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Volume 72 Number 21

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 23, 2015



# TELEGRAM

CELEBRATING 71 YEARS OF SERVING DETROIT AND THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY\*

## DIA to bring artwork to Ecorse and River Rouge

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Reporter



Children enjoy Inside|Out display in metro Detroit

In 2016, Ecorse and River Rouge will display famous artwork as participants in the Detroit Institute of Art's (DIA) Inside|Out program. Now in its seventh year, the popular program has touched down in more than 100 Michigan communities, bringing high-quality reproductions "... from the DIA's collection in outdoor venues throughout metro Detroit". Along with Ecorse and River Rouge, seven other communities will host Inside|Out for the first time including Chesterfield Township, Lathrup Village, Springfield Township, Beverly Hills, Commerce Township, East English Village in East

Detroit and Grandmont Rosedale in Northwest Detroit.

Established on the heels of the DIA's 125th anniversary, Inside|Out continues to expand, establishing a cultural connection with various residents throughout the Detroit metro area.

"This project is twofold," said Jillian Reese, Program Coordinator. "One of its goals is to expose Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents to

Inside|Out Display - Page 13A

## CITY OF TAYLOR NOW SHOWS FUND BALANCE OF OVER \$4 MILLION



Rich Sollars  
Mayor of Taylor

TAYLOR – After showing a deficit of as high as \$5M not long ago, the City of Taylor now has an unassigned posi-

tive fund balance of nearly \$4.2M, according to independent auditors from Plante Moran. Plante Moran's financial report was accepted by City Council Tuesday, December 15.

According to the auditors, the City's unassigned fund balance was \$4,146,932 as of the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2015. That is nearly \$4M more than the same assigned bal-

Taylor - Page 6A

## Keeping Christ in Christmas



Celebrate Christmas - The story of the birth of Jesus Christ

The number one way to keep Jesus Christ in your Christmas celebrations is to have him present in your daily life. If you're not sure what it means to become a believer in Christ, read the article on "How to Become a Christian." If

you've already accepted Jesus as your Savior and made him the center of your life, keeping Christ in Christmas is more about the way you live your life than the things you say—such as "Merry Christmas" versus "Happy Holidays."

Keeping Christ in Christmas means daily revealing the character, love and spirit of Christ that dwells in you, by allowing these traits to shine through your actions. Here are Christmas - Page 5A

## Support Local Stores and Small Businesses this Holiday Season



(StatePoint) At a time of year where big box retailers offer deep discounts, the holiday season is an annual opportunity to show local shops and businesses your support. It's also a great way to score unique items while benefitting the local economy.

Here are some retail trends and other things to consider

as you shop at your favorite small businesses.

### The Local Economy

By supporting small businesses, you are supporting local job creation. In fact, small firms accounted for over three-fifths of the new jobs created between 1993 and mid-2013, according to

government statistics. Spending your holiday shopping budget locally strengthens Main Street and can help your community's economy thrive.

### New Technologies

A common stereotype of mom and pop stores are that they are antiquated and overpriced, but many small businesses are adopting new technologies to streamline their operations; which can be an important consideration for shoppers in a hurry or on a budget.

For example, new Android based point of sale terminals, such as the ergonomically designed V-R7000 and V-R7100 from Casio have widescreen LCD touch panels, and an intuitive, high-resolution interface

Shop Local - Page 9

**Informing \* Educating \* Empowering \* Uplifting**



## NEWS FROM LANSING

### Information from State Representative Stephanie Chang



It has been a busy few weeks in Lansing since Thanksgiving. As the Legislature wraps up for the year, I wanted to send a quick update about some developments here in Lansing and some ways I am advocating for House District 6.

#### Water as a Human Right

December 10 was International Human Rights Day! On Thursday, I was proud to host a delegation of residents from Detroit and other communities who are concerned about access to safe and affordable water. These concerned citizens were in Lansing to talk about the bipartisan package of bills introduced by Representatives LaTanya Garrett (D-Detroit), Sheldon Neeley (D-Flint), Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) and myself. These bills would help ensure that clean, affordable water is a human right in Michigan. We have more work to do on this package of bills in the new year, and we will work hard to get a committee hearing on these bills as soon as possible.

#### Letter to MDOT about Fort Street Bridge Re-opening

Like many of you, I am frustrated about the ongoing delays in re-opening the Fort Street Bridge. After being advised of yet another delay, on

Nov. 23 my office sent a letter to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Director Kirk Steudle urging that this project be given the highest priority as MDOT allocates resources to end-of-the year projects. This week I received a response from Director Steudle advising that MDOT agrees about prioritizing this project, and understands the frustration by residents and commuters. MDOT is in possession of all the needed materials and parts to complete this work and anticipates the bridge will be finished by the end of the year. I requested frequent updates on the progress as we near completion and I will pass any new information on to you.

#### Hearings on Family Advisory Board and Drug House bills

Over the past two weeks, I was honored to testify on two bills I introduced in 2015. On Dec. 1 and 8, the House Committee on Criminal Justice heard testimony on a package of juvenile justice bills. I testified in support of my bill, House Bill 4965, which would establish a Family Advisory Board within the Department of Corrections to assist and advise the department on the experiences and challenges for incarcerated individuals and their family members, and develop policies, procedures and programs that support family reunification during and after incarceration.

On Dec. 8, I testified in front of House Committee on Judiciary in support of House Bill 4832, which I introduced last August. This bill closes a loophole in Michigan's "Drug House" law.

Chang - Page 8A

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Inkster Mayor Byron Nolen

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Reporter



Mayor Nolen works with members of the Inkster community

The "Getting to know our elected officials" feature is designed to provide access into the minds of local public figures. On deck this week is newly elected Mayor Byron Nolen who spoke with us about becoming the most recent head of the City of Inkster, biggest problems affecting the area, personal pastimes/hobbies, and much more.

#### This is your first run as mayor. How is everything going so far?

It's been very busy. We have a lot of issues that we're dealing with including a consent agreement, normal business issues, and pending charter amendments that have to be voted on. We definitely have a lot going on.

#### Did you grow up in Inkster? Where did you attend high school and college?

I've lived in Inkster for about 36 years (I'm 46 now). I attended Wayne Memorial High School, and later went to the University of Michigan. I additionally attended the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

#### In addition to your mayoral duties, do you currently hold any other career positions?

Right now, Inkster's mayoral position is only part-time. In the coming months however, I'm looking to make it a full-time job (that's one of the charter amendments that will be proposed later this year). But currently, I'm still practicing law full-time.

#### What influenced your decision to pursue your current position?

As I looked at all of the issues our city was facing – from our lack of a business community, to state deficits and our failure to provide services to residents – I realized that I had to step up and try to make the situation better instead of relying on someone else to do it for

us. Ultimately, that's why I decided to run for mayor.

