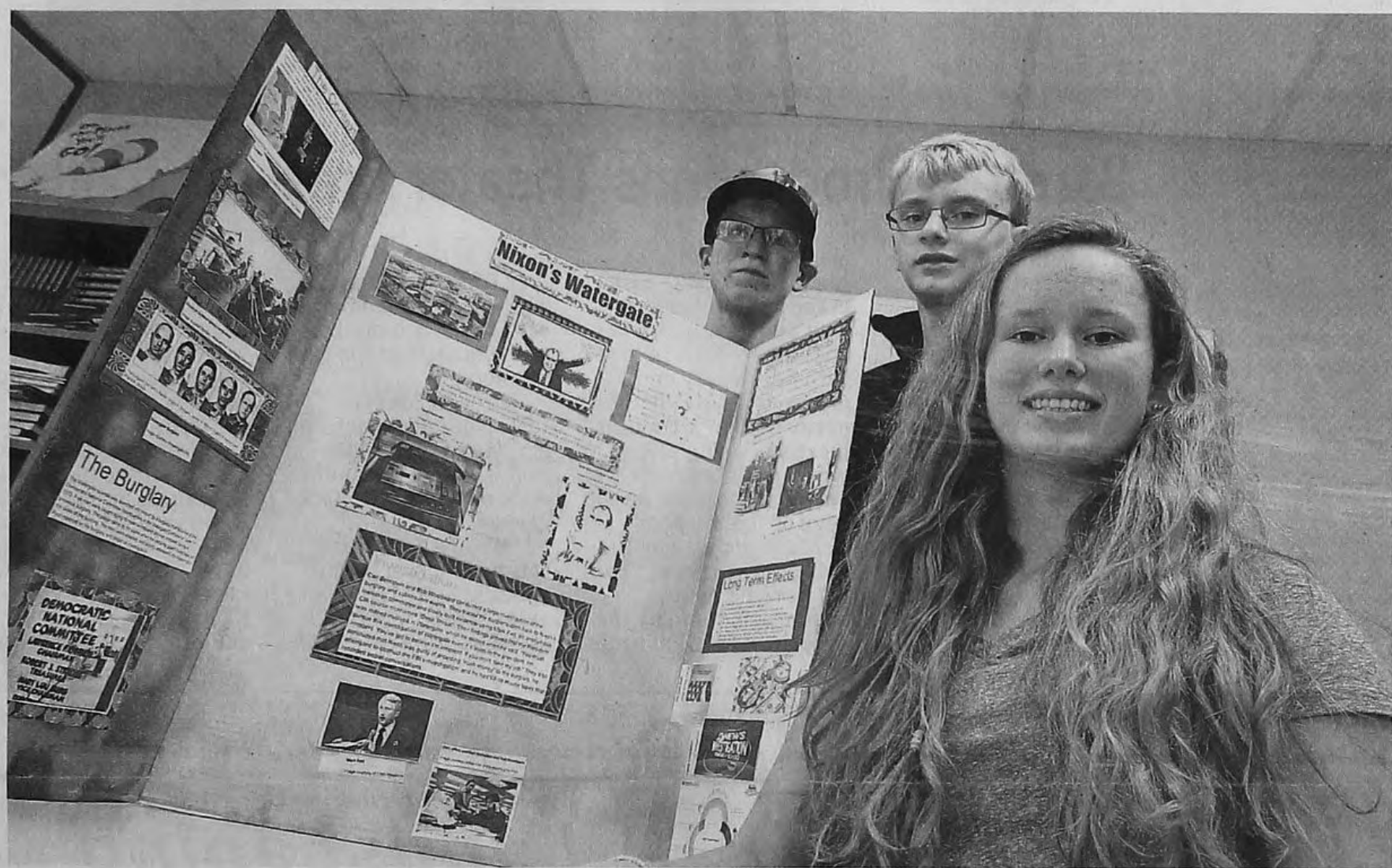
Increasing the number of students who attend Plymouth-Canton is key to the panel's work. The district receives state funding based on each student enrolled in the district. In the current school year, the district received \$7,391 per pupil. In 2011, for example, the per-pupil foundation grant was at \$7,604 and then dropped to

\$7,234 - representing a \$7 million loss, according to school officials.

"The panel will help us increase our enrollment. We are going after our own market share," Merritt said.

She will present a balanced budget at the Tuesday, April 26, board meeting. The proposed state school aid bill,

See PANEL, Page A10



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The project on Richard Nixon and Watergate was completed by Ben Chriss, Jackson Rogers and Emily McMillan.

## NEW SCHOOL HISTORY PROJECTS HEAD TO STATE COMPETITION

Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

History is more than a dry list of dates and events — wars fought, political movements started, countries born — for students at New School High.

Students at the new Plymouth Township charter high school researched specific

topics, from the Watergate scandal to the history of the World Wide Web, in depth this year as they planned and built projects for National History Day, a contest to promote history education that will culminate in June with finals at the University of Maryland at College Park.

The students divided into

teams to create projects in the medium of their choice: websites, documentary videos, traditional displays and even a live performance were used to present the teams' research.

At the Detroit Historical Museum in March, all eight New School teams entered qualified for the state finals and four of those teams are

making the trek to Bay City Central High School next Saturday for that competition, which is put on by the Historical Society of Michigan.

The National History Day experience meshes with a project-based ap-

See HISTORY, Page A10

## Another GOP hopeful joins state House race

Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

It'll be a four-way contest — no, make that three — for the Republican nomination to succeed a three-term state legislator in representing the Plymouth-Canton-Northville area.

Attorney Jeffrey T. Neilson of Northville Township filed candidacy papers Tuesday, the last day to do so, for the GOP

primary in the Michigan House of Representatives' 20th District. Neilson's entry had made it a four-way Republican primary, but Joe Smith of Plymouth Township, office manager at a landscaping company, dropped out later in the week,



Neilson

according to Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's office.

That leaves Neilson competing with Jeff Noble of Plymouth Township, pastor at Praise Baptist Church, and Chris Roosen of Northville Township, global sales manager at an automobile parts supplier and a former trustee in his hometown, for the right to represent Republicans in the

November general election. On the Democratic side, John Sullivan of Northville, an attorney and former Wayne County commissioner, and Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member and a former county employee and Michigan Liquor Control Commission member, are running.

See NEILSON, Page A11

## A mix of Democrats, Republicans seek Canton board seats

Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

Canton voters will have plenty of Republican and Democratic candidates to choose from when they head to the polls this year to determine who will sit on the township board.

Candidates who are seeking election to the post of supervisor, clerk, treasurer and one of four trustee seats filed petitions by the 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, deadline. The deadline to withdraw was 5 p.m. Friday, April 22. All seats on the township board are four-year terms.

This year will bring significant change to the township board as Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Clerk Terry Bennett are not seeking re-election.

The township government has long been dominated by Republicans. Current board members Bennett, LaJoy and Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, all who have had a long history in Canton government, are Republicans. Current township trustees include Republicans John Anthony, Tom Yack and Patrick Williams. Stephen Sneedman is the lone Democrat.

The race for township supervisor will include board trustee Williams and Democrat Syed Taj, a former board member and unsuccessful candidate to the U.S. House 11th District. He lost to former U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio in 2012.

The run for township clerk will be contested in the Aug. 2 primary election, when Republican newcomer Thomas Lutkenhoff goes head-to-head with longtime community activist Linda Obrec. Lutkenhoff is a retired Canton fire department captain with 26 years working in the township. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools trustee and Democrat Michael Siegrist is also seeking the clerk's position.

"I am trying to emphasize public service," said Lutken-

See BOARD, Page A2



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### INDEX

Community Life ..... B6 Homes ..... C5 Services ..... C4  
Crossword Puzzle ..... C2 Jobs ..... C1 Sports ..... B1  
Education ..... A4 Obituaries ..... B5 Wheels ..... C4

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**BOARD**

Continued from Page A1

hoff, who is a late-comer in the election lineup.

McLaughlin, also a former longtime township trustee and planning commissioner, will face former state Rep. Dian Slavens, a Democrat. In 2014, Slavens ran for the state Senate 7th District seat, losing to Republican Sen. Patrick Colbeck.

The race to fill trustee seats on the township board includes four Republicans and four Democrats. Republicans include incumbents Anthony and Yack, as well as newcomers Geoffrey Boltach and Darian Moore. The Democratic slate includes incumbent Sneiderman and newcomers Sommer Foster, Anna Marie Graham-Hudak and Dhaval Vaishnav.

The current township board recently cut salaries for all positions.

Salaries that will go into effect Jan. 1, 2017, will represent 5-percent cuts. The supervisor's salary will drop to \$116,295 from \$122,416, a decrease of \$6,121. Wages for the township clerk and treasurer will fall to \$99,586 from \$104,827, declining by \$5,241. Wages for the four part-time township trustees will decrease to \$12,094 from \$12,731, a \$637 difference.

Salaries were cut to make them more comparable to pay levels in other suburban communities, according to the township board.

For voters, there's still plenty of time to register to vote. For the Aug. 2 primary election, voters must register by July 5. For the Nov. 8 general election, voters must register by Oct. 11.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

**No ticket: Officer buys child car seat**

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

A Facebook post about the unexpected outcome of a traffic stop by a Westland Police officer has gone viral.

Inkster resident Lavonte Dell didn't initially know the name of Officer Joshua Scaglione when he posted an account of being stopped Monday for illegally tinted windows. Dell didn't receive a ticket; instead, Scaglione had him follow the patrol car to Walmart, where the officer bought a car seat for Dell's daughter Lauren, 3.

The two men, along with Lauren, got together Wednesday at the Westland Police Department.

"I go out to serve the public every day. You're part of the public," Scaglione told Dell. "I didn't really want the attention — I didn't know that this would go viral."

Facebook came into play helping Dell figure out which officer assisted him. He spotted a photo of Scaglione at a pre-Christmas Shop with a Cop event posted on the department's Facebook page.

"People need to know about this," said Dell, who was expecting the worst when Scaglione pulled him over. "I hon-



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer  
Lavonte Dell, holding 3-year-old daughter Lauren's hand, thanks Westland Police Officer Joshua Scaglione for his act of kindness.

estly don't feel like this is enough of a thank you. It was a long Facebook post. A lot of thought went into it."

Without getting too detailed, Dell said he had been having a lot of stress in his life, including very tight finances.

"I saw the lights come on behind me — all that added stress. (Scaglione) told me why he pulled me over — the tinted windows," Dell said. "He peeked in the window as he walked back to his car and saw my son and daughter."

Scaglione asked Dell why Lauren wasn't in a car seat. Dell responded that he didn't have money to get a new car seat to replace the one she had outgrown. Asked where he was headed, Dell said he was going to Westland Shopping Center.

"He asked me to follow him to Walmart. It was a funny feeling following behind the police car," Dell said. "I got some strange looks."

A Westland police officer for eight months, Scaglione bought a pink and gray car seat (Lauren loves pink).

"I had no other choice. You have a daughter — that's your number one priority," Scaglione, who has a 10-year old son, told Dell. "I was happy to do it to keep her safe."

In a time when police often are the subject of negative publicity, Dell was thanked by police for sharing his story about a positive contact with law enforcement.

"We really appreciate you for sharing this. (Scaglione) had a positive impact on you, you've had a positive impact on us," Westland Police Sgt. Robert Wilkie said.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com  
734-883-9039  
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

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hometownlife.com

**Editor: Joanne Maliszewski**  
248-396-6620  
Email: jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

**Sports: Tim Smith**  
734-469-4128  
Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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**Barefoot Productions Theater presents thriller**

The noir thriller "Laura" will continue through May 1 at Barefoot Productions Theater in Plymouth. The April 29 and 30 shows will begin at 8 p.m. and the May 1 shows will be at 2 p.m.

Written by Vera Caspary and George Sklar, the murder mystery is about a gritty detective, Mark McPherson, who is assigned to find out who killed the glamorous Laura. He secretly falls

in love with her as he reads her letters, basks in the light of her portrait and interviews her friends. He falls in love with her beauty and mystery. As McPherson unravels the "whodunit," there are many plot twists and surprises that keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Made popular by the 1944 film adaption, "Laura" became widely known and voted by the American Film Institute

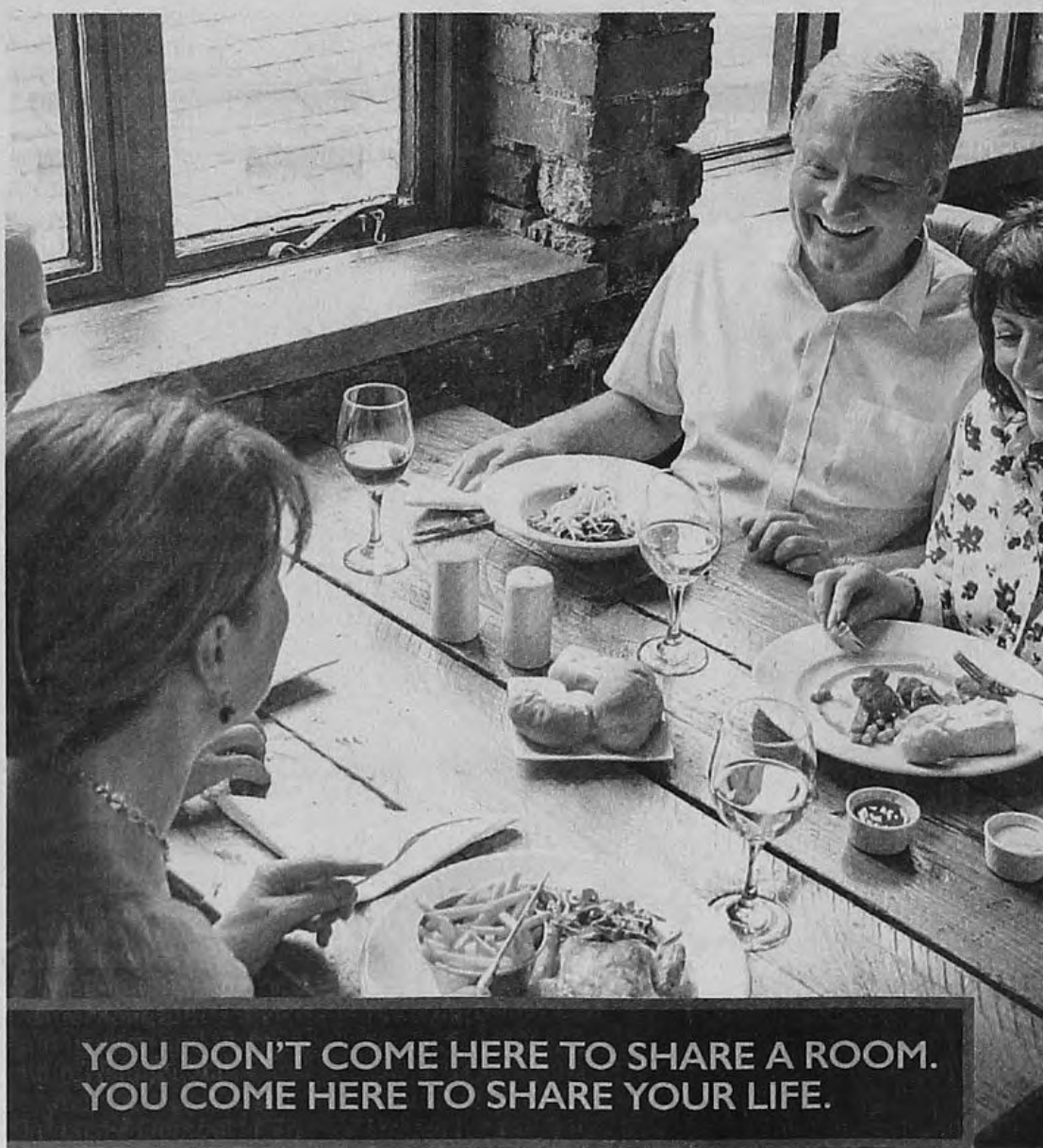
as one of the top 10 mystery films of all time. The Barefoot Production of "Laura" is more true to the book than the film version.

Director Mat De Lisle's unique vision and staging of the production will give the audience a fresh take on the classic.

"We are not setting this production in any specific era," De Lisle said. "There will be styles reminiscent of the

1940s as when the original film made its debut, but other characters will be more modern. There will be some surprises with characters, original to the novel but not in the film."

Barefoot Productions Theater is located at 240 N. Main St. in Plymouth. Reserve seats via phone at 734-404-6889 or online at www.justgobarefoot.com. Tickets are \$15 to \$17 with student and senior citizen discounts.



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# Buy and sell at Old Village Yard, Trunk Sales

It's back! The Old Village Yard and Trunk Sale is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 30. Hundreds of "sellers" will be sailing around Old Village looking for bargains at this annual early spring event. Some area shops participate, too, with special sales. In the past, more than 25 home and businesses have participated.



You can find some real deals at the Old Village sales.

out of the space to have more room). The first car park space is \$20, each extra is just \$10. The Masons will have coffee and doughnuts for sale and their bathrooms will be open. To get a space at the Trunk Sale, just show up and see Matt or Sandy. They have a limited number of tables for rent, too, if

anyone needs some for their space. Vendors set up starts at 7 a.m. Contact Mark Oppat with questions at 734-502-3794.

The annual Old Village Yard and Trunk Sale is always a week before the city of Plymouth "Spring Clean Up" Day, which allows residents to put out larger items that



The Old Village Yard and Trunk Sales offer plenty of choices.

normally are not picked up without special tags. Any larger items not sold at the at the Old

Village sales can go out at the curb Friday, May 6. There will be a big crowd of "pickers" driv-

ing around the city Friday "junking" as it's called and it's a major event in all of Plymouth.

## Go fishing at annual Canton derby

Dust off those fishing poles, because Canton Leisure Services is hosting its annual Family Fishing Derby from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Heritage Park. The Heritage Park large ponds will be once again be stocked with rainbow trout for this event, plus bluegills will be available in the smaller pond for younger participants.

Fishing experience is not required, as Leisure Services staff will be available to offer tips for first-time guests. A limited quantity of bait may also be available for purchase. Participants are encouraged to bring their own bait. This event will take place rain or shine and a concessions truck will also be on-site with lunches available for purchase.

"Every year, this is one of the events that mark the beginning of spring," recreation spe-



Dust off your rods for the annual Canton Family Fishing Derby.

cialist Jennifer Girard said. "Children, teens and adults get an opportunity to bond with other families and fellow Canton residents. This is truly one of Canton's oldest traditions. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax and connect with family, friends and neighbors."

No fishing license or advance registration is required. Participants can register on-site on the day of the event for \$6 per participant for

Canton residents, who provide proof of residency, and \$8 for non-residents; cash only please. Participants of all ages must purchase a ribbon that will allow them to cast their line into the pond and take home up to three fish. All anglers must provide their own equipment.

For more information on the Family Fishing Derby or other spring events and programs, call 734-394-5460 or go to [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org).

## Cherry Hill Methodist celebrates 182 years

Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton has reached a milestone of 182 years of service to the community.

As acknowledgment of the anniversary, U.S. Rep. David Trott attended a recent church service and presented the congregation with an American flag that had flown Feb. 11 over the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Trott also provided the congregation a page from the Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates of the 114th Congress Second Session recognizing the 182nd anniversary of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church.



U.S. Rep. David A. Trott presents honors to longtime Cherry Hill United Methodist Church member Dorothy Richards.

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# Liberty Middle student wins essay contest

Danielle Alexander  
Staff Writer

Community Financial Credit Union recently hosted a Presidents' Day Essay Contest for students in grades 4-8. Students were asked, "Which U.S. president would you like to have lunch with and why?"

Mallory Luttrell, a seventh-grader at Liberty Middle School in Canton, was the first-place winner in the middle school category.

"Writing comes very easy to me and I have fun doing it," Mallory said. "I also really liked researching the presidents."

After finding articles on the top five most interesting presidents, Mallory decided to write about Teddy Roosevelt in her essay.

"He gave some speeches and was really good with those," Mallory said. "He even got shot during one of them, but still continued his speech even though he was injured, which I thought was very brave and gave me the vibe that he put his country first."

CFCU manager of community relations Natalie McLaughlin said Mallory's

essay was chosen because she answered the question asked in an "interested and thorough way."

"She connected facts about Teddy Roosevelt with her interests," McLaughlin said. "Mallory was able to vividly express why he would be an interesting person to have lunch with."

This did not surprise Liberty Middle School teacher Colleen Ramirez. "Her description of 'The Bull Moose' was exactly how I envision her writing about something she is passionate about," Ramirez said. "I'm proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing more of her work in the future."

In addition to the \$50 prize that Mallory plans to use to purchase new books, the student winners received a pizza party for their classroom with Community Financial president and CEO Bill Lawton.

"Meeting the students and educators was a real joy for me," Lawton said. "I was able to share how my role at Community Financial is similar to the role of president of the United States in that I bring people together to work to-



Assistant Principal Tim Authier (from left), life management teacher Colleen Ramirez, seventh-grader Mallory Luttrell, Community Financial CEO Bill Lawton and education partnership coordinator Erin Ilg take a break from the pizza party to pose for a photo to honor Mallory's winning essay.

ward a common goal. In addition to meeting some great students and educators, I learned something new about Teddy Roosevelt!"

The Presidents' Day Essay

contest is an annual contest hosted by Community Financial to support education and help teachers meet core competency goals. For more information on Community Fi-

nancial, and its Student-Run Credit Union Program, go to [www.cfcu.org/scu](http://www.cfcu.org/scu).

[dnaalexander@hometownlife.com](mailto:dnaalexander@hometownlife.com)  
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## Common Core testimony encouraged

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, is encouraging concerned teachers, parents and students to share their experiences with Michigan's Common Core standards April 26 at the Senate Education Committee's meeting.

"Our goal as a state should be to create the best educational environment for our students," Colbeck said. "Looking at the educational performance data from Michigan over the past six years since Common Core standards were adopted in 2010, it is evident that there is much room for improvement when only 50 percent of third-graders can read and only 28 percent of high school juniors

are proficient in math."

Feedback provided by teachers, students and parents April 19 at the Education Committee meeting indicated strong support for adopting new education standards, which would be achieved with the passage of Senate Bill 826.

The bill, introduced by Colbeck, would repeal the state's current Common Core standards and replace them with the proven pre-Common Core state of Massachusetts standards. The bill is based on HB 5444, which was drafted by state Rep. Gary Glenn, with input from concerned educators, parents and students.

"The pre-Common Core

Massachusetts standards were ranked number one in the nation based on student performance. Such a framework would better enable Michigan to become a top 10 education state in 10 years, a goal set by the Michigan Department of Education in December of 2015," Colbeck said.

Individuals concerned about the future of Michigan's education system and the opportunities it offers are encouraged to offer testimony at the SB 826 Common Core hearing at 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 26, in Room 110 of the Farnum Building, located at 125 W. Allegan St., Lansing.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

### Initiated

Marina DeBiasi of Plymouth was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. DeBiasi is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering at Florida Institute of Technology.

DeBiasi is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors,

having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction

### Graduates

Marc Robinson of Canton recently graduate with a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Eastern Michigan University. This is the university's first PA graduating class and he is one of 18 students graduating. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served on a medical evacuation team.



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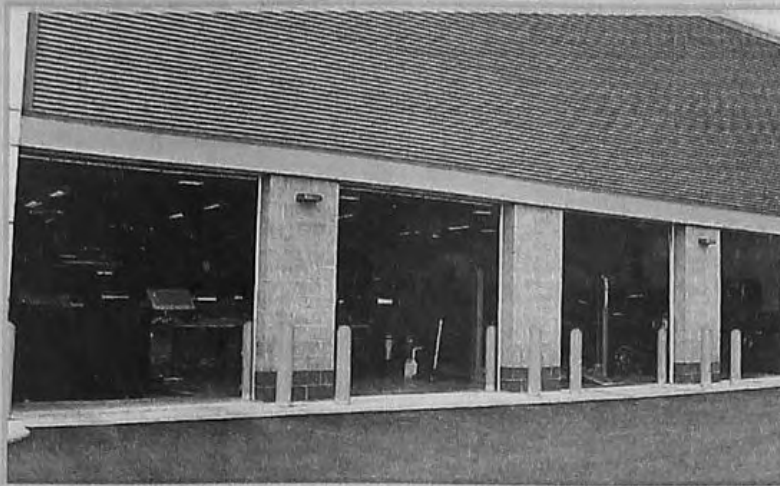


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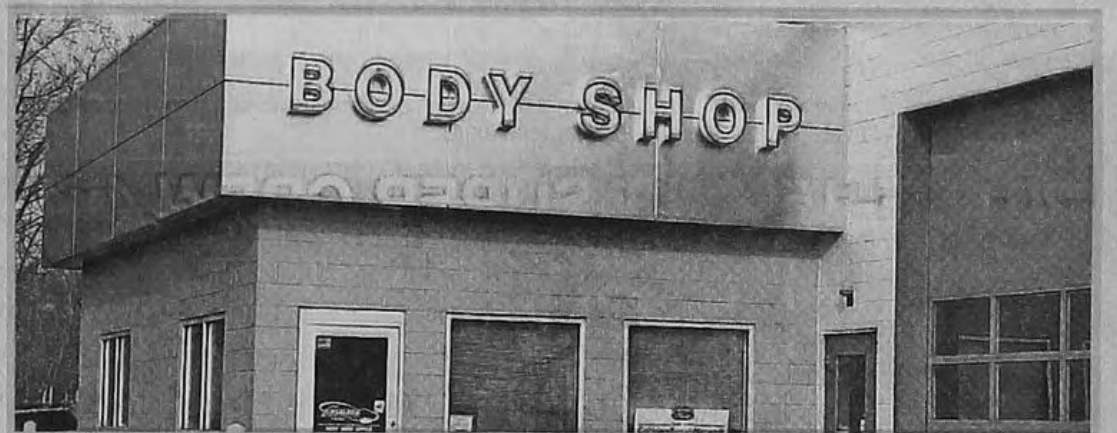
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# Food, cooking demos draw folks to Sunday Winter Market

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

Anna Woosencraft and fiance Michael Morgan were shopping Sunday, April 17, at Canton's Winter Market.

"We go to the summer one a lot," said Woosencraft, trying out a salsa. "The food. For me, that's what it is."

She also likes the cooking demonstrations, with her fiance Morgan adding, "The food, I think I would agree with that" of what he likes.

Nearby that Sunday at the Summit at the Park was Kristi Zebrowski of Westland, of Grace Savory & Sweet in Westland. She makes spice blends.

"I'm also doing a cooking demonstration today," of sweet potato and apple soup, as well as caramelized onion and chard crustless quiche, she added.

Zebrowski usually does the cooking demonstrations once a month. "I take produce and different ingredients from the vendors," she said. Of growing up, she added, "I just always had an interest in cooking at home."

Work then took her to Chicago, where she studied culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu. She's done the Canton market since 2012. "It's fantastic," Zebrowski said. "I love the environment. The patrons are great. It's a fun destination."



Kristi Zebrowski of Westland's Grace Savory & Sweet enjoys doing her cooking demonstration at Sunday's Winter Market in Canton.

She also does the Pittsfield Township market each Thursday. Of Sunday's sunny skies and warm temperatures for the final "winter" market of the season, a smiling Zebrowski said, "With the winters here in Michigan, you just never know."

Rick Kelp of Plymouth was there with his U.P. Pasties, which has a store in downtown Plymouth and has been in business six years. He's done the Canton market going on three years and in summer does some 25, as far west as Muskegon and Saugatuck.

"My wife had a great idea," Kelp said. "She'd been making them ever since she was 13 years old." Wife Kim is his

partner in the business.

"At our store, we talk about where they came from and what they're all about," he said of pasties, started in Cornwall, England, and later eaten by men working in Michigan's Upper Peninsula copper mines.

The Kelps sell some 5,000 to 8,000 pasties in the summer from the combined farmers markets, plus their store sales. They get staff help in running some markets, with Rick Kelp handling Farmington's.

Also represented at the winter market was Jar Head Salsa & Tortilla Chip Co. of Flint. The salsas were developed by David Smith, a retired gunnery sergeant and cook in the U.S. Marine



Anna Woosencraft (left) and fiance Michael Morgan of Canton visit with Cheryl Brittingham of Grand Blanc, from Jar Head Salsa & Tortilla Chip Co. of Flint, at the Canton market April 17.

Corps.

"He's the one that created the salsa when he was a cook" in the service, said Cheryl Brittingham of Grand Blanc.

Brittingham and husband Glen have a chip plant for the operation in Rockwood. "We call it our chip plant, but we make them," she said of the tortilla chips. "They're actually made from scratch. Made with love."

Marine Smith was "born and raised" in Michigan and in 2009 came to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 822 in Flint with his idea. A

portion of proceeds is donated back to the VFW, Cheryl Brittingham explained, totaling nearly \$50,000 to date.