#### What do you see as the biggest problem facing your city today?

I believe that our biggest problem lies within our agreement with the State of Michigan; they basically provide oversight for us on just about everything we do. First off, it's undemocratic because those elected by the people can't make key decisions. That's the number one thing we need to work on ending.

#### How can Inkster residents initiate improvements throughout the city?

Many of our residents want us to control our own government. Unfortunately, with the current setup, everything is run by a city manager who basically dictates what happens on a day to day basis. Essentially, there's not anyone elected who can really act on the interests of the people.

The way the charter reads now, we have to elect a commission of nine members who can draft changes they would like to see. After that, we put everything on the ballot and allow the people to vote on changes to our government. By voting, the citizens can alter one of the biggest problems we're facing as a city.

#### Down the line, when your time as mayor has finished, what legacy do you hope to

leave?

I certainly want to leave Inkster in a much better situation than I found it. I would like to create an entertainment district right along Michigan Avenue, and bring retail businesses throughout the area to allow our residents to shop in their city (and those from other communities as well). I would also like to raise property values, and make the city more family friendly by introducing dog parks and walkways. Ultimately, I'd like to rebuild the entire city and its tax base, and leave a mark that will last down the line.

#### Going into the holiday season, are there any big events occurring in Inkster?

We don't necessarily hold a big Christmas celebration within our city boundaries, however there are a lot of southern folks here in Inkster. Many of us will definitely be eating, going to church, spending time with family and enjoying our community. Leading up to Christmas however, we do throw a lot of different holiday parties. Last week, there was one for senior citizens at the Booker Dozier Recreational Complex; it turned out really nice. The Inkster Housing Commission Resident Council will also have one for local children on Friday; we'll all buy gifts for the youth to enjoy. We do that every year.

#### Do you engage in any hobbies/special interests in your leisure time?

I really like to travel. I just got back from Miami as a way to recharge my batteries. I additionally love sports. As a Wolverine alumni, I'm always watching Michigan football and basketball. Of course, I'm also a big Tigers, Red Wings and Lions fan.



Byron Nolen  
Inkster Mayor

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All news item and advertising copy submitted for publication on Thursday must be at the office of The Telegram no later than 4:00pm on Friday.

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## Don't Let Small Dollar Loans Ruin Your Holidays

By Charlene Crowell - NNPA News Wire Columnist



sonal transportation.

As harmful as payday and car title loans are, other, seemingly harmful, small dollar transactions can also cause financial havoc.

If you believe pre-paid cards will always avoid financial rip-offs, think again. Before paying cash for this convenient form of plastic, read all of the fine print that explains the terms and fees that come with its usage. Terms and options can and do vary significantly. Many include a range of fees from activation, to learning your current balances, reloading monies and in some cases fees for inactivity. By the time all applicable fees are assessed, the amount of money actually available on that pre-paid card can shrink and short-change how far it can help on purchases.

Similarly, the convenience of debit cards can easily trigger overdraft charges for consumers with slim or no checking account cushions. By keeping track of receipts and balancing checkbooks, consumers using debit cards can usually limit or avoid overdraft fees. Failure to keep track of expenditures on the card can lead to multiple overdraft fees in a single billing cycle.

Worst of all, most consumers using their debit cards never realize the overdraft fees incurred until the next bank statement is received, weeks after the purchases were made. Depending upon your bank or credit union, overdraft fees vary in cost as well as an acceptable number to keep accounts open. Too many overdrafts can lead to involuntary account closures.

CRL research shows that although overdraft fees vary by institution, the average \$35 overdraft fee on a debit card is double the amount of the overdraft itself. To date, at least 14 banks have been sued for changing the order of debit-card purchases to maximize fees.

This holiday season, try adding a full measure of practical sense to help your dollars preserve the spirit of the season and all of its celebrations.

*Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

In this wonderful time of the year when family and friends gather in good cheer to celebrate the holidays, nearly everyone has a number of lists. From greeting cards to shopping for gifts, decorations and more, lists are made and reviewed to keep pace with the barrage of seasonal activities.

But if holiday lists seem bigger than budgets, turning to a high-cost, small dollar loan can turn joy and merriment into a financial quagmire. The good news is that with a timely reality check, most consumers can avoid holiday financial nightmares.

A key step is to walk or drive past the brightly-colored signs advertising high-cost, small dollar loans. Both payday and car title loans can provide quick cash, but the harms caused by these loans will likely linger past the winter's cold. Most importantly, these predatory loans often lead to consumers paying more in interest and fees than for the money borrowed.

Research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) has found that predatory payday loans generate \$3.5 billion in fees from repeat borrowers who are unable to fully repay the original loan, usually in two weeks' time. With average annual interest rates at 391 percent, 9 out of every 10 payday loans go to borrowers who get trapped in five or more loans per year.

Like payday loans, car title loans are often marketed as an easy way to get cash without a credit check – but with interest rates that tend to be 20-30 times higher than that of credit cards. The average car title loan of \$500 can only be secured by signing a personally-owned car as collateral. Further, the loan will only be a fraction of the marketable value of the vehicle. While the lender holds onto a car title, the borrower is faced with triple-digit interest and in the worst cases, the loss of per-

## Representative Banks Unveils Auto Insurance Reform Bills to Lower Rates

Plan reduces rates while keeping current no-fault system in place



Rep. Brian Banks

LANSING – State Representative and Detroit Caucus Chairman Brian Banks (D-Detroit) today announced that he has introduced two bills to reform auto insurance by lowering rates for urban and rural drivers while still keeping the current no-fault system in place. The two bill package would give Michigan residents in areas with the highest auto insurance rates affordable policies while maintaining their benefits and protections for accident victims, a new fraud authority, and a tax credit for participating insurance companies. House Bills 5134 and 5135 were introduced recently with bipartisan support.

“Urban and rural residents deserve quality, first-class insurance policies that are equal to insurance policies available to residents of our surrounding suburban communities,” said Banks. “Urban and rural residents deserve the same quality, first-class insurance policies offered to their suburban neighbors, and should not have to forgo these benefits simply because of where they live.”

Banks' plan would roll-back auto insurance rates by 12 percent of the average annual premium for the area in which the consumer resides. Individuals would be eligible if they reside in an area with a population of 500,000 or more; they live in rural or urban municipalities bordering the areas that meet the popu-

lation criteria; if 35 percent of the motor vehicles of drivers in a city, township or village are not insured; or they live in a designated zip code or live in a community bordering a designated zip code. The plan includes a good driver requirement. In order to be eligible for this type of policy a driver must have had no moving violations or points on their license in the previous three years. In addition, the plan would offer participating insurance companies a \$500 tax credit for each household signed up under the program. Insurers could also enact a co-pay for Personal Injury Protection (PIP) benefits, similar to existing co-pays for medical insurance.

Banks said that his plan is a better option than D-Insurance because it maintains the best of our no-fault insurance system – it guarantees medical care for victims with catastrophic injuries so they can live the best possible life. This medical care is one of the paramount features of no-fault and it must be preserved for every Michigander.

“Michigan citizens are required to buy auto insurance, and yet we all know that there are thousands of uninsured drivers on the road because, based

on where they live and not on their driving record, their policy is simply unaffordable,” said Banks. “My bill would encourage insurance companies to participate in this plan and lower rates by also giving the company a tax credit for each household that signs up. This is the best kind of tax credit because it actually puts money back into the hands of consumers, in the form of lower rates, so that they have more to spend in their local shops and stores. This is a win for everyone.”

In addition to lower rates and a tax credit, this plan also addresses fraud and hospital reimbursements. The fraud authority would provide financial support to state or local prosecutors for programs designed to reduce the incidence of automobile insurance fraud. It would also include an independent entity to investigate the claims practices of insurers. The plan would limit the reimbursement rates to hospitals to no more than 80 percent of their charges, for a savings of as much as \$20 million, but that would not apply to independent practitioners or post-acute service providers outside of licensed hospital facilities.

“Our plan guarantees that the

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Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Telegram Newspaper.

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## Sleepout 2015

by Janine Folks By Janine Folks - Religion Columnist



This past weekend, I participated in a Sleepout to raise awareness for homelessness. My personal awareness was heightened tremendously. About 20 participants spent a Friday night outdoors, sleeping on the ground in boxes and sleeping bags.

Fortunately, it was a mild December night and the temperature was not extreme. There was no ice on the ground. No bitter cold. Sadly, most homeless people have to sleep outdoors in much worse conditions and they do not have options.

After we laid out our pallets, blankets, pillows and boxes, we prepared to slumber. It was very dark. I hoped no wildlife would show up! We actually had a good time talking. We bonded like it was a sleep over, marveling over God's favor, as He gave us abnormally mild weather in December. No one expected to enjoy sleeping outdoors, but nonetheless were felt blessed and excited. There was a sense of great expectancy in the atmosphere as we prepared to 'rough it'.

My prayer was for God to speak to our hearts as we fasted for a night from the comforts of a bed in a place we call home. A couple of hours before dawn, I began to hear noises. Raindrops were hitting my box and they started hitting faster and faster. It was raining!

We woke up, gathered up our things, sought shelter and slept under a roof on a hard floor until 6am. It was a rough night to say the least. I never appreciated my bed so much and the option to be indoors with access to heat.

During the Sleepout, I slept lightly, but it was not quality sleep. Sleep deprivation has to be an issue for the homeless. And body aches from sleeping on odd uncomfortable surfaces. And being concerned for their safety and trying to hold on to their personal items and few possessions. Rodents and

predators. Bathroom and grooming issues. Trying to find comfort in the uncomfortable. Knowing you could have to pack up all you possess in the world and relocate at a moment's notice. No stability. It's no surprise to me that mental illness is prevalent among the homeless. The things your mind go through in those streets is unfathomable. And I'm not even going to talk about if you have children with you or struggle with health issues.

There was a woman among us who had spent ten years homeless with her children. Her testimony blessed my life. The former Broadway performer/singer told me how God was with her the whole time, and how discernment kept her alive. She told me to always expect the best and that's what God will give me. She praised God and called Him her Provider. He gave her daily bread and she survived.


Janet Oyeboode, founder and Executive Director of Hope Alive Outreach Center, organized the Sleepout. She said the Sleepouts will be an annual event. In addition to giving others the opportunity to have this life-changing experience, it will help raise funds for the homeless shelter in Detroit, serve homeless families, children and adults through its housing programs and homeless prevention services. HAOC's aim is to help homeless families or families at risk of homelessness with a 'hand up', allowing them to reach self-sufficiency. For more information, go to: [www.hopealiveoc.org](http://www.hopealiveoc.org).

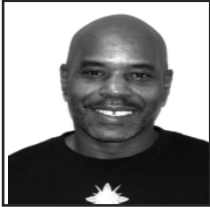
"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me" (Matthew 25:34-36).

We have to remember that what we do to the least of these, we do to our Lord.

I did not have to sleep outside. But I did. I did it by choice so that I could identify with what it might be like to literally live on the streets. It reminded me of what God did for us. God did not have to come to earth, but He chose to come to earth through the person, Jesus, so that He could identify with us and save us. Jesus' experience on earth provides salvation for us. I cannot save anyone, because I am not God. But my prayer is that through my obedience, sacrifice and identifying with the struggle, I hope I can at least help someone be set free from painful living situations.

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**Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church**  
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 Sunday Worship -11:00 AM  
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Class - 6:30 PM  
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 Office: 734.721.2557 Fax: 734.721.1383  
 Sunday Morning Worship Services 8am & 10am  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:30pm  
 Email: [gethsemane02.org](mailto:gethsemane02.org)

**Ecorse Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
 3834 10th St Ecorse, MI  
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**Morning Worship 10:30am**  
**Mid Week Bible Study**  
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 (Matthew 5:14)

**St. Marks Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**II Timothy 2:25**  
*Study to show thyself approved unto God;*

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 Mid-Morning Worship .....10:50 a.m.  
 First Sunday: Baptism & Communion Service.....10:30 a.m.  
 Mid-Week:  
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 Wednesday - Worship Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
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**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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**United Church of Faith Methodist**  
  
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 Romulus  
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**Bible Classes**  
 Tues & Wed-6:00 PM  
 Rev Mark R. Zockheem, Pastor  
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**Welcome Home!**



# Christ-mas

From Page 1A



through your actions. Here are simple ways to keep Christ the central focus of your life this Christmas season

1) Give God one very special gift just from you to him: Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. David said in 2 Samuel 24 that he would not offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing. Maybe your gift to God will be to forgive someone you've needed to forgive for a long time. You may discover that you've given a gift back to yourself.

Lewis B. Smedes wrote in his book, *Forgive and Forget*, "When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself."

Perhaps your gift will be to commit to spending time with God daily. Or maybe there is something God has asked you to give up. Make this your most important gift of the season.

2) Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story in

Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20:

Consider reading this account with your family and discussing it together.

- The Christmas Story
- More Christmas Bible Verses

3) Set up a Nativity scene in your home:

If you don't have a Nativity, here are ideas to help you make your own Nativity scene:

- Nativity Related Crafts

4) Plan a project of good will this Christmas:

A few years ago we "adopted" a single mom. My friend was barely making ends meet and didn't have money to buy gifts for her small child. Together with my husband's family we bought gifts for both of them and replaced her broken down washing machine the week of Christmas.