David Smith makes two salsas, mild and spicy, while the Brittinghams do the chips, the queso and can the salsa and bloody Mary mix. "We actually do that from the salsa," she said of the bloody Mary mix.

Of the VFW Post 822, she said, "Very active. We do a lot of work with veterans." She and Glen are auxiliary members there and David Smith has been post commander several times.

The Canton Farmers Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday, rain or shine, May 15 through Oct. 16 and will be closed July 3. It will be at Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road, and will feature entertainment, activities for kids, cooking and gardening. The open air market will feature a variety of Michigan-grown and made food as well as handcrafted items. Go to [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org) or on Facebook /CantonFarmersMarket.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @248Julie

## Plymouth Garden Club to celebrate its 80th year

Eighty years and still going strong, the Plymouth Garden Club will celebrate its 1936 charter in May with the Women's National Farm & Garden Association. Since that early beginning, women have continued to share in the core values developed in those early days of community service,

friendship and gardening interests.

The club contributes proceeds from its greens sale during the holiday season, to local, state and national organizations that support environmental and horticultural causes. It also awards annual college scholarships to Plymouth-

Canton high school students. Members are also involved in numerous community projects, some of which are city plantings, Scarecrow in the Park, Christmas Tree in the Park, 4th of July Parade and the DTE Garden, to name a few.

The Plymouth branch meets September

through June on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are at noon and are usually held at the Plymouth Library, although some meetings and special events are held at members' homes.

For more information go to [google.com/site/plymouthgardenclub](http://google.com/site/plymouthgardenclub) or the current president's email [deni\\_burrows@comcast.net](mailto:deni_burrows@comcast.net).



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# Check out 2016 Maxima at Nissan of Canton

The redesigned 2016 Nissan Maxima is a powerful, good-handling sedan that stays true to the nameplate's performance-oriented heritage and features an upscale interior that befits its price. You can view and test drive one at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave.

"Maxima" is Nissan's longest continually-in-use nameplate, and the eighth-generation car is a boldly styled sedan that draws heavily from the Nissan Sport Sedan Concept.

Ever since the Nissan Altima grew into a mid-size family sedan in the early 2000s, the Maxima hasn't fit neatly into a segment. Nissan says the 2016 Maxima is designed to compete with larger, traditional full-size sedans like the Chevrolet Impala and Toyota Avalon, as well as appeal to buyers looking to move up to a luxury car, like the Acura TLX.

The 2016 Maxima is offered in five trim levels — S, SV, SL, SR and Platinum — that determine the level of equipment; accessories are available, but there are no option packages. We drove an SL, which is priced at \$37,715, and the \$38,495 SR. That one is the most performance-focused model, with unique suspension bushings, springs, shocks, front stabilizer bar and chassis bracing, in addition to 19-inch alloy wheels with stickier Goodyear tires (prices include an \$825 destination charge).

### Exterior and styling

The Maxima brings Nissan's Energetic Flow design language to its sedan lineup. Signature cues include a plunging grille bordered by LED daytime running lights and gloss-black pillar finishes that give the roof a floating appearance — something Nissan



the 2016 Nissan Maxima.

the center console cup-holders. The bin is large enough for an iPhone 6 Plus, according to Nissan, and it's also where the car's two standard USB ports are located.

### Safety

Most of the Maxima's active safety features come on SL and higher trims. These models have standard blind spot warning, rear cross-traffic alert, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning with autonomous braking and predictive forward collision warning. Predictive forward collision warning uses low-mounted radar to "see" under the car directly ahead of you to the next one in line. The system can issue a warning if it senses that car slowing suddenly — even if you can't see it yourself.

The top-of-the-line Platinum trim adds a surround camera system with moving-object detection and a drowsy-driver warning system. Drowsy-driver warning compares steering inputs at the beginning of a drive with ones later in the trip to determine if the driver is getting tired and needs to take a break.

### Value in its class

Years ago, Nissan dubbed the Maxima the 4-Door Sports Car. It's an ambitious tagline, but it reflects the fact that the car caters to a specific type of buyer: the driving enthusiast who still needs sedan practicality. The 2016 Maxima is no different from its predecessors in this regard, but its new level of luxury — both in terms of cabin materials and features — now makes it a credible alternative to entry-luxury sedans. If you're shopping sport sedans, it's worth a test drive.

Cars.com

san says is inspired by a fighter jet's canopy. The front end is aggressive — the car looks menacing when you see it coming up on you in your rear-view mirror — and also memorable. It's a design that demands a reaction, good or bad.

### How it drives

Large cars may be known for a forgiving, comfortable ride quality, but that's not the Maxima formula. Compared with a Chevrolet Impala or Chrysler 300, which both do a good job smoothing out bumps and cracks in the road, the Maxima is a much more connected, tighter-handling car. There's remarkably little body roll when driving quickly through a corner. You feel bumps, but they're dealt with in a refined way.

The SR trim level's unique suspension is considerably firmer and busier; you feel more road imperfections, even smaller ones, and the impact is harsher when you hit a big pavement crack. It's a little too rough-riding for me, especially considering the good ride-and-handling balance the regular suspension provides.

You'll want the SR trim if you really care about steering feel, as it offers the best of the bunch. Press the Sport button in an SR, howev-

er, and the steering wheel gains a nice, firm heft to it and some feedback through the wheel. It feels right in this performance-focused trim.

All trim levels benefit from the performance of the standard 3.5-liter V-6 engine, which provides smooth, effortless acceleration. Rated at 300 horsepower, the V-6 still has power to spare for a quick pass at highway speeds. It pairs with a continuously variable automatic transmission that's programmed to act like a conventional automatic at low speeds for a more traditional driving experience, according to Nissan.

The Maxima shows how far CVT technology has come recently, at least when paired with a powerful engine. It's mostly unobtrusive, with only a hint of the droning that's associated with this type of transmission when you accelerate hard. If you've been driving a car with a conventional automatic, this CVT won't seem strange or different.

One of the benefits of a CVT is that it's able to quickly increase engine speed when you want more power because it doesn't need to shift to a lower gear. The Maxima's CVT is very responsive; nudge the gas pedal and engine rpm immediately increases, providing more power.

CVTs usually enhance gas mileage, and the Maxima's EPA-estimated 25 mpg combined rating tops most V-6 competitors by a few mpg or so.

### Interior

Overall quality and attention to detail is very good. The standard leather-wrapped steering wheel feels great; it's even better in the SR, which has Alcantara simulated-suede inserts. The upper sections of the doors are finished with soft-touch material that's a comfortable alternative to the door armrests. The center console has a padded section to rest your knee against, and there's real stitching on the doors, console and dashboard. One element that doesn't look premium, however, is the simulated metal finish on the dashboard, doors and center console. It doesn't look real.

Fighter jets also informed the layout of the cabin controls, according to Nissan. The center dashboard control panel is angled 7 degrees toward the driver, and center console controls are close at hand.

The new Maxima's roofline is 1.3 inches lower, which contributes to the sedan's hunkered-down look.

The Maxima has the latest version of Nissan's NASA-inspired Zero Gravity front seats.

They're finished in cloth (S), leather (SV and SL), premium leather with quilted Alcantara inserts (SR) or premium leather with quilted leather inserts (Platinum).

### Ergonomics and electronics

Digital screens are rapidly taking over the dashboards of modern cars, and there are two in the Maxima: a 7-inch screen between the gauges and an 8-inch touch-screen in the center of the dashboard. The gauge cluster screen lets you cycle through different modes to see information like speed and heading, trip data, tire pressure and active safety features. The dashboard screen is the primary display for the standard navigation system and multimedia functions. The Display Commander control knob on the center console can also operate the dashboard touch-screen.

### Cargo and storage

The Maxima's 14.3-cubic-foot trunk is nicely shaped, and the trunk lid's support arms move within an enclosed area, so there's no risk of them crushing your cargo. The release straps for the 60/40-split folding back-seat are in the trunk. The rear seatbacks fold flat with the trunk floor.

The Maxima has a media bin just ahead of

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PANEL

Continued from Page A1

which she called "the best in years," could increase funding to Plymouth-Canton by \$120 per pupil.

The panel, which met again Thursday evening, is divided into three sub-groups, each with a distinct focus to increase enrollment. Developing community ambassadors is the focus of one group. It is expected the district would have 40-60 community members to serve as ambassadors for the district.

Ambassadors could serve as the spokespeople for each school, introducing new parents and students and showing what the district has to offer, Merritt said.

"They will help us build better community relations," Soenen added.

Meanwhile, the panel will have a breakfast May 5 to which area Realtors will be invited. The goal is to inform them about the district and what it has to offer students and families. The event will begin at 7 a.m. at the PARC in downtown Plymouth.

"This is a big step forward for our district," Soenen said.

Armed with information and even brochures about the district, Realtors can talk up the schools to clients, Soenen added: "Right now, they have no information."

The next step would

"We have to get them in there and keep them in the district. This is absolutely critical to our long-term success."

DON SOENEN panel chair

allow district ambassadors to work with new families in school registration and tours of buildings and to answer questions.

With the focus on increasing enrollment, a second sub-group will be charged with focusing on increasing enrollment in the district's early childhood program.

"We have to get them in there and keep them in the district," Soenen said. "This is absolutely critical to our long-term success."

The district is faced with tough competition from charter schools, as well as declining demographics.

With the requirement for full-time kindergarten, the district is involved in "aggressive recruitment" for the early childhood program.

A third sub-group will focus on data gathering and analysis. Exit interviews for families living the district has been skimpy. But that is expected to change. "We need to know why they are leaving," Soenen said.

Merritt added: "We want to reach those who left us or who never came to us."

In many cases, she said, families choose

non-public education because of smaller learning environments, character development and customer service: "We will improve relationships with parents. And the question is, 'How we do make big feel smaller?'"

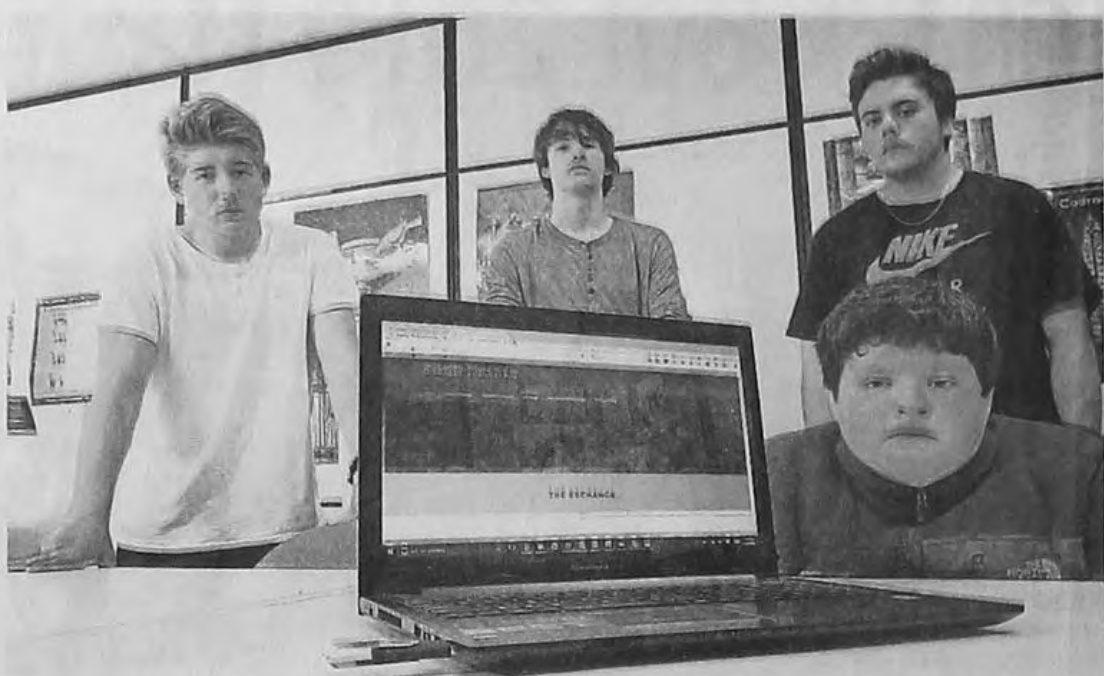
Soenen said that about 70 students have returned from charter schools to the Plymouth-Canton district.

"But we don't know why they came back," he said.

To find out more information, the panel will conduct a survey - working with an outside company, Insight - in May to determine what community members, especially parents, are looking for in the schools, as well as programming and other information.

"We will have a marketing and communications campaign for it. It will be a digital survey," said Nick Brandon, district spokesman.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620 Twitter: @jmaliszews



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The team of students for the project "Diseases: Friend or Foe?" included (from left) Jake Schnorberger, Gage Fisher, Alex Estes and Chris Flick (seated).

HISTORY

Continued from Page A1

proach to education, a core principal at New School, which opened last summer.

The projects also require collaboration. "We really emphasize the review process and how you need to get edits done and how you need to get people to review your work," said Gary Pettit, the National History Day director of communications.

Even students who put their projects together individually, instead of with a team, must have others weigh in on their work, Pettit said. (New School had only team-built projects.)

The projects also combine skills in several subject areas: history plus language arts and computer skills, for example. "They get graded on at least three classes," said Hillary Hanel, a New School history teacher.

Hanel, who formerly worked at the Detroit Institute of Art, was a National History Day project judge last year and brought the idea to New School.

Broad theme

This year's theme was "Exploration, Encounter & Exchange in History," which gives judges a basis for evaluating projects, but is broad enough to include topics that will hold students' interest, Pettit said.

"We want them to pick something they're going to enjoy researching, because they're putting a lot of work into this," he said.

No matter the medium, Pettit said, every



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A study of the history of the World Wide Web was completed by (from left) Sophia Cabrera, Kaylee Johnson and Kali Greene.



Hilary Hanel teaches history at New School High in Plymouth Township.

be found on the web, for example, are reliable, Chris said.

Chris and his team - freshmen Jake Schnorberger of Livonia and Gage Fischer of Redford Township and sophomore Alex Estes of Detroit - put together a website on diseases that Europeans brought to the New World. Those diseases, such as smallpox, ended up wiping out millions of Native Americans.

"Many of the diseases that were back then are still around for the most part," but are not as lethal because of advances in medicine, Chris said.

Another team, freshmen Kali Greene of Livonia and Sophia Cabrera of Plymouth and sophomore Kaylee Johnson, did a project on the history of the web. Their medium, of course, was the web itself.

"If we used a website, it kind of fit into the theme more," Kali said.

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# Lawmaker introduces bill modifying pension tax

**Kathleen Gray**  
Michigan.com

Plenty of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have proposed repealing the income tax on pensions that was proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder and approved by the Legislature in 2011.

The proposals, however, have gone nowhere as the tax was part of a broader plan to lower business taxes that were the linchpin of Snyder's first year in office.

But one legislator's first bill, which was introduced last week, might have a better chance: state Rep. Gary Howell, R-North Branch, was elected March 8 to fill the seat vacated by state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, who resigned amid a sex and cover-up scandal.

Howell would like to see the pension tax modified so that more people wouldn't have to pay it. Right now, people born before 1946 don't pay any income tax on pensions. Those born between 1946 and 1952 get to exempt a portion of their pension

proceeds from the income tax, while those born after 1952 can ultimately exempt a much smaller portion of their pension from the tax. Howell's bill would extend the middle group to people with pensions born between 1946 and 1961 — meaning most baby boomers would get a bigger break from the tax.

The tax raises about \$300 million a year for the state.

The bill was among dozens introduced last week in the Legislature, including a requirement that lobbyists submit quarterly financial disclosure reports; allowing an electronic driver's license; and a pair of bills that would ban guns from being carried openly or concealed in any building owned or leased by the state, as well as a provision repealing the ban on bringing signs into the state Capitol.

### House bills

**HB 5530-5531:** Modify the definition of an independent transmission company as it relates to

electric utilities. Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona.

**HB 5532:** Eliminate the requirement that a morel mushroom buyer be certified. Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona.

**HB 5533:** Provide for regulation and oversight of physician's assistants. Sponsor: Rep. Ed Canfield, R-Sebewaing.

**HB 5534:** Modify the income tax limitations and restrictions on pension benefits. Sponsor: Rep. Gary Howell, R-North Branch.

**HB 5535:** Require quarterly financial disclosure reports from lobbyists. Sponsor: Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland.

**HB 5536 and SB 882:** Allow another family member to use parenting time when a parent is on active military duty outside of Michigan. Sponsors: Rep. Hank Vaupel, R-Handy Township; Sen. Joe Hume, R-Whitmore Lake.

**HB 5537:** Allow for do-not-resuscitate designations on state identification cards. Sponsor: Rep. Hank Vaupel, R-

Handy Township.

**HB 5538:** Require the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association to disclose actuarial data that is used to set rates. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

**HB 5539:** Provide for an electronic driver's license. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

**HB 5540-5541:** Allow for different addresses on a driver's license and actual residence address, and allow those addresses on the qualified voter file. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

**HB 5542-5544:** Allow for the expungement of convictions and setting aside of juvenile proceedings on prostitution charges for victims of human trafficking. And provide penalties for causing bodily injury or forcing commercial sexual activity on a minor. Sponsors: Reps. Laura Cox, R-Livonia; Gary Howell, R-North Branch; Nancy Jenkins, R-Clayton.

**HB 5545:** Change the filing requirements for

claiming state essential services special assessments. Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Farrington, R-Utica.

**HB 5546:** Revise the adverse possession of property statute period for 30 years. Sponsor: Rep. Pat Somerville, R-New Boston.

**HB 5547:** Create penalties for providing raw human milk for human consumption. Sponsor: Rep. George Darany, D-Dearborn.

**HB 5548-5551:** Expand the definition of a veteran and period of war for purposes of compensating an estate for burial expenses, contributions to the Veterans' Trust Fund and on driver's licenses. Sponsors: Reps. Mary Whiteford, R-Casco Township; Gary Howell, R-North Branch; Holly Hughes, R-White River Township.

**HB 5552:** Increase the number of governing bodies authorized to establish promise zones for higher education financial aid. Sponsor: Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing.

**HB 5553-5554:** Require testing for lead levels and other contami-

nants in water supplied to colleges, universities and hospitals. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 5555:** Require reporting of school lockdown drills. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 5556:** Allow fire departments to collect restitution for arson fires. Sponsor: Rep. Larry Inman, R-Williamsburg.

**HB 5557-5558:** Allow companies to file their corporate income tax returns under the Michigan business tax. Sponsors: Rep. Jeff Farrington, R-Utica; Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 5559:** Require certain positioning of child safety seats depending on the weight of the child. Sponsor: Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia.

**HB 5560:** Designate the monarch butterfly as the official state insect. Sponsor: Rep. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton.

**HB 5561:** Modify home inspection procedures and regulations. Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Graves, R-Linden.

## NEILSON

Continued from Page A1

The primary is Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Each of the five hopes to follow Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township. Heise, first elected in 2010, cannot seek re-election because of term limits and is running for supervisor in Plymouth Township.

### Veteran lawyer

Neilson, 61, is a founding partner of Lipson, Neilson, Cole, Seltzer, Garin, which has offices in Bloomfield Hills, Grand Rapids, Las Vegas and Phoenix. His wife, Lisa Neilson, is a Wayne Circuit Court judge in the family and domestic division.

He described himself as a longtime activist in Republican politics and a fiscal conservative who nevertheless believes that principal "doesn't mean we can simply not deal with an issue."

Some mechanisms in state government, he said, "have completely broken down" — he pointed to the water crisis in Flint as an example of failed state oversight — and government should be acting with foresight to avoid such problems rather than dealing with them when they become emergencies.

Better planning and more efficiencies, Neilson said, can save the state money in the long run.

As an example he cited the state's corrections and courts systems. Technical and structural barriers in some court proceedings, he said, cause people undue hardship, while the corrections department, with many prisoners suffering from mental problems, needs a more robust mental health program, which could put ex-cons on a better path and keep them from returning to crime.

"Studies have shown that the application of a good mental health program reduces the recidivism rate by a tremendous amount and that saves tax dollars," he said.

### Touts mediating skills

Neilson said his experience in running a small business — his law firm was founded in 1985 — and in working in the courts, where he sees everyday people facing tough challenges, have given him a perspective that would be valuable in Lansing.

Neilson is also a trained mediator and

said he could use those skills to bridge the Legislature's partisan divide. "I don't believe in ever sacrificing principals," he added.

He listed other issues that would be at the top of his agenda if elected:

- » Support for public education.
- » Managing growth, especially as it may apply to the 20th District.

Neilson said he is pro-growth, but that growth

shouldn't outstrip infrastructure capacity or endanger the environment and outdoor recreation opportunities.

» Keeping young college graduates in Michigan, perhaps with some type of student debt relief.

Neilson said he is not looking to become a career politician.

"I just want to go there and see that the citizens of the 20th Dis-

trict are getting good value for the tax dollars that they're paying," he said.

The district is made up of Plymouth and Northville Township, Northville Township and the Wayne County portion of the city of Northville, plus a part of eastern Canton Township.

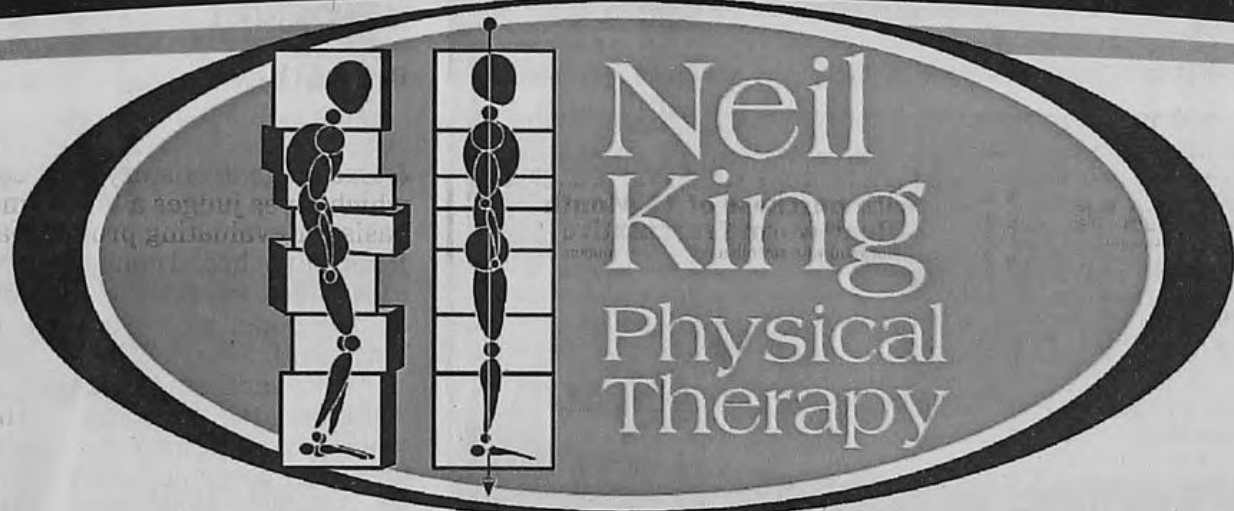
Neilson has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, a law

degree from the University of Detroit (now the University of Detroit-Mercy) and a master's degree in tax law from New York University.

Steven Valentini, a real-estate agent from Northville Township, had also entered the Republican 20th District race, but dropped out a couple of weeks ago.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**OLGC GROUND BREAKING**

**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24  
**Location:** Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, northwest corner of Beck and North Territorial roads, Plymouth Township  
**Details:** Ground breaking for new 30,000-square-foot expansion. Archbishop Alan Vigneron, additional OLGC parish leaders and representatives from various contractors will be in attendance. The public is welcome

**JAZZ @THE ELKS**

**Time/Date:** 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, April 26  
**Location:** Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks hosts Jazz @ The Elks this week featuring, Los Gatos Latin. Pete Siers, founder and percussionist, says that the band has a small group sound with a lot more jazz influence, low volume, high intensity, playing ageless material like Tjader and others. Joining Siers will be conguero and lead singer, Al DiBlassio; Brian DiBlassio on keys; Cary Kocher on vibes; Kurt

Krahnke on bass; and Siers on timbales. Go to [www.losgatosmusic.com](http://www.losgatosmusic.com)

**RELAYS FOR LIFE**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14, for Canton; 11 a.m. Saturday, June 11, for Plymouth

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. Monday, May 30  
**Location:** Plymouth, Main Street  
**Details:** The Plymouth Lions Club, American Legion Post No. 391, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 528 are planning the 2016 Plymouth Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

**WHODUNIT AT BAREFOOT**

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m. April 24 and May 1  
**Location:** Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth  
**Details:** The production group will stage "Laura," written by Vera Caspary and George Sklar. It is a murder mystery about a gritty detective, Mark McPherson, who is assigned to find out

who killed the glamorous Laura. He secretly falls in love with her as he reads her letters, basks in the light of her portrait and interviews her friends. He falls in love with her beauty and mystery.

**ACTS OF CULTURE**

**Time/Date:** Sunday, May 1, through Sunday, May 8  
**Location:** Various locations in Canton  
**Details:** Canton will once again focus a spotlight on arts and



Los Gatos will perform Tuesday night at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks.

culture during the sixth annual Canton Acts of Culture Week. The week-long event, presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, will begin Sunday, May 1, and continues through Sunday, May 8, at various community locations.

**DEMENTIA WORKSHOP**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to noon each Wednesday through May 25  
**Location:** Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi  
**Details:** The Area Agency on Aging 1-B and the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter host free educational workshops for families caring for someone with a dementia-related illness, such as Alzheimer's disease. The Creating Confident Caregivers program is a six-week workshop series.

**BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCH**

**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 6  
**Location:** Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township  
**Details:** The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will host the annual Book and Author luncheon. Mystery writer and Michigan native Bryan Gruley will speak.

**FRIENDS HOST BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12  
**Location:** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street  
**Details:** The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will host U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes who will present, "The Detroit Bankruptcy Case: An Insider's View from One Year Later."

**COMEDY FOR A CAUSE**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. April 29  
**Location:** Big Tommy's, 40380 Grand River Ave. in Novi  
**Details:** Come show your support for deployed military troops. Big Tommy's will host a fundraiser for Troops Need Love Too, a Michigan nonprofit supporting deployed military. The evening features 10 comedians performing; two are veterans. 50/50 and silent auction planned, as well.

**CANCER SUPPORT**

**Time/Date:** 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month  
**Details:** Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

**WIDOWED FRIENDS**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.  
**Details:** Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

**SENIOR PROGRAMMING**

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday  
**Location:** Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Township  
**Details:** The Plymouth Community Council on Aging announces new programs for senior community from the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Upcoming programs and events will include Chair Exercise, Free Wii Bowling, Knitting & Crocheting Class, Craft Classes, Free Drop in Game Day, Senior Cardio Fitness and Senior Yoga. In addition to the new programs, the center will offer free monthly bingo beginning Feb. 16. Presently, the Community Senior Transportation is at the Friendship Station. The center will offer Focus Hope distribution and a newly created food pantry. Contact: For more information and a calendar of dates and times and information on membership, call 734-354-3222. For transportation information, call 734-459-8888.



Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart offers treatment for sleep apnea and chronic snoring from his practice in Livonia, MI. Today he discusses how weight loss with a high-protein diet can help address sleep apnea.

SLEEP APNEA AND WEIGHT LOSS

Dear Dr. Stewart: I've heard that losing weight can help treat sleep apnea. Is that true?

Dr. Stewart: Yes, obesity can increase the risk of a patient developing sleep-related breathing disorders, such as obstructive sleep apnea. However, recent research shows that to improve your sleep, weight loss AND diet are important factors. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition recently published findings of a pilot study showing that losing weight with a high-protein diet improved sleep for middle-aged patients. Participants in the study consumed a specially made diet high in pork, beef, legumes, soy, and milk protein, cutting fats and carbohydrates along the way. Those who consumed more protein while losing weight reported better sleep quality than those who lost the same amount of weight consuming a normal amount of protein. Remember to speak with your doctor before beginning a weight loss diet.