Do you have an elderly neighbor in need of home repairs or yard work? Find someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas.

- Top Christmas Charity Projects

5) Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital:

6) Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family:

Jesus taught us to serve by washing the disciples feet. He also taught us that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 (NIV) The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family is to demonstrate Christ-like love and service. You might consider giving a back rub to your spouse, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful and watch the blessings multiply.

7) Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning:

Before opening the gifts, take a few minutes to gather together as a family in prayer and devotions. Read a few Bible verses and discuss as a family the true meaning of Christmas.

- Christmas Bible Verses
- Christmas Prayers and Poems
- The Christmas Story
- Christmas Devotionals

8) Attend a Christmas church service together with your family:

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

## GIVING CIRCLE



Members of Pentecost Missionary Baptist Church sort out the brand new hats and gloves that the church was preparing to donate to the students at the Lincoln Center in Wyandotte for Christmas!



The team at the Lincoln Center giving students brand new hats and gloves for Christmas!

Staff and students were excited and appreciative about the gifts received. Every student was given a winter hat and a pair of gloves to stay warm this Christmas. Members of the staff said, "This is really awesome". Some students made thank you cards.

Rev. LaThomas Willis, Youth Pastor at Pentecost MBC stated, "God set the example of what this time of year is about..He gave to us, so we should give to others"

### COMMUNITY MEETINGS

#### National Action Network

Weekly meeting - 10:00am

6100 14th St

Detroit, MI 48208

JOIN US

For more information

Nandetroit@gmail.com

313-312-5287 or 313-492-6774

Western Wayne NAACP

General Membership Meeting

2nd Monday of each month - 7:00pm

Christian Faith Ministries

27500 Marquette Garden City, MI

Everyone is welcome

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# TELEGRAM COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

## ECORSE

### LIGHT UP ECORSE

The Ecorse Birthday Club wants the Community to Light Up Ecorse. We are sponsoring a contest for Home Owners, Businesses and Block Clubs to decorate for the Christmas season. Money prizes will be given out the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category. Registration application can be picked up from the Ethel Stevenson Senior Center, Ecorse City Hall, Ecorse Public Library and the Telegram Newspaper building. The registration deadline is December 16, 2015. For more information call (313) 382-3305 or (313) 381-1616.

City Council Meeting will be held Tuesday Dec. 22, 2015 at 7:30 at City Hall, located at 3869 W Jefferson Ave, Ecorse, MI 48229

Please join us International Gospel Center on Dec. 19, 2015 to watch Silent No More, a movie based on true events. Written by Pastor Marvin Miles, this film features Kym Whitley, Tiny Lister and K.D. Aubert.

The movie is for mature audiences ages 14 and older. Come out and learn how to be silent no more! Watch the trailer at [www.nutrendproductions.com](http://www.nutrendproductions.com) or [www.silentnomorethemovie.com](http://www.silentnomorethemovie.com). The film is also available on Amazon.com.

## LINCOLN PARK

City Council Meeting Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, 2nd Floor located at 1355 Southfield Road.

## ROMULUS

Star Wars Saturdays December 19, 2015 at noon, located on 11121 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174. Showing "Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back" & "Episode VI – Return of the Jedi" (both PG). All ages welcome. Do not leave children unattended.

Ready to Read Story Time! Every Wednesday until February 24, 2016 at 10:30 AM. We will be playing, reading, crafting, and snacking each and every week! Ages 0-4 are welcome to attend.

## TAYLOR

DRIVE-THROUGH Living Nativity December 18-20 Experience the real meaning of Christmas with actors and live animals at the drive-through Living Nativity at New Hope Assembly of God, 14000 Racho Road, just north of Southland Center. The nativity will be open from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

START SHOPPING and leave the kids with us!

Going shopping and need a place to drop the kids off? The Taylor Recreation Center offers an answer.

Santa's Elves will be at the TRC (22805 Goddard Road) on December 19 at 8:00 PM! Christmas-themed crafts, games, movies and snacks will be offered to your children while you shop.

SANTA'S MAGIC FOREST is open

Santa's Magic Forest will be open through December 22 in the Heritage Park Activities Building, 12111 Pardee Road. It will be open Fridays (5-8 p.m.)

Saturdays (1-8 p.m.) and Sundays (1-7 p.m.) every weekend (times change to 1-7 p.m. on December 21 and 22). Special hours during Reindeer Days at the Heritage Park Petting Farm are noon to 8 p.m..

WINTER SOCCER registration ends December 21

TSX Winter Soccer registration ends on December 21.

Various formats and age groups are available.

The season begins in January. For more, call (734) 374-8900 Ext. 2354 or email [gmatthews@ci.taylor.mi.us](mailto:gmatthews@ci.taylor.mi.us).

## WAYNE

New Year, New Job! Career Expo will feature recruiters from 50 companies for experienced candidates, interns, entry-level, and blue collar in various fields. The expo will take place on December 30, 2015 from 9AM-3PM at Embassy Suites Hotel located at 28100 Franklin Road, Southfield MI 48034. For more information, call 734-956-4550, ext. 1.

The schedule is as follows:  
10:00-10:15 AM – How to write the perfect resume & cover letter

10:15-10:30 AM – How to build interview preparation checklist  
2:00-2:15 PM – Effective job search techniques to get you hired

2:15 – 2:30 – How to connect with recruiters using twitter

Golden Hour Club Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday for a Potluck Luncheon/Business meeting. Membership is open to anyone 50 years and up. If you are not a member and would like to see what Golden Hour is all about, call 721-7460 or stop by on Thursday at 11:00 AM and be our guest.

Location : Recreation & Exercise Club, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne, MI 48184, United States

Business Empowerment Meeting Monday, December 21, 2015 from 6-7PM

Wayne Main Street's Business Empowerment meeting will discuss ongoing projects on revitalizing Downtown Wayne. Public is welcome!

Location: 35000 Sims St, Wayne MI 48184

## Bingo

Thursday, December 24, 2015 from 1:15-2:15. Open to public. \$50 jackpot. Building is a smoke free facility. Refreshments available for purchase. For more information call 734-721-7460. Located at the Recreation & Exercise Club, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne MI 48184

## WESTLAND

Christmas Caroling at the Senior Center on December 18, 2015 from 1-2PM. Located at the Friendship Center on 1119 Newburgh.

Join us for an old fashioned afternoon of caroling and celebrating the Christmas Season.

Christmas Refreshments provided. Sign up at the Friendship Center.

Friday Night Movie December 18, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Westland Public

Library located at 6123 Central City Pkwy.