If you have questions about your sleep difficulties then contact Dr. Stewart's Sleep Better Michigan practice by

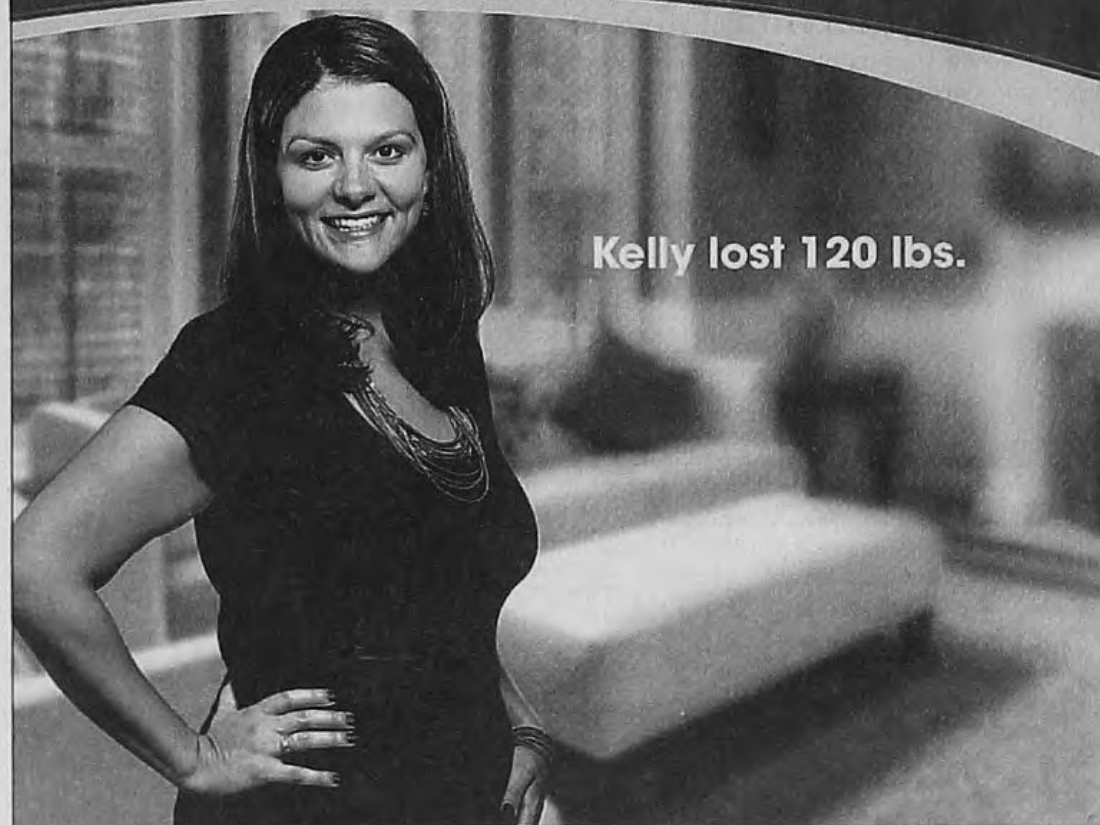
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# More nightly closures on I-275 planned as shutdown looms

**David Veselenak**  
Staff Writer

More lane closures are coming to Interstate 275 as construction crews prepare for work that will result in one direction of the freeway shutting down at a time this summer.

Starting this week, several closures will take place along the project overnight, going from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. nightly until May 2. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, those closures are all in Oakland County and include:

» The north I-275 ramp to west I-96 will have one lane closed and one lane open.

» The north I-275 ramp to north M-5 will have one lane closed and one lane open.

» The west I-696 ramp to north M-5 will close and traffic will be detoured.

» The east I-96 ramp to south I-275 will have one lane closed and one lane open.

These are in addition to other lane closures for work continuing, including along Seven Mile in Livonia and Haggerty on the Farmington Hills/Novi border near I-96/I-696/I-275.

The \$75 million project is expected to see the southbound side of the freeway shut down between Five Mile and the I-96/I-696/M-5 inter-

change sometime in early May for extensive repairs. Once the southbound lanes are complete, that side of the freeway will reopen and the northbound lanes in that stretch will then shut down for work. The work is expected to take one construction season to complete.

## No confirmed shutdown date

Todd Zilincik, city engineer for Livonia, said Monday during the Livonia City Council regular meeting that May 2 was the date mentioned for closing the freeway.

"They're getting the word out. Work has started on the weekends," he said. "I also ask for patience for the first couple weeks the project is shut down, because we will have to work with Wayne County and MDOT to tweak some of the (traffic) signals if there is an issue."

MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said May 2, which is a Monday, is one of several dates being discussed as a possible day for shutdown, but said it could not be confirmed, as prep work is still needed before that can happen. It was announced last week the shutdown would take place sometime in early May.

Cross said that work on the Haggerty bridges needs to be completed before the southbound direction of the freeway

can shut down.

"The bridge work is the unknown factor and, once we get underneath Haggerty's multiple bridges and determine exactly what work is needed, we will then have a better idea on the repair work and then can determine a southbound closure date," she wrote in an email.

Zilincik said several city officials from Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi are expected to meet with MDOT sometime next week to go over more logistics with the closure, including emergency access and other information.

The freeway was discussed during the Monday meeting as the city approved \$709,000 in funds for the project as a part of Act 51 funding. That standard the city is required to cover was unanimously approved by the council.

More information on the construction project can be found at [revive275.com](http://revive275.com).

Councilwoman Cathy White reminded residents who regularly travel the freeway that now may be a good time to try and find a way to get around without it.

"I think it would be good to point out to the public that it might not be too early to find that alternate route," she said.

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
734-678-6728  
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Orange construction barrels line the side of the road of southbound I-275.

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## Michigan's 529 college savings plans host free event

The Michigan Department of Treasury's Section 529 college savings plans, Michigan Education Trust and Michigan Education Savings Program are hosting a Community Enrollment event 3-8 p.m. Monday, April 25, at the Troy Public Library, 510 Big Beaver Road.

College savings experts from MET and MESP will provide the features and benefits of Michigan's 529 college savings plans to educate parents, grandparents and others about saving for college. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase a MET contract and open

an MESP account. MET will waive the \$25 enrollment fee.

"This is the perfect event for anyone who has questions about saving for college or need assistance with opening a MET or MESP account," said Robin Lott, executive director of MET.

# 1 UNDER

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## P-CEP students to run 'super' fundraiser

Runners and walkers will lace up Sunday, May 1, for the sixth annual Super Jess 5K Charity Run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The event is a fundraiser for Plymouth-Canton families and individuals who are going through a medical crisis. Dubbed the SJ5K for short, the event includes a five-kilometer (3.2 miles) and a one-mile course. The pre-race ceremony begins at 7:45 a.m.

Since 2011, the SJ5K has raised more than \$230,000 and has provided support and financial help to 14 different families.

The SJ5K is organized and run by P-CEP National Honor Society students. It is named for Jesse Lindlbauer, who was a P-CEP student when he suffered a traumatic brain injury due to illness; the Lindl-

bauer family benefited from the first SJ5K in 2011.

There are five recipients this year, including Ann Slomkowski, a teacher at West Middle School who is battling cancer for the second time; Torrance Johnson, an Eriksson Elementary student with muscular dystrophy; and Chris White, a 21-year-old alumni with a brain tumor.

To sign up for the 2016 SJ5K or form a team, donate, volunteer at the event or become a sponsor, go to [www.sj5k.org](http://www.sj5k.org). The site includes a history of the event, photographs from last year's race and stories about the people and families the fundraiser has helped.

Charlotte Clark, coordinator of the 2016 SJ5K, can be reached via email at [sj5kcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:sj5kcommunity@gmail.com).

## Canton Preparatory teens new to robotics, learning quickly

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Canton Preparatory High School is new to robotics competition this year — and coming on strong.

"We started the program in January, actually, a bit late," said Matthew Chesney, school principal. He's impressed the ninth- and 10th-graders were able to build a robot in such a short time.

"They're pretty dedicated young students," Chesney said. "Ultimately, it just took a lot of hard work, planning and late nights."

He also tips his hat to mentors in engineering from the business community who helped a great deal. The Canton Preparatory team has 12 core members in ninth and 10th grades. Students compete in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) events.

The Canton Preparatory students call their team "Will-Er-Run," with their principal noting, "A lot of the work on the robot, we had a partnership with the Willow Run Airport and the Yankee Air Museum."

A plane there had a history of being iffy in terms of flight capability, hence the name. The students decided, "We're going to make the best effort we can," Chesney said.

Student Payal Saraiya, a 10th-grade participant, wrote in an email, "Robotics was a great experience for me because I got to learn new things that I would never learn in an ordinary classroom; I got to build and code the robot and make new friends that would last for a lifetime. I have also learned the importance of teamwork and unity



TOM BEAUDOIN

Team "Will-Er-Run" from Canton Preparatory High School competed in March at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in Michigan district event at Livonia Churchill High School.

through this journey. When I grow up, I want to become an engineer and joining robotics has helped me take that first step towards my dream career and I can't thank my school enough for giving me this opportunity."

The teens competed earlier this year locally at Ann Arbor Skyline and Livonia Churchill High School competitions, taking sixth at Livonia and eighth at Ann Arbor. "In our first year, that's pretty incredible," Chesney said, adding they were named Rookie of the Year at the Livonia-hosted competition.

"When we started the season, we had no inkling we were going to have a successful robot," Chesney said. For recent state competition in Grand Rapids, logistics made it difficult, such as short

notice and hotel arrangements, to compete.

At Grand Rapids, the Canton Preparatory students didn't compete, instead going Saturday to interview with the Rookie All-Star judges.

"They're learning teamwork. They're learning problem-solving," Chesney said. He praised the teens' "intellectual stamina. There are a lot of failures along the way. Through those challenges and stumbling blocks, you develop that academic stamina."

Such effort helps students "to keep pushing forward to keep trying in the face of adversity," he added. "We're really looking forward to next year, next season. We've still got a lot of work to do."

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### BUDGET HEARING

#### Canton Preparatory High School

A public budget hearing will be held for Canton Preparatory High School at 46610 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI, on May 4, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Copies of the budget will be available at the school office.

Published: April 24, 2016 LO-000027882 2x1.5

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# NPS adopts controversial novel recommendation

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

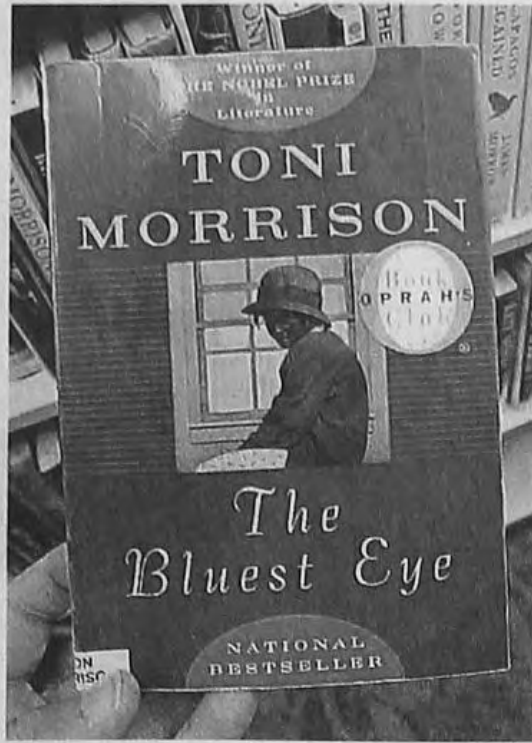
The Northville Public Schools Board of Education last week unanimously (minus Trustee James Mazurek, who was excused) approved the updated recommendation made by the level three committee reviewers concerning Toni Morrison's controversial novel "The Bluest Eye" taught in Northville High School's AP English literature and composition course.

The adjusted and now adopted recommendation includes three options for the final unit of study: "The Bluest Eye" by Morrison (224 pages), "The Sound and the Fury" by William Faulkner (368 pages) or selections from "50 Essays" by Samuel Cohen (100 pages).

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Deanna Barash said there was considerable thought put into all three texts. She also said AP English literature and composition teacher Chris Cronin had to make significant changes in his instructional plans, including reserving the media center for class periods, which will provide students with more space while participating in Socratic seminars with those who read the same text, as well as whole-group conversations since all three text options share similar themes.

"The committee, but especially Chris Cronin, really did thoughtful work that maintains the rigor for academic excellence and also good preparation for the AP exam," Barash said.

The recommendation also calls for more explicit and transparent communication to parents and students concerning both this book's



Toni Morrison's controversial novel "The Bluest Eye" was the subject of some debate in the Northville Public Schools district.

and future books' content and the opportunity for alternate texts if desired.

On April 9, a letter from Cronin was addressed to AP students and parents, which informed them of a Northville citizen's request to reconsider Morrison's text, the novel's background, the unit's overview and essential questions, book summaries and a list of supplemental materials that will be used during this unit as introductory texts. After students and parents reviewed and discussed the letter, they were asked to select the text they felt most comfortable with and returned the form to Cronin by April 15, the Friday before the final unit begins.

"We can always improve communication," Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said at the meeting, "but we continue to honor the excellence that has always been Northville Schools and I commend the folks who put incredible energy, consideration and thought into this work."

Prior to the decision

and during the public comment portion of the meeting, district students and parents and community members expressed reasons to teach the novel:

» Eighteen-year-olds can handle the content with the support of Cronin

» Eighteen-year-olds should be exposed to the book's subjects since they could become a reality

» The book is relatable to people of diverse backgrounds

» Not taking risks is dangerous

» Many of those opposing have not read the whole novel

» It encourages open communication with parents

» Morrison's writing is purposeful

» Until an alternative has been chosen, it should be left as is

» Literature is read to better understand others, empathize and wonder where they are coming from

» A review committee, with qualified members, reviewed the book in its entirety and how

well it applies to the district and course curriculum

» Not everyone's life is inspirational

However, others felt there were many explanations as to why it was called into question in the first place:

» Less dark and sexualized materials exist

» Materials that show how people of color can be assets in a community

» As there is an age limit for military participation, there should be for this book

» District's focus should be on promoting uplifting experiences

» District's focus should be on creating a professional and courteous atmosphere

» Tax dollars are being wasted

» The book has only appeared on the AP exam three times since the '70s

» Students will feel

uncomfortable reading and talking about the text

» If material were read at work, an accusation of sexual harassment would transpire

» High school students are not emotionally ready

» Psychologists and psychiatrists have not been consulted

» It is pornography

» Students should be taught with ideals

More than 40 people spoke at the meeting and Gallagher said she certainly appreciates the thoughtful input provided by a variety of people, but was most impressed by the "respectful, reflective and insightful feedback" received from students, both past and present.

Although he voted to keep the novel as an option, school board Treasurer Matthew Wilk said parents were "right-

fully concerned."

"We are a public school district and so the public has the right to have interaction about the curriculum," Wilk said. "I applaud all the parents who brought the book to our attention and came out here. It's a good lesson for students."

Board Vice President Cynthia Jankowski said if one student took one academic experience out into the world, then she feels she did her job as a board member.

"We have found an opportunity to give people different avenues to their children yet bring them back to the classroom to talk about difficult topics, something they might need when they leave our nest," Jankowski said.

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## EDUCATION

### Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

**By Brad Kadish**

What Canton Community Foundation officials had in mind for the group's 2015 scholarship year is the year that the foundation will have its 50th anniversary. The group has been awarding scholarships since 1965, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation's inception.

The foundation has been able to go to the state to get money to help with the scholarship fund. The foundation has been able to go to the state to get money to help with the scholarship fund. The foundation has been able to go to the state to get money to help with the scholarship fund.

### ON CAMPUS

**Austin Peay**

Austin Peay State University announced that it will be the first school in the state to offer a 12-month master's program in education. The program will be the first of its kind in the state and will be a significant step in the university's efforts to provide advanced education for its students.

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## Plymouth-based group to host Human Trafficking 101 seminar

The Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a Plymouth-based organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking, is presenting an informational seminar, Human Trafficking 101, which will focus on the basics of the problem of human trafficking.

The free event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon April 28 at Kresge Hall on the grounds of Madonna University.

The university and the Michigan Intergenerational Network are sponsoring the event. The seminar will feature eight speakers who will provide a comprehensive overview of many aspects of human trafficking, as well as a number of common sense steps the public can employ to identify and help eradicate this heinous problem in society.

Register for the event by emailing [amerill@madonna.edu](mailto:amerill@madonna.edu).

While the event is free to the public, donations of personal hygiene items will be accepted to help support Clair's Home, a safe and restorative place dedicated to protecting women who have been victimized by human trafficking. The 27-bed home is expected to open this fall.

Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a grassroots organization of individuals, churches and organizations, is dedicated to helping thwart human trafficking through awareness, education and action. The coalition is based at Plymouth First United Methodist Church.

Organized by founder

Carrie Wood in 2014, it has hosted several successful events and activities – including sponsoring local prevention measures and assisting victims of human trafficking. “Human Trafficking is a social, moral and criminal issue, but most of all, it’s an issue that devalues human beings by treating them as objects and commodities,” Wood said.

“Unfortunately this crime happens right here in our own communities. We created the Pearls of Great Price Coalition to do our part in helping to thwart this heinous crime, and encourage others – individuals, churches, organizations and businesses – to join our effort in helping end the scourge of human trafficking,” she added.

## Annuity agent answers two of three questions correctly

**Q: I have a couple of questions regarding annuities that I hope you can help me with. About 10 years ago, my husband passed. At the time, he had an annuity that was worth about \$100,000. Today, the annuity is worth about \$140,000. I received notice from the annuity company that the annuity had matured. I am getting conflicting information as to what my options are. My first question is, what happens if I cash out the annuity? My agent told me that I would have to pay tax on the entire amount of the annuity, less what my husband originally paid for it. When he first bought the annuity, he paid approximately \$50,000 for it. A good friend of mine said I do not have to pay tax on the money, because it was an inheritance. My second question is, if I do what my agent recommended and roll it over into a new annuity, he said I don't have to pay any tax. The downside is that the annuity will have an 11-year penalty period; do I have any options?**

**A:** With regard to the tax consequences, your agent is correct. Unfortunately, annuities do not receive the favorable treatment upon death as other investments. When someone inherits an annuity and cashes it out, they pay tax on the accumulated income within that annuity. For example, in the case at hand, if the annuity was worth \$140,000 and your husband originally paid



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**Why would someone buy an annuity with a penalty versus one without a penalty? The answer is quite simple: most people don't know that you can buy penalty-free annuities.**

\$50,000 (\$140,000 minus \$50,000 equals \$90,000), that \$90,000 is the interest earned on the annuity and is the amount subject to income tax. If you cash the annuity out in one year, you would have to pay tax on the \$90,000. The amount taxed is taxed at your ordinary income tax bracket, not the favorable capital gain rate.

Your agent was also correct in that you can avoid the taxes by having the money transferred into a new annuity. That money can continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis; you would only pay taxes once the money is withdrawn. That being said, your agent was incorrect in telling you that the only option is to roll it into another annuity with an 11-year penalty provision. You can directly transfer that money into any annuity; it doesn't have to be an

annuity from the same company or even through the same agent. You can choose to transfer the money into an annuity that has no penalty provisions. There are many companies that offer annuities without penalties, such as Fidelity, Charles Schwab and Vanguard.

Why would someone buy an annuity with a penalty versus one without a penalty? The answer is quite simple: most people don't know that you can buy penalty-free annuities. The reason the salespeople don't mention them is because they cannot earn commissions. When you use a penalty-free annuity, there are no commissions; the salespeople, who are mostly interested in their commissions, won't tell you that there are other options. That is why it is always important to get independent advice, that's not tainted by commissions.


I recognize that the best commission salespeople never worry about commissions; they worry about taking care of their clients. That said, commissions create a great conflict of interest and it's always important to keep that in mind when dealing with commission salespeople. Don't ever be afraid to check your options independently.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*



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PREP ATHLETICS

## Ten KLAA schools bolting to form new league

Realignment proposals can't keep all 24 together

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

A series of realignment proposals to keep the 24-member Kensington Lakes Activities Association schools intact based on a competitive equity, geographic and enrollment-based formula has been



scrapped. Via an email Thursday morning, Walled Lake Central Principal Chuck Morgan announced that 10 KLAA schools

are expected to join forces to form a new league beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

The new league would encompass five different school districts, including Walled Lake, Huron Valley, Waterford, Pinckney and South Lyon.

Among the 10 schools defecting include six teams from the KLAA's North Division – Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western, White Lake Lakeland, Waterford Mott and Waterford Kettering; two more from the

West Division – Milford and Pinckney; and two from the Central Division – South Lyon and South Lyon East.

“Earlier this year, I informed you that Walled Lake was taking part in a discussion about the formation of a new league,” Morgan wrote in the email to its fellow KLAA schools. “Since we were unable to bring forth a proposal to our board of directors that would support realignment, the districts interested in the new league have met to discuss moving forward.”

“Soon these districts will be bringing information to their school boards to discuss their intentions.”

So who is left in the KLAA, which was formed in 2007-08?

The 14 remaining schools include six from the South Division – Canton, Plymouth, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Churchill, Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial; four out of the Central Division – Northville, Novi, Salem and Livonia Stevenson; and

See KLAA, Page B4

PREP SOFTBALL

## 'Cats pin first loss on Chiefs

Plymouth's Bressler blanks Canton in opener

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

To the chagrin of head coach Al White, missed opportunities cost Canton's varsity softball team during Wednesday's doubleheader opener against visiting Plymouth.

And as a result, the Chiefs suffered their first loss of the season, 2-0 to their KLAA South Division and campus rivals.

“You got to score runs if you're going to win,” White said. “Good game, that's a good team. I thought we really had the best chance in the (second) inning, we had a girl (Hannah Zajdel) on second and had that bleeder down the line (a single by Mackenna Payne) and we didn't capitalize on that.”

“If we go up 1-0 it's a completely different game. She (Zajdel) held up thinking it was going to be a catch. You never know if you go up 1-0.”

Then in the bottom of the seventh, Sydney Dawson doubled with one out to bring the tying run to the plate.

But Plymouth sophomore pitcher Jenny Bressler, who threw a complete-game shut-out, was able to retire Nicole Dawson on a groundout and Victoria Porter on a fly ball to centerfielder Rachel Zerona for the final out.

Standing in the on-deck circle for the Chiefs (5-1 overall and in the KLAA South) when the game ended was senior outfielder Elizabeth Yager, who

See SOFTBALL, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Pitching Wednesday during Game 1 for Canton is Mackenna Payne (No. 6).

PREP BASEBALL



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Plymouth's Evan Good takes a healthy cut during Wednesday's game against Canton. At right is Chiefs catcher Michael Flaishans.

## DIFFERENT WAYS TO WIN

After Canton rallies to nip Plymouth in opener, Chiefs blank 'Cats in Game 2

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Whether hitting homers off the scoreboard, making clutch defensive plays or even plating a run on a double steal, Canton's varsity baseball team is finding a way to post victories.

Such was the case again Wednesday against visiting Plymouth, in a KLAA South Division twinbill that the Chiefs swept 4-3 and 3-0. The victories upped Canton's record to 11-2, while the Wildcats — without centerfielder and sparkplug Pete Carravallah, who sprained an ankle in Monday's win over Novi — dropped to 6-6.

“We're not going to let down, we're not going to get a big head, we're going to keep chugging away,” Canton head coach Mark Blomshield said. “There's a lot of good teams in this conference, (Livonia) Franklin's good, (Livonia) Stevenson's good, (Livonia) Churchill's good.”

“We have to play all those teams yet. We're just a scrappy bunch.”

Game 2 was a pitching duel



JULIE BAECHLER  
Canton senior lefty Tyler Byers sends a pitch on its way during his Wednesday win over Plymouth.

between Plymouth's Taylor Burke and Canton southpaw Tyler Byers and the Chiefs

opened up with a run in the first. Jake Dattilio walked and

Justin Mattson (2-for-3, run) singled to left to get it started for Canton. Both moved up on a sacrifice bunt by Noah Spencer (1-for-2, RBI) and Dattilio scored on an infield single by Nick Sprosek (2-for-3, run, RBI).

“We've been struggling to make the small plays this year, and it's going to come around,” Plymouth head coach Jason Crain said. “When it comes around we'll snap into shape. We're so injury depleted.”

### Oh, so close

Byers also was a bit fortunate, because Plymouth's Brendan Lacorato came within several feet of smacking a game-tying homer in the second. The no-doubter hooked foul, and Lacorato then hit a pop-up behind the plate that Canton catcher Michael Flaishans snagged with an outstanding slide near the backstop.

The Wildcats also flashed some leather, courtesy of centerfielder Chase Timko — Carravallah's injury replacement.

See BASEBALL, Page B4

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PREP SOFTBALL



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem continues to pour on the offense, with plenty of homers and celebrations like this.

# HAMMERING ROCKS

## Salem homers spark doubleheader sweep

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

The Lady Rocks are displaying plenty of brawn early this high school softball season.

Salem's varsity softball team set a new school record with four fence-clearing home runs in the seventh inning during Wednesday's 13-0 rout of host Livonia Stevenson in the first game of a KLAA Central Division doubleheader.

Slamming those homers with two outs in the frame — in succession — were Kristin Mihalic, Maddy Rosiewicz (her first career homer), Morgan Overaitis and Kara Hutchison.

Also going yard in the second inning was Caroline Miller, as Salem cranked out five homers among 17 hits.

"In my 32 years coaching I have never seen this done before," said Salem head coach Bonnie Southerland, who understandably is running out of superlatives to describe her squad.

Mihalic set the tone throughout the game as the

leadoff hitter. In addition to her homer, she singled and doubled and knocked in three runs.

Overaitis doubled, tripled and homered and collected two RBIs while Rosiewicz (homer, triple, single, two RBIs), Miller (double, homer) and Jordan Hazel (two hits) all had multiple-hit outings.

Rounding out the attack in Game 1 were Amy Hines and Morgan Reno with base hits.

The beneficiary of all that offense was Rosiewicz, who gave up just two hits and struck out seven without walking a batter.

The Rocks scored in bunches, with five in the second, three in the sixth and five in the seventh.

Salem kept on slugging and scoring in the nightcap, with a 17-2 victory. Three more homers gave the Rocks eight for the doubleheader.

As she did in Game 1, Mihalic got it going with a lead-off homer in the first. She finished 3-for-4 in the nightcap with two RBIs.

Other homers were ripped by Hutchison (who also singled) and Miller.

Contributing a single, double and three RBIs was Overaitis while Hines registered two singles.

Rounding out the hit parade were Rosiewicz, Hazel, Reno and Jenna Taylor.

Rosiewicz pitched Salem's second lopsided win of the day, giving up five hits and a walk.

### At the top

With the sweep of the previously undefeated Spartans, the Rocks took over the top spot in the KLAA Central. Salem improved to 6-1 overall and 6-1 in the division, while Stevenson fell to 5-2, 5-2.

"This is a powerhouse offense for sure," Southerland said. "It's still very early and we know it, we also know we need to continue to work on things and keep building from here."

Salem will hit the road this week and then host the annual Salem Invitational beginning 9 a.m. Saturday, April 30.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports  
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U18 MEN'S WORLD TOURNEY

# Team USA gets jump on Czechs in quarterfinals

U.S. wins 8-0, to face Finland in semifinal

The red-white-and-blue onslaught continues at the IIHF Under-18 Men's Hockey Championships in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On Thursday, the U.S. Men's National Under-18 team shut out the Czech Republic, 8-0, to remain perfect so far during the tourney. Clayton Keller recorded a goal and two assists and goalie Jake Oettinger stopped all 15 shots he faced.

With the win, Team USA moves on to face Finland in the semifinal round Saturday, April 23. Puck drop is 4 p.m. and the game will be shown on the NHL Network.

"We stuck with what we wanted to do, which was to keep shooting, and we didn't lose any confidence because we played our game," U.S. head coach Danton Cole said. "The guys did a great job of sticking with it."

After a scoreless first period, in which the U.S. outshot the Czech Republic, 13-2, Team USA broke the deadlock at the 4:50 mark of the middle frame on a goal by Casey Mittelstadt.

Off a faceoff, the United States struck a second time. Trent Frederic received the puck from Will Lockwood (Bloomfield Hills) and maneuvered around a defender within the right circle toward the slot. Frederic then wisted a shot between the pads of Josef Korenar for the score.

A power-play marker pushed the U.S. advantage to three late in the period. Keller started the play and found Kieffer Bellows to the right of the net. Bellows tried to pull the puck around and got tied up, but the puck found the stick of Joey Anderson who knocked the puck home.

Team USA notched its fourth goal just 36 seconds into the third frame. A tic-tac-toe passing play led to a Keller one-time shot that hit the back of the net.

Graham McPhee went top corner for the fifth U.S. goal at 3:40. Thirteen seconds later, Nick Pastujov found the mark to make it 6-0.

Anderson notched his second of the game off a set-up from Keller and Lindgren closed out the scoring late in the final frame.

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PREP BOYS GOLF

## Chiefs, 'Cats, Rocks win openers

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

All three Park varsity boys golf teams successfully launched the KLAA dual match season with victories.

On Thursday, Canton and Plymouth joined Salem in the winner's circle; the Rocks edged Livonia Stevenson 161-163 on Tuesday.

Canton's opener was a 167-171 win over Livonia Churchill at Whispering Willows Golf Course. Despite wet conditions, the Chiefs displayed consistency throughout the lineup.

Senior Phillip Conrad was the top Canton performer on the par-35 course with a 40. Other teammates included junior Dominic Dimaya (42), sophomore D.J. Jablonski (42), junior Suhas Potluri (43), senior Brendan Chan (47) and

senior Brian Oldani (48). The match medalist, with a 39, was Griffin Ahmet. Meanwhile, Plymouth got the KLAA season going with a 164-221 victory over Westland John Glenn at Fellows Creek.