The fun begins with a trivia contest and the film starts at 7 p.m. Showing the Tom Cruise film "Mission Impossible - Rogue Nation." Refreshments are available and this movie is rated PG-13.

Christmas Ice Exhibition December 20, 2015 from 10:00 A.M. - 11:20 A.M. Located at Mike Modano Ice Arena on 6210 Wildwood. Join the US Figure Skating Club for this annual Ice Exhibition.

Westland City Council Meeting will occur December 21, 2015 at 7 PM at the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall located on 36300 Warren Road.

This Westland City Council meets twice a month.

## WYANDOTTE

Wyandotte Business Association Third Friday

Friday, December 18, 2015 from 5:00-9:00pm throughout downtown Wyandotte. Many of the shops and restaurants in the downtown district stay open later than usual, offer giveaways, specials and discounts on these nights. In addition, there is musical entertainment and horse and carriage rides throughout the downtown district. For more information please visit [www.wyandottebiz.org](http://www.wyandottebiz.org).

Over \$2,000 in Gift Cards & Prizes to Win! For \$1 purchase a sheet of tickets & visit participating businesses to deposit your tickets in the prize baskets of your choice! There are no limit on how many sheets you can purchase!

Wyandotte Museums Open House

Friday, December 18, 2015 from 5:30-8:30 and Saturday, December 19, 2015 from noon-4:00PM. Join us for a special holiday celebration at the Ford-MacNichol Home. Step back in time with us as we recreate a turn-of-the-century Christmas with the custom and décor of days gone by. Free admission to the Museum during the event! Located at the Museum Campus on 2610 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte MI 48192.

City Council Meeting Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers located on 3200 Biddle Ave, Suite 300, Wyandotte MI 48192

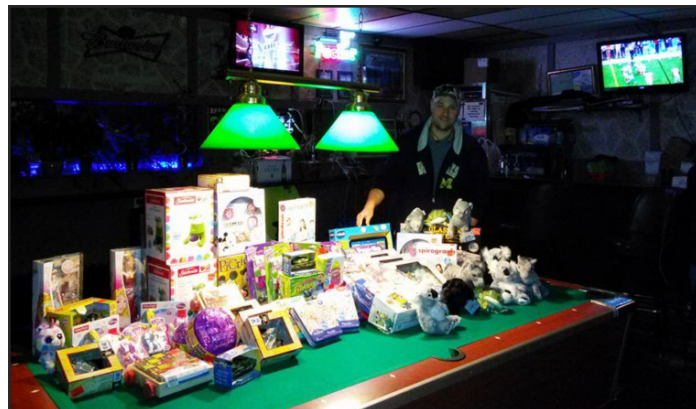
If you are having an event and would like to have it listed in our Community Events, please send information to [info@telegramnews.net](mailto:info@telegramnews.net)



## GIVING CIRCLE

### Small business owners bring holiday cheer to local children

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Reporter



Larry Caudill stands with some of the gifts purchased for Rouge children

On Friday, small businesses from River Rouge will hold a Christmas fundraiser at Mr. K's Bar and Grill, located at 142 E. Great Lakes Street. The initiative, No Kids Without a Christmas, will collect gifts for youth in need during the holiday season. Everyone from the community is welcome to attend for a \$5 cover, and will jam to the sounds of the city's own Don Doop and the Inside Outlaws during the six hour long benefit. Children's gifts or monetary donations are welcome, and will be presented to various Rouge children right before Christmas.

"On December 23rd, we'll have Santa and the community deliver these gifts to each of the kid's homes for Christmas," said Bridgette Bowdler, owner of Big Time Auto Sales.

The project started several years ago by Mr. K's owner, Larry Caudill, when he collected donations from several small businesses including DTE, Fritz Iron Works, U.S. Gypsum, McDonald's, Big Time Auto Sales, Fast Time Towing, Mr. K's, OJ's Marathon and Hi Side Services, Classic Printing, Ace Hardware, Michigan Screenprint, Rouge Bar and Grill, Mike's Electrical and Girrbach-Krasun Funeral Home. More than 50 children have been chosen to receive presents, though contributions from additional businesses would allow the initiative to touch even more families.

"Larry has been helping kids for a while now, but this year

we thought we'd try something different by contacting small businesses to get in on everything and invest in the community," said Bowdler. "We already have children selected from Ann Visger Elementary School, and others who we know need help from various parts of the city. We're now working on getting even more businesses to contribute so that we can assist additional kids this Christmas. We'll take as many as we can get."

This week, Caudill worked tirelessly to make this happen, securing contributions from several other companies, while also venturing store to store to purchase Christmas gifts for area youth. In the end, Caudill looks forward to touching lives as we enter the holiday season.

"I've done this for years on my own, but this time around, I wanted to give a little more to the kids. That's why we're reaching out for additional donations," he said. "I constantly see kids in my own city that really need help, and families simply trying to get by. I want to be able to give to children and families who really need help during the holidays. And not just one or two gifts like a football or a coloring book. This year, I want to provide a variety of gifts to lift their spirits."

"I really look forward to seeing the smiles on these kids' faces; that in itself brings the greatest amount of joy."

For additional questions, please call Mr. K's Bar and Grill at 313-849-3376.

## Zenith Lunch

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# SENIOR NEWS

## News from the Ethel Stevenson Senior Center of Ecorse

By Earleen McDaniel - Contributing Writer



The holiday season is upon us. The lights are going up on homes and businesses all over the city even city hall. The center's Birthday Club is once again sponsoring a contest for the best decorated home or business. Entry forms can be picked up at the Center. Dead line for signing up is December 22. The winners will receive cash prizes. Last year's winners were pleasingly surprised.

The Senior Citizen Christmas Party will be held at Ecorse High School on December 21. This free event is held annually and well attended. The doors open at 11:00am. The party will begin at 1:00pm. There will be food, entertainment, and gifts.

The Craft Class has been working on Christmas wreaths for the holiday season. They are doing some lovely work. There is still room for newcomers. You may not feel you have the skills but Mrs. King is a patient instructor. Come try it out.

It is now official. Beginning January 11, 2016, the exercise class will have two days, Mondays and Thursdays at

1:00pm. There is plans through the Kidney foundation to also provide Yoga and water aerobics also.

The trip to Frankenmuth was an exciting time of getting to know each other and having fun. Everyone had great time as they took off on their on to explore the shops and restaurants. More trips and events are being planned.

Don't forget the food distribution programs. Some require registering in advance but others just require your presence.

Come join us. There is something for everyone to do or information to make your life easier. The Center will provide transportation. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Center.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year from everyone at the senior center.

The Center is located at 4072 W. Jefferson in Ecorse. You can reach to Center at 313-382-3305.

# Taylor

From Page 1A

ance on June 30, 2014, which was \$389,350. Mayor Rick Sollars' administration, elected in November 2013, took over a negative unassigned fund balance of \$3,309,691 and the City was operating under a State of Michigan-mandated Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP). The DEP was lifted nearly two years ahead of schedule, thanks to last year's audit.

Mayor Sollars cautions against any overly optimistic view of the City's fiscal situation, and credits common-sense business practices and conservative financial measures for getting Taylor to this point. He also takes note that the current audit does not include the majority of the new business development taking place in the community. Business development is booming in Taylor, especially in the Eureka Road retail corridor, with huge investments by Southland Center and Menards leading the way.

"While we now have a small fund balance, we must continue to employ the practices that helped us get there," he said. "We cannot digress. There is a great future ahead for the City of Taylor."

Some of the factors that went into Taylor's financial turnaround include: Resolving labor contracts; negotiating modest wage increases; reducing longevity and minimum staffing provisions; and adding cost-sharing to retirement packages. The City has also been conservative in adding staff.

The financial audits of the City budget have improved dramatically over the past two years, thanks mainly to the work of Chief Financial Officer Jason Couture and his Budget & Finance staff. After registering eight material weaknesses in the 2013 audit process, those were narrowed to just one last year. "Our goal is to get to zero," Mayor Sollars said.

Additional offshoots of the City's improved financial picture have included a constant upgrading of Taylor's financial ratings by Fitch and Standard & Poor's, including bonds that were upgraded to investor status earlier this year (a key to development).

According to Plante Moran, the current unassigned is approximately 12 percent of the City's annual operating budget. The auditors and best practices state that an organization's unassigned fund balance should be somewhere between 15 and 30 percent on an annual basis. A reasonable fund balance for Taylor, according to Mayor Sollars, should be approximately \$6M.

Plante Moran, the 11th largest certified public accounting and business advisory firm in the United States, offering audit, accounting, tax and business advisory consulting services. The firm recommends that the City maintain a structural surplus and only use its fund balance for capital improvements or one-time expenditures.

# Christmas Gift Ideas

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional Christmas gift idea.

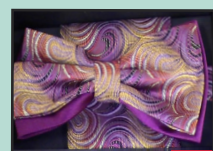


- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| BAKING       | MONEY          |
| BELT         | MOVIE          |
| BOOK         | MUSIC          |
| BRACELET     | NECKLACE       |
| CANDLES      | NECKTIE        |
| CANDY        | PANTS          |
| CHOCOLATES   | PENDANT        |
| CLOTHES      | PERFUME        |
| COFFEE MAKER | PLANT          |
| COFFEE MUG   | SCARF          |
| COLOGNE      | SHIRT          |
| COOKIES      | SLIPPERS       |
| DOLL         | SNEAKERS       |
| EARRINGS     | SOCKS          |
| ELECTRONICS  | STUFFED ANIMAL |
| FLOWERS      | SWEATER        |
| GAME         | TELEVISION     |
| GIFT BASKET  | TOOL SET       |
| GIFT CARD    | TOY            |
| HERBAL TEAS  | TREE ORNAMENT  |
| JEWELRY      | WATCH          |
|              | WINE           |

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# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Wayne County Executive Warren Evans (center) stops in for a return visit with the Romulus Ministerial Alliance during their monthly meeting. Evans gave an update on Wayne County and answered numerous questions from the local pastors and Romulus community members. The meeting was held at Pentecost Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Evans said he would return in the near future. His goal is to keep the lines of communication open.

## Chang

From Page 2A

My legislation will maintain this law which helps keep our neighborhoods safe, but create a "personal use" exemption for controlled substances.

### Letter to DPS Emergency Manager about the Need for Bilingual School Staff

Yesterday, Representative Fred Durhal III and I sent a letter to Darnell Earley, the Emergency Manager of Detroit Public Schools (DPS), urging the retention of bilingual clerical staff at six schools in our district. As DPS endures another round of cuts, it is important to ensure that children from limited English proficient families don't suffer from the loss of the clerical and support staff who translate necessary communication to parents about school events, transportation, homework, after-school activities, and scheduling. Parental involvement is critical to student success and Representative Durhal and I urged DPS to keep the needs of bilingual families in mind. I am also concerned about any potential civil rights violations. For more information, click here.

mately half of all Michigan voters, of all political affiliations, use straight-ticket voting. I am extremely concerned that getting rid of straight-ticket voting will increase lines and wait times at polls, making voting a burden on people who have to get to work or come home to care for family.

It has been an honor to serve you in 2015 and I am looking forward to continuing the work in 2016. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,  
State Representative  
Stephanie Chang  
6th House District

### Local Control Restored to River Rouge/ Bills to Reform to EM laws

This week the Michigan Department of Treasury announced that after performing well and making significant financial and budgetary reforms, local control is restored to the city of River Rouge. Congratulations to Mayor Bowdler, the city council and residents of River Rouge. In related news, in December I joined Representative Frank Liberati to introduce a pair of bills to reform Michigan's "Emergency Manger" law. My bill, HB 5100 would limit the role a former emergency manager would have as part of a Receivership Transition Advisory Board. I look forward to working on this common sense reform measure with my colleagues in 2016.

### Statement about Syrian Refugees

On November 16, I released a statement about my disappointment about the governor's call to halt Michigan's efforts to resettle Syrian refugees in Michigan. Michigan is supposed to be a welcoming state. Providing assistance to those fleeing crisis in their home country should be a priority if we are truly to be a pro-immigrant, pro-refugee state. Together with several partnering organizations, my office launched a "Standing Strong, Respecting Michigan" pledge to reaffirm our commitment to a welcoming Michigan and to stand against any attacks on or threats against individuals or places of worship because of their faith, refugee status, or ethnicity.

### Straight-Ticket Voting Elimination Bill

On Wednesday, I voted no on Senate Bill 13, which would eliminate straight ticket voting as an option in Michigan. Approx-

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**The joy Christmas brings...**

glows like the lights on a tree. It's like a beacon, shining so bright the entire family can feel it.

We sincerely hope you have a happy holiday season, filled with joy, from our family to yours.

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# Give Great Books to Kids this Holiday



(StatePoint) For a merry holiday season, fun new books make great gifts for kids. Don't know what's the latest and greatest in the world of kid's literature?

Here are four new titles to consider for the young book lovers in your life:

### A Classic, Retold

"Home Alone," which arrived in theaters 25 years ago, is one of the top grossing live-action comedies of all time. Now, illustrator Kim Smith has reimagined the John Hughes story as a classic Christmas fable. "Home Alone: The Classic Illustrated Storybook" comes complete with bumbling burglars, brilliant booby-traps, and a little boy named Kevin who's forced to fend for himself. Through a series of comic adventures, Kevin learns lessons about responsibility and the importance of family.

### Serial Adventure

Followers of the Miss Peregrine series will be excited to receive The Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children Boxed Set featuring all three novels in the series, including the newly released "Library of Souls: The Third Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children." This action-packed series includes

a special collector's envelope of 12 peculiar photographs, highlighting the most memorable moments of this extraordinary three-volume fantasy.

### Spooky Mystery

Meet Warren the 13th, of "Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye," a cursed 12-year-old Victorian bellhop who's terribly unlucky, yet perpetually optimistic, hard-working, and curious. Orphan Warren's pride and joy is his family's hotel, but he's been miserable ever since his evil Aunt Annaconda took over the management.

Annaconda believes a mysterious treasure is hidden somewhere on the grounds, and she'll do anything to find it. If Warren wants to preserve his family's legacy, he'll need to find the treasure first -- if the hotel's many strange guests don't beat him to it!

This middle-grade adventure features illustrations on every page and a lavish two-column Victorian design.

### True Tales for Athletes

Help make every goal, touchdown, and championship of all the greats come to life, from Babe Ruth (so incorrigible that his parents put him in reform school at age seven) to

Muhammad Ali (who learned to fight at age 12 after a thief stole his bicycle). "Kid Athletes" is packed with inspirational stories from the world of sports, sharing tales from the childhoods of famous athletes.

Billie Jean King rose from modest circumstances to win 39 Grand Slam championships; Wilma Rudolph triumphed over polio to become the fastest woman on earth; and martial arts legend Bruce Lee credited his success, in part, to childhood dance lessons.

Have lit lovers on your list? While a gift card to a book retailer is nice, you can put even more thought into the present with a new exciting title.

# Shop Local

From Page 1A

for faster sales and fewer transactional snafus. For instance, these terminals come equipped with a battery to protect memory data in the event of a power failure, and offer efficient store operations by eliminating common hardware problems experienced with PC based hardware.

Such information terminals are transforming retail management by offering small businesses a chance to better compete against their big box counterparts.

### Exclusive Items

Make a splash with one-of-

a-kind and unforgettable gifts this season. From the gift shop with handmade crafts made by neighborhood artisans to the bookshop selling the works of local authors, shopping at small businesses means encountering items on sale that you won't find elsewhere.

If you are shopping for someone who seemingly has everything, going local can help you get inspired.

Consider doing your holiday shopping a bit differently this year, by making a point of supporting small, local businesses.

**Let's be role models to the kids in the community**

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[www.silentnomorethemovie.com](http://www.silentnomorethemovie.com)

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# The Return of the River Rouge Basketball Legacy

By LaTasha Johnson - Contributing Writer



Coach Lamonta Stone and the 2015-16 River Rouge High School basketball team

River Rouge Basketball is the gold standard in the state of Michigan with 14 Championships. Coach LaMonta Stone is doing what he does best, preparing his team to for another championship chase. Coach Stone believes championships are what define the tradition of River Rouge basketball and this edition is starting the season with high rankings.

Currently ranked #18 in the Detroit News regardless of the class, and #2 in Class B according to Inside Prep Basketball, Coach Stone said he is developing a championship culture and ensuring his team understands that the mindset needed to become champi-

ons.

Coach Stone decided it was time to return home after 15 years of coaching college basketball. With a deeper understanding of the game and an even greater passion for helping young men develop, he coached the Boys Varsity to an 18-6 record and a District Championship.

Coach Stone said River Rouge School District is producing more than just athletes, we are producing scholar-athletes in all sports. The 2014-15 Panther Varsity Team had 5 seniors that have continued to play at the collegiate level: Jalen Gibson, University of Detroit Mercy;

LaMonta Stone II, Eastern Michigan University; Amir Poole, Sienna Heights University; Tracey Freeman, Northland Junior College; and Maurice Witherspoon, Iowa Tech.

With a young but talented team, Coach Stone returns Senior Javon Lawrence, along with juniors Darian Owens-White and Delantae Peterson from last year's team. The Panthers opened the season with a 44-42 win over Detroit Cass Tech and a 49-48 home opening win against The Jalen Rose Leadership Academy of Detroit.

LaMonta Stone is demanding and relentless in his pursuit of athletic and academic excellence. His ultimate goal beyond basketball championships is to ensure every student-athlete receives an academic or athletic scholarship to ensure they are able to become industry leaders in whatever they choose.

# The Party Over for the Lions This Year

By Butch Davis - Sports Reporter

The Detroit Lions must all come to grips with the fact their season will end when the regular season does. It was clear when Detroit lost its first five games that the Lions were questionable to make the playoffs, however only now is that a mathematical certainty. Detroit lost 21-14 at St. Louis this past weekend.

Lions Head Coach Jim Caldwell spoke to us, the media, this past Monday to answer questions. On why the offense struggled to get the ball down the field: "Obviously, those are difficult passes to complete consistently anyway. The percentages on those aren't very great. We just had a couple - There's a variety of different reasons. You got pressure, route running, accuracy, all of those things played a part." On if he feels like he's reached his coaching goals here: "I certainly still make that claim today. That's always our goal and aim and we did that last year. This year is a different year, we haven't done it. So we're working hard to get ourselves in position to do it and do it more consistently." On if the losses on the offensive and defensive lines hurt the team more than anticipated: "No. I don't ever look at anything that way. I think

that we have gentlemen and men that can play this game and our charge is to win. We don't look for any excuses or anything of that nature and that's what I would consider to be an excuse."

Eric Ebron should have more responsibility for these last three games, because tight end Brandon Pettigrew is out for the season after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament against the Rams. Coach Jim Caldwell confirmed the severity of Pettigrew's left knee injury this past Monday. Pettigrew will finish the season with a career-low seven catches.

The Detroit Lions return to ESPN's Monday Night Football for the second time this season to take on the New Orleans Saints in Week 15. The Lions travel to New Orleans following the loss at St. Louis in Week 14, while the Saints are coming off a 24-17 win over Tampa Bay. Monday's game marks the first time Detroit and New Orleans have ever met on MNF, as the Lions hold a 13-17-1 all-time record on the Monday Night stage. The two teams met last season (10/19/14) as Detroit claimed victory in a 24-23 thriller at Ford Field. New Orleans leads the all-time series with Detroit, 11-10-1.

## The MHSAA (Michigan High School Athlete Association) Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball season has begun.

Here is this week's girls and boys varsity basketball schedule for the Telegram News reading area below.