The top finisher for the Wildcats was Tim Baldwin, with a 49. Freshmen Justin Lauer and Kyle Krause also performed well with scores of 41 each.

Other solid Plymouth performances were turned in by Vaishak Mendon (42) and Reilly Sullivan (45).

SALEM 161, STEVENSON 163: On Tuesday, the visiting Rocks were led by Hayden Winch (39), Shawn Weldon and Woody Mashui (40 each). Chipping in with a 42 score was Bryce Henderson.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports  
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PREP GIRLS TENNIS

## Wildcats romp to 9-0 victory

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Plymouth's varsity girls tennis team continued its dominance of KLAA South Division rivals with Tuesday's 9-0 victory over Westland John Glenn at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Wildcats (3-0) were so much in control that all four singles flights were won by identical 6-0, 6-0 scores.

Victorious at 1 singles was freshman Jessica Braun, followed by senior Amber Tseng at 2 singles, sophomore Kara Hug at 3 singles and Swetha Duraiswamy at 4 singles.

It was almost the same story in doubles action.

Plymouth 1 doubles tandem Alyssa Lopez and Bei Li Martin, both seniors, won 6-1, 6-0.

At 2 doubles, seniors Justine Ko and Amy Luo won 6-0, 6-0.

Also shutting out their opponents were the 3 doubles team of sophomore Arwa Harawala and junior Kriya Shah and the 4 doubles team of freshman Allie Baker and sophomore Dani Escalera-Sanchez.

Posting a 6-1, 6-0 win at 5 doubles was the tandem of sophomore Lauren Merkel and freshman Meera Patel.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Sydney Dawson (No. 7) steps on second base to get Plymouth baserunner Mikayla Rose out on a force play during Wednesday's opening game.

# SOFTBALL

Continued from Page B1

will play next season at University of Detroit Mercy.

"That's what we were hoping for, that we'd get her back to the plate," White said. "But hey, I think Jenny pitched an outstanding game. She was hitting her spots very well against us."

Concurring was Bressler, who bounced back from a tough loss April 15 against Salem with a strong outing.

"I just think I was hitting my spots a lot better" than in the Salem game, Bressler said.

She added that defeating the Chiefs, on the heels of Plymouth (5-2, 4-1) splitting a weekend doubleheader against top-ranked Caledonia,

could provide a boost of confidence as the season progresses.

"I think it means a lot to our team, it picks up our confidence and it will help us in the long run," said Bressler, who gave up just five hits. "We're coming together, playing as a team. Doing everything we need to get done."

Plymouth got on the board against Canton senior pitcher Payne in the fifth, and that run proved to be enough (although the Wildcats added a run in the sixth).

Ripping a double was Haley Gagnon and Bressler (2-for-4) followed with a single to move Gagnon to third. Knocking the run home with a single was Whitney Holden (2-for-4).

Mikayla Rose (three walks) drew a bases on balls to open the sixth and after

moving to second on a sacrifice bunt, she scored on a base hit up the middle by Zerona (2-for-4).

In the second game, Canton bounced back to win 4-0, scoring two runs in each of the first two innings off Plymouth's Kiersten Metz.

Doing much of the damage for the Chiefs was Izzy Dawson, who doubled and tripled in three at-bats.

Plymouth registered six hits, with Zerona and Jessica Tucci each going 2-for-3. Chipping in with a double in the third inning was Gagnon.

Plymouth had 6 hits on the night, and put the ball in play hard but came up short to put runs on the board.

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## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Hole-in-one club

» David Nest, 31, of Farmington Hills, shot a hole-in-one April 18 on the Woods course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Township.

Nest aced the 125-yard No. 5 hole, using a pitching wedge.

» Bill Grassnig, 63, of Plymouth, registered a hole-in-one on April 15 on the Golden Fox course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Township.

Grassnig aced the 125-yard No. 3 hole, using a 9 iron and Titleist Pro VI golf ball. He registered a round of 83.

» Chris Trombly, 37, of Plymouth, tallied a hole-in-one April 14 on the Hills course at

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Township.

Trombly aced the 126-yard No. 6 hole, using a 9 iron and a Callaway golf ball.

### Canton grid meeting

On Tuesday, May 10, Canton football staff members and the boosters club are holding a mandatory meeting for all 2016 players and their parents.

At 6 p.m. players and parents new to the program will convene in the Canton High School cafeteria. All returning players and parents will join them at 6:30 p.m.

Any questions can be directed to head coach Tim Baechler via email at tim.baechler@pccsk12.com.









Diana Capany (left), executive assistant at First Step, listens as Ayesha Joz of Canton and Ailsa Blunk of Plymouth talk over project plans.

SHARON DARGAY

## Muslim, Christian women explore common ground

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Muslim and Christian women will work together sprucing up the dining room at First Step's domestic abuse shelter this month.

They'll clean, polish, buff and redecorate the space from ceiling to floor Friday-Saturday, April 29-30, in Wayne, while also strengthening friendships and furthering the mission of their group, Common Ground Gathering.

"At this point, it's to make a difference in the community," Hasina Abdu explained their goal as a combined Muslim-Christian gathering. "We are building bridges while making a difference. The Canton-Plymouth community can only get stronger if we work together, if we work in collaboration."

Nancy Sullivan of Plymouth, another member, looks forward to rolling up her sleeves and working with her Christian and Muslim friends.

"I'm really excited about it. When you're scrubbing cabinets side by side, what better way to get to know someone," she said.

Abdu, a Canton resident, is the outreach director for the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs in Canton and Sullivan is a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. Common Ground Gathering is a loosely organized group of approximately 50 women from all backgrounds and of all ages who attend the mosque and the church.

"Initially the mosque held an open invitation for people to attend a forum after the shootings a year ago in North Carolina of three Muslim students," said Sullivan, who attended the event with her husband. "Hasina happened to be this lovely woman seated behind me. She and I exchanged contact information. We made a commit-

*"We are building bridges while making a difference. The Canton-Plymouth community can only get stronger if we work together, if we work in collaboration."*

HASINA ABDU

ment that we would develop a relationship. That led to lunch."

The pair, joined by two other friends, talked about family, careers, personal history and their futures.

"I became aware she really is just like me, but we have different faith practices and beliefs," Sullivan said. "That was the beginning."

### Building friendships

Their budding friendship took a leap forward when Abdu and other women from the mosque invited Sullivan and her friends from First Presbyterian to a get-together in spring 2015. They played "ice breaker" games, ate lunch and spent the afternoon chatting and getting to know each other. The women from First Presbyterian reciprocated last fall with a social that included desserts, a tour of the church, ice breaker games, and conversation.

"We had a big map on the wall that indicated where we were originally from and where we live today," said



Ayesha Joz of the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs and Ailsa Blunk of First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth are planning a joint project at First Step's domestic violence shelter in Wayne.

SHARON DARGAY

Ailsa Blunk, a Northville resident who attends First Presbyterian. "So, there we all are in Northville, Plymouth and Canton. It doesn't matter where we came from. We're all together now."

They called the group Common Ground Gathering because it focused on what they share in common rather than on differences.

"We all care about what is happening in our community. We're concerned about our children's education, jobs, safe neighborhoods," Blunk said. "We share the same concerns and a lot of the same choices. It was loud, interesting and talkative conversation."

Added Ayesha Joz, a Canton resident and mosque member: "It was women being women."

### Their agenda

The group brainstormed ideas for future gatherings and developed a list that included everything from craft activ-

ities to the First Step project, watching movies together to offering cooking lessons.

Joz, Blunk and a handful of other women met this year to sift through the ideas and picked the First Step dining room as their first project. A planning session for the project drew 50 women, approximately half from the mosque and half from the church. They'll work in shifts at the First Step shelter, cleaning, organizing, making new table centerpieces, and art for the walls.

Both women say they've heard nothing but positive comments from their worship communities about Common Ground Gathering.

"We had hoped we could reach out and build a relationship with our (church) neighbors," Joz said. "Everyone is really enthusiastic. They've been very supportive. Even people that are not necessarily involved have said good words

about it."

Abdu hopes the group eventually reaches out to other faith communities in the Plymouth-Canton area. The women plan to include Christian and Muslim youth in a future activity. Members also are considering a book discussion group and a movie night for their next gathering.

"I think we just want to emphasize we are both taught in our religion to show love to one another and that is what our motivation is," Blunk said.

"In Islam, you are not a true believer until you want for your brother what you want for yourself," Joz added. "And we're all sisters in humanity. That's the motto."

For more about First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, visit [FPCP.net](http://FPCP.net). For more about the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, visit [mcws.org](http://mcws.org).

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

## Store owner blogs on pet products, dogs to strut runway

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Plastic, stainless steel or ceramic water bowls?

Wet or dry food food? Small or large kibble?

Addy Shattuck hopes to answer those and other questions you may have about the growing variety of pet products, in the new "Neighbor Shopping Tips" segment of her blog.

Shattuck is the owner of two Pet Supplies Plus stores in Highland and one in Bloomfield Township. She started blogging about store events, occasionally inviting a local veterinarian to weigh in on pet health, about a year and a half ago.

"We've put on workshops on dental health for pets, pet obesity, vaccines. We put on a lot of fun events. We have Santa with live reindeer. Every year we do a block party at our Cooley Lake Road store. That's why the blog was originally created.

"Then recently I thought

why not give tips because there is such a wide variety of pet foods and pet products. How do you choose?"

She'll help consumers sort it all out before they hit the store shelves, drawing on her experience in the pet supply business for more than 25 years and as a pet owner. She currently has seven cats and one dog at her Milford home. She'll also get input from her store team and welcomes feedback on products from consumers. Each Neighbor Shopping Tip post will include a coupon for a pet product.

"A lot of questions have to do with food products and there are so many choices — raw, grain free, what to pick for a senior pet. It all depends on breed, age, health and whether there are allergies."

Shattuck said a veterinary appointment is a good time to ask about a pet's food needs, but noted that some owners



SUBMITTED

Addy Shattuck, owner of three Pet Supplies Plus stores, is adding pet products to her blogging topics.

don't take their animals to the vet every year, opting instead for a low-cost vaccination clinic.

She recommends an annual or twice-a-year visit to the vet for a wellness exam.

"They may seem fine but

you never know what is going on inside. A blood panel in my opinion should be run at least yearly."

Shattuck said she plans to blog about products for birds, guinea pigs and rabbits, too, along with food, dental products, chews, collars and toys for dogs and cats.

Her favorite new cat toy, FroliCat, projects random laser points for 15 minutes and then shuts off.

"Cats chase it. Cats pounce on it. Cats go nuts over this. I have a real old cat who is 18 and she plays with it."

And what about the wide variety of water and food bowls? Shattuck said she recommends stainless steel or ceramic.

"With plastic it can be porous and harbor bacteria and you can't get it totally out."

Follow her blog at [AddysPSP.wordpress.com](http://AddysPSP.wordpress.com).

### Canine couture

Dogs that found homes through Livonia-based Guardian Angel Animal Rescue

(GAAR) will take to the fashion runway Saturday-Sunday, April 30-May 1 at the International Women's Show in Novi.

They'll wear clothing, fancy collars and will help encourage pet adoption as they strut the catwalk with their humans. The audience will hear their rescue stories and

"Pawject Runway" starts at 10:30 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. GAAR also will have a vendor booth at the show with information on adopting.

The International Women's Show runs 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 28 and Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 29, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for ages 6-12. Parking is \$5. Advance tickets are \$8 for adults. Visit [southernshows.com/wde/](http://southernshows.com/wde/).

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

# Appliance Doc's advice: Share your talents, help others

A few days ago, I spoke to a class of high school students at Stucky School in Redford thanks to John Konen, a teacher who lives up the street from our house.

These kids wanted to know what I did for a living and my reply was simple. "I do things that help others." You could say that this has been true for most of my life. An example was emailed to me the other day by a nice lady who wrote about my old days.

Michel wrote: "You're right about old products lasting long. I had a Philco freezer for 47 years and put it on Freecycle because I didn't want to defrost it any longer. It ran great, even though it went through two base-



ment floods with my Whirlpool dryer, where the water was three feet deep. Now, what I'm writing you about is my dryer, which I bought in 1962. It runs great, but the timer is broken and I have to keep an eye on it and be sure I turn it off when the clothes are dry. I love my dryer; we've been through a lot together. It's old, a bit rusty on the bottom and not as attractive as it used to be, but neither am I. I'd like to get a timer for it. Is there a place that I can get that particular part without being a tech-

nician?  
**Do it yourself**  
"As an aside, years ago, about 40 of them, the belt broke on my dryer and I called your store to send a repairman out. He came, had me watch him put the belt on, took it off and put it on again. Then he took it off, handed it to me and said, "You put it on." I said, "WHAT?" He said, "I see you have no ring on your finger, a couple of kids, and I'm betting you're divorced and can't afford to have someone come in and do this again. I want you to know how to do it so all you have to do is buy the part." I could have, OK I did, cried. What a decent guy and a wonderful employee and representative of the company."

"Another time I had a huge bulky old Tappan microwave that I bought in the mid-'80s. It wouldn't work, so I called your store again to see if I could bring it in. I told the guy on the phone that it weighed about 50 pounds. He told me to unplug it, take the housing off and see if it had a round glass fuse. I did and it did. He said to change the fuse and things would be OK. I did, and they were. I have nothing but good — no, great — things to say about the store you once owned. It's wonderful to find a company that is helpful and not after the almighty dollar. I finally passed the microwave on to a family whose house burned down and needed everything, and bought a

new one with a turntable! Anyway, I digress, back to the timer for my dryer. Can I get one somewhere? Love your column, Michel."  
**Be kind to others**  
This email brought back a lot of memories. I can be just about anywhere when a past customer walks up and relates a story how I saved them money or showed them how to fix it themselves. Somewhere in the Bible it states that if you have a talent and don't share it with others, it is classified as a sin. I explained this to the high school students the other day and suggested that they walk down a street, select a senior citizen with no family and offer

to paint the fence. It's not hard to learn how to clean and prepare it and use a brush to make it look good.  
My last tip for the kids came from English literature. Life is filled with ups and downs, mood swings and all sorts of depression. A fellow named Shakespeare once wrote, "Life is but a stage, and you are the actor." Reach into your hearts and do something good for others. You might be surprised at how good it makes you feel. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twm1.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twm1.rr.com).

## 'Graphic activist' tackles social justice in comics

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Comic books and graphic novels are shedding light on social justice issues, not just the adventures of caped crusaders and super heroes.