- Basketball (Girls)** 12/17,  
 4:00 PM Detroit Cass Tech at Detroit Cody  
 12/17 7:00 PM Lincoln Park at Dearborn Heights Annapolis  
 7:00 PM Dearborn Fordson at Dearborn Heights Crestwood  
 7:00 PM Garden City at Taylor Truman  
**12/18**  
 4:30 PM Romulus Summit Academy at Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy -  
 5:30 PM Southfield Christian at Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech  
 6:30 PM Melvindale at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist  
 6:45 PM Riverview at Dearborn Fordson  
**12/19**  
 9:00 AM Detroit Central Collegiate at River Rouge  
 2:15 PM Southfield at Dearborn Heights Robichaud  
 4:00 PM Trenton at Riverview Gabriel Richard

- Basketball (Boys)**  
**12/17,** 4:30 PM Hamtramck Frontier International at Dearborn Hts Star International  
 7:00 PM Flat Rock at Allen Park  
 7:00 PM Taylor Truman at Garden City  
 7:00 PM Dearborn Heights Annapolis at Riverview  
**12/18**  
 6:00 PM Romulus Summit Academy at Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy  
 7:30 PM Riverview Gabriel Richard at Allen Park Cabrini  
 7:30 PM Dearborn Heights Crestwood at Dearborn Divine Child  
 8:30 PM Melvindale at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist  
**12/19**  
 2:40 PM Melvindale Academy for Business & Tech at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep  
 4:20 PM Onsted at Riverview Gabriel Richard  
 8:00 PM River Rouge at Redford Union  
**12/20**  
 6:00 PM Detroit Western International at North Farmington  
 TBA Detroit Cass Tech at Orchard Lake St Mary's

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Reggie Hall

I Butch Davis dedicate my contributions in the Telegram News this week to the late and great Reggie Hall who educated me and many of my colleague's in broadcast journalism in Metro Detroit with a "No Fluff" way of generating the news to life while interning at WXYZ CHANNEL 7, 1998-99. Titan Reggie you will be missed.



# Minute to win it at STEM



Yesterday Evening; our families had "A Minute to Win It" at the River Rouge STEM Academy. We utilized everyday items such as spoons, pencils and ping pongs to create an engaging family night of fun. Our hallways were transformed into challenges and every contestant was given a minute to complete each task.

In a nutshell, it was a lot of good, old fashioned FUN!

When it comes to parent engagement, the research is clear: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels.

Thank you River Rouge Family for your ongoing support; your commitment to our vision and the time that you've invested in us, our students and our families!



Photos by Mr. B  
Fun and Technology come together to help kids learn



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## Governor Rick Snyder signs bill - Retired teachers can return to the classroom

LANSING-Teachers who have retired from the profession can return to work without sacrificing pension and health care benefits if they are teaching in a critical shortage area, under legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder.

"Retired educators are a valuable resource," Snyder said. "Having them back in the classroom will assist schools in filling critical shortage areas where their knowledge will greatly benefit today's students."

House Bill 4059, sponsored by state Rep. Holly Hughes, directs the state superintendent to publish a list of critical shortage disciplines and post the information on the Michigan Department of Education website. The bill reflects a state law that expired due to a sunset provision. It is now Public Act 219 of 2015.

The governor today also signed House Bill 4843, authored by state Rep. Al Pscholka, which creates a Good Samaritan exemption from criminal penalties for certain drug offenses for minors who present themselves or another person for medical assistance due to a prescription drug overdose. It reflects current law that is in place for minors who seek assistance for someone in danger of dying from alcohol intoxication. The bill was approved unanimously in both chambers and is now PA 220.

For more information on this and other legislation, please visit [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

## Former NFL Player participates at the Amistad Reading program

Special to the Telegram Newspaper



Former NFL Player, Rob Sims reads to kids in after school program

DETROIT - What happens when you put a NFL Veteran with 16 grade school children? They ask every question under the sun especially about football.

December 1st was a special day for the students of the Amistad Reading Program. The Amistad Reading Project is an afterschool program at SS Andrew & Benedict Church, most of the students come from New Paradigm College Prep. Academy on Beatrice Street in SW Detroit. Rob Sims a 9 year veteran of the NFL was the guest reader. Rob Sims was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks in 2006, playing there through 2009. Sims retired from the Lions in 2014 after six seasons in Detroit.

Sims, a fierce gridiron competitor is an equally fierce advocate for children. His love for children is why he came to SS Andrew and Benedict to read to the after school reading program and to encourage reading as a lifestyle. Sims read three stories and fielded various questions from seeing giants to his football salary.

Rob Sims is the chair of the Detroit Police Athletic League 1000 Kid Challenge. A program designed to raise \$250,000.00 for sports programs for youth in Detroit. Sims was accompanied by Sgt. Dennis Perkins of Detroit PAL, who helped to explain the purpose of PAL and the benefits of playing sports. With physical fitness, alert minds and working as a team; everybody wins!



Students pay attention and listen as the story is read to them

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**CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE**

CITY OF INKSTER  
In accordance with the City of Inkster City Charter Chapter 7, Sec. 7.9; an abstract of the proceedings of the December 7, 2015 Regular Council Meeting is hereby published.

APPROVED:  
Approval of the agenda.  
Approval of the Consent Agenda.  
Approval of a Special Conditions Use for a daycare facility.  
Approval to join SEMCOG and appoint member.  
Approval to apply for two 2016 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant.  
Table of three charter amendments to be placed on the March 8, 2015 Ballot.

Felicia Rutledge  
City Clerk

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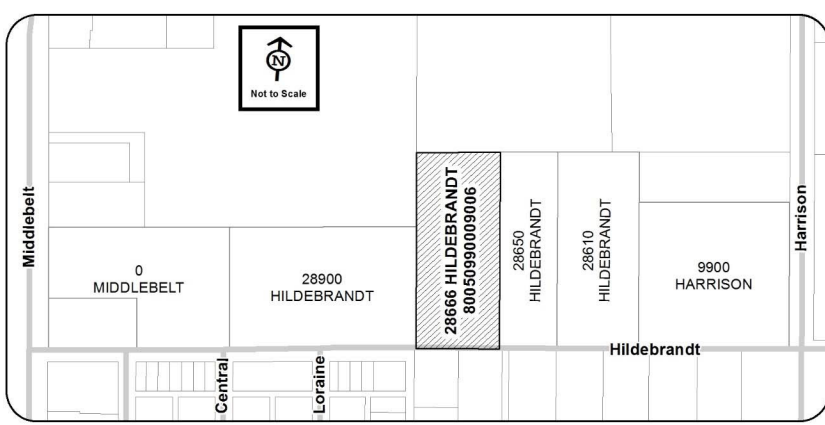
CITY OF ROMULUS  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
Charles Sabadash