Nicole Burton, the co-founder of Ad Astra Comix, will talk about "graphic activism" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. She'll also show the graphic novel, "Drawing the Line, Indian Women Fight Back!," which includes stories in comic form by 14 women in India who were raped or sexually harassed. Burton's company, which is based in Toronto, Ontario, published the North American version of the book, which originally was published overseas.

"It's about changing the culture of rape in India," said Khaya Davidson, a Farmington Hills resident and church member who organized the event, called "Women Making Justice Through Comics." "She'll have copies of the book there." The discussion also will include Ayesha Ghazi, executive director of American Citizens for Justice, who will talk about "Women Building Power for Social Justice."

Women Making Justice through Comics is a collaboration with Ad Astra Comix, American Citizens for Justice, Green Brain Comics, Book Beat Bookstore, and the church.

Davidson said the idea for the event grew out of Comique Con, held last November at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn. Davidson's niece, Chelsea



Nicole Burton, founder of Ad Astra Comix, will talk about "graphic activism" Wednesday, April 27, at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, in Southfield.

*"This idea is using comic book style for positive change for the better for people. Remember the editorial cartoons in the paper?"*

KHAYA DAVIDSON

Liddy of Plymouth organized Comique Con to give more credit to female comic book creators. She was dissatisfied with the exposure they received at other comic conventions she had attended. Ad Astra Comix co-founders Burton and her partner, Hugh Goldring, had a vendor booth at Liddy's event.

"My husband and I met Nicole and Hugh. We were just so impressed with them. He is an artist and she is writer. They distribute and publish books on social justice and they do some themselves," Davidson said. "It just happened that Nicole was leading a panel discussion (at Comique Con) about graphic activism. She

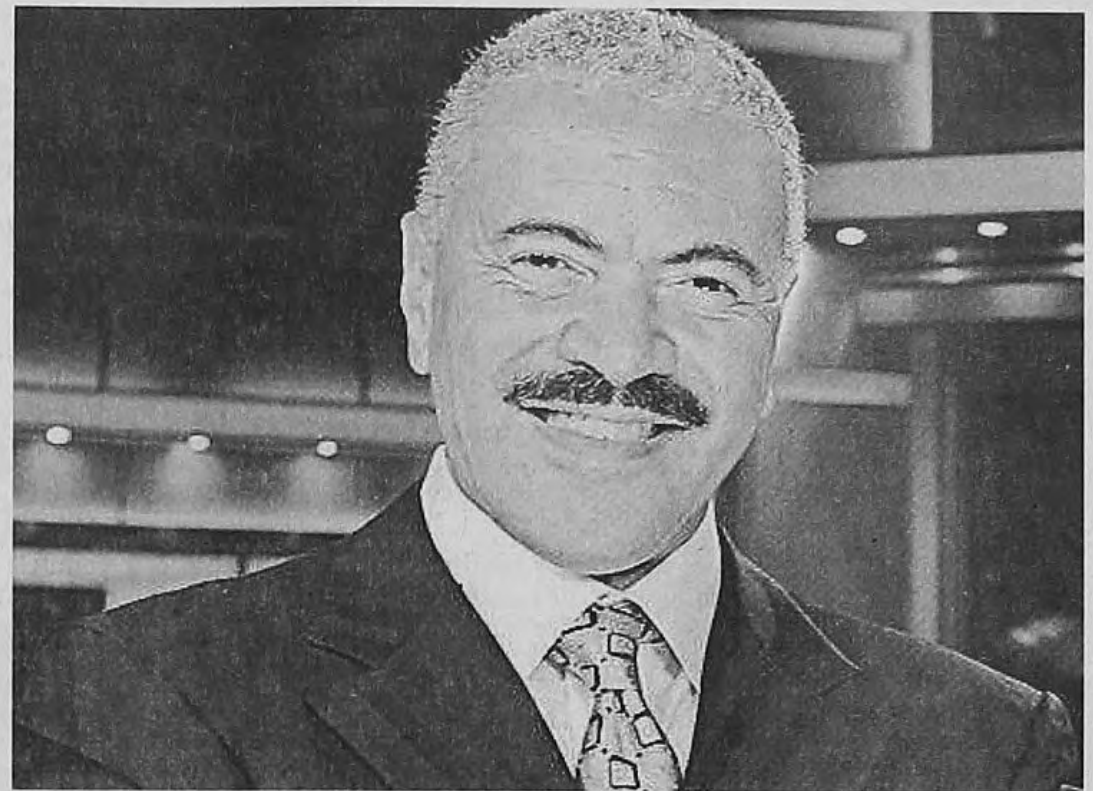
was interviewing two Palestinian-American comic book writers about why they chose to express themselves through comics. It was so moving."

Davidson said comics can be an effective way to address human rights issues.

"This idea of graphic activism is using comic book style for positive change for the better for people. Remember the editorial cartoons in the paper? I think this is an extension of that. And it also appeals to a younger generation," she said. "We're really excited about this."

For more information on the event call 248-354-4488.

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)



Perkins

## Baby Boomer Summit set for April 30

The Baby Boomer generation, which has helped transform society more than the past 50 years, is now facing its biggest challenge — retirement.

Most Baby Boomers prefer to retire and stay in their hometown communities, so what does this area have to offer Boomers? Plenty.

On April 30, the city of Birmingham, Birmingham Shopping District, Next and the Baldwin Public Library will present Boomer Summit. This is a one-stop, inclusive morning to learn what opportunities, resources and experiences are available to make the most of the next and best years ahead, right here in the area.

The summit will be

held in the auditorium of Birmingham Groves High School, 20500 W. 13 Mile Road, in Beverly Hills. The high-energy event will feature speakers, music and giveaways and will offer Boomers ideas and inspiration. Tickets are \$10. Preregistration is preferred at the Next website, [www.BirminghamNext.org](http://www.BirminghamNext.org), or tickets can be purchased at the door. The morning will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a showcase of local businesses offering products and services for the Boomer generation. Represented will be fitness, wellness, lifestyle, and technology opportunities.

WJBK-TV (Channel 2) news anchor Huel Perkins takes the stage at 8:45 a.m. to kick off the program of expert speakers that will help

Boomers plan ahead. The morning will feature five 20-minute presentations, brief videos and raffle items like a \$200 gift card to American Cycle & Fitness or round-trip Delta airline tickets from Departure Travel.

With experts like Gail Elliott Patricolo from Beaumont, travel journalist Amy S. Eckert and author/therapist Terri Orbuch, there is a guarantee every attendee will learn something that will assist Boomers in making the years ahead happy and purposeful.

For more information on all the speakers and showcase participants, call 248-203-5270 or go to the Next website. Sponsors for the event are Beaumont, Mills Pharmacy, Schoolcraft College, Bloom Asset Management, Traders Joe's, Fox 2 News and Birmingham Public Schools.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth Housing Commission is pleased to be opening its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List on April 28, 2016 through May 3, 2016. After May 3rd, the waiting list will be closed and the application will no longer be available. All applications must be completed and submitted on-line.

The application can be obtained via a link on our website <http://www.phchousing.net> or go directly to <https://plymouth2016.hdswaitinglist.com>. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. If you need access to a computer and the internet, you can go to your local library. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 224.

Published: April 17 & 24, 2016

LO-0002779113 3x2

### Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on May 5th, 2016, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit C212 Johnson, Household Goods: Unit A15 Austin, Household Goods: Unit A19, D35 Doub, Household Goods: Unit A33 Childers, Household Goods: Unit A39 Chiesa, Household Goods: Unit B04 Mathews, Household Goods: Unit B13 Gacioch, Household Goods: Unit B14 Webb, Household Goods: Unit C101 Gross, Household Goods: Unit C224 Steele, Household Goods: Unit C214 Adamowicz, Household Goods: Unit D17 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit D43 Boyd, Household Goods: Unit E35 Mattioli, Household Goods: Unit F11 Bentley, Household Goods: Unit E39 Bowman, Household Goods: Unit E44 Dobbins, Household Goods: Unit F06 Thomas Jr., Household Goods: Unit F19 Weaver, Household Goods: Unit F26 Pierce, Household Goods: Unit G24 Hissong, Household Goods: Unit G32 Yharbrough, Household Goods: Unit G43 Smith, Household Goods: Unit H29 Young, Household Goods: Unit I 29 Glover, Household Goods: Unit I42 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit J03 McQueen, Household Goods: Unit J24 Santos, Household Goods: Unit J32 Mikitaroff, Household Goods: Unit J46 Brady, Household Goods: Unit K03 Hills, Household Goods: Unit K43 Wamack, Household Goods.

Published: April 17 & 24, 2016

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### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

1. Z 16-04 169 Adams  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Front Yard Setback  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: John Garrison
2. Z 16-05 605 Jener  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Rear Yard Setback  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: Ronald Adelman
3. Z 16-06 1071 Beech  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Garage to exceed 50% of the front façade of home  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: Dylan and Kathryn Propst
4. Z 16-07 305 Pacific  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Rear Yard Setback and 10 ft. required between house & garage  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: William Cowdin
5. Z 16-08 623 Herald  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Front Yard Setback  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: Matt Thurber

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: April 24, 2016

LO-00027856 3x4.5

# A living will takes the guesswork out of end-of-life plans

Every day you make choices. You make decisions on what you are going to wear, what you are going to eat and what you are going to do. Shouldn't you also preserve your autonomy to choose or refuse types of health care treatments when you no longer can speak for yourself?

Your personal wishes are the most important part of the decision-making process. Fact: 82 percent of people say it is important to put their health care wishes in writing, however, 23 percent have actually done it. Also, two National Institute of Nursing research studies reported high stress and psychological distress when families had to decide withdrawal treatments or make a right-to-life choice for a family member without an advance directive.

Advance directives include decisions made ahead of time



**Michelle Moccia**

GUEST COLUMNIST

about the kind of medical care you want in the event you are unable to communicate your decisions. This has created a call to action.

Take, for instance, you suffer a tragedy causing irreversible brain damage. Who will speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself? Will your loved ones know what you want?

Maybe some of you can recall the highly publicized and contentious cases of Karen Ann Quinlan, Nancy Cruzan and Terry Shiavo? These young women survived tragedies but lived in vegetative states while court battles occurred between the families and the legal system. Not only

did these families suffer from the loss of a vibrant member, but also now had to experience anxiety and stress of pleading with the court to allow their loved ones to die with dignity.

In 1990, Congress enacted the Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA), 42 C.F.R. and 489.102 as an amendment to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare). The intent of the bill is to protect patients and their families from unnecessary care and suffering and inappropriate use of financial resources.

However, the fact is 60 percent of people say making sure their family is not burdened by tough decisions is "extremely important" but 56 percent of them have not communicated their end-of-life wishes.

How do you communicate your wishes? A living will can spell out the medical care you want or don't want in the event you're incapable of communi-

cating your wishes. An advance directive is a legal document designating another person, or "proxy," you have chosen to communicate your health care decisions in case you can't. This person is also known as a durable power of attorney for health care (DPOAHC).

How do you begin the conversation? Your local hospital has advance directive documents available and there are also multiple online resources available to begin end-of-life talks.

- » [www.Agingwithdignity.org/fivewishes](http://www.Agingwithdignity.org/fivewishes)
- » [www.Respecting-choices.org/](http://www.Respecting-choices.org/)
- » Consumers Health Care Tool Kit for Advance Care Planning - [www.americanbar.org/groups/law\\_aging.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging.html)
- » AARP: Advance Directives: Your Critical Action Plans
- » [www.nhdd.org](http://www.nhdd.org) - the

"Speak Up" video is excellent, [www.iom.edu/endoflife](http://www.iom.edu/endoflife)

Don't let time run out. The time is now. Please join us for a four-week series on advance care planning called As You Wish on Wednesdays starting May 4 in the St. Mary Mercy Livonia North Auditorium. The series, taught by experts from Angela Hospice and St. Mary Mercy, will teach you what to consider, how to plan ahead and make your wishes known, and come away with a legal document you can share with your family and health care providers. To register, visit [stmarymercy.org/personalizing-advance-care-planning](http://stmarymercy.org/personalizing-advance-care-planning) or [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org) and click on "Classes and Events." Or call 734-665-8950.

J. Michelle Moccia, DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN, is the program director for the Senior Emergency Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

# Fundraiser set for elementary student with rare disease

**Jay Grossman**  
Staff Writer

When Maya Kridli was in kindergarten, she could run to the bus.

Today, she uses a wheelchair to get around.

The 10-year-old student at Eastover Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills suffers from ataxia telangiectasia (A-T), also known as "Louis-Bar syndrome." The rare genetic disease strikes 1 in 40,000 at birth and weakens the immune system, increasing the risk for cancer.

It also impairs certain areas of the brain, causing difficulty with movement and muscle coordination. Consequently, most children diagnosed with A-T are confined to a wheelchair at an early age.

"She's very bright, very smart and she's very funny — she's big on practical jokes," said her mother, Suha Al-Oballi Kridli. "She just has many physical limitations right now ... and that's the hard part, because she's aware of those limitations."

The disease is incurable, but

*"She's very bright, very smart and she's very funny — she's big on practical jokes. She just has many physical limitations right now,"*

**SUHA AL-OBALLI KRIDLİ,**  
mother

Maya's family refuses to dwell on the negative. Instead, they're committed to holding a fundraiser every year to fund research and hopefully one day find a cure.

This year, members of the Bloomfield Hills High School National Honor Society have organized a Fun Walk/Run from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at the former Lahser High School, 3465 Lahser Road. Participants are encouraged to wear white outfits as they're speckled with colors as they go around the track through the various color stations.

Maya's older sister, Nadine, 17, is vice president of the school's national honor society.

Her older brother, Adam, 14, also attends Bloomfield Hills High School. They helped organize a nature walk last year, and a 'jumpathon' the year before.

Kridli said the family has raised over \$15,000 for the A-T Children Project ([atcp.org](http://atcp.org)) which supports research for finding a treatment and ultimately a cure. While A-T is a rare disease, research on understanding it also helps the medical community with a better understanding of with finding treatments for common diseases such as cancers and Alzheimer's disease.

The walk/run takes place rain or shine. There will also be a silent auction and other activities. To register in advance, visit [atcp.org/HopeStep](http://atcp.org/HopeStep) Bloomfield.

"We just want the community to join us on this day," Kridli said. "We're hoping for a large turnout so we can raise more money to give us one more step forward."

[jgrossman@hometownlife.com](mailto:jgrossman@hometownlife.com)  
586-826-7030  
Twitter: @BhmEccentric



KRIDLI FAMILY PHOTO

Ten-year-old Maya Kridli, a student at Eastover Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills suffers from ataxia telangiectasia (A-T), also known as Louis-Bar syndrome.



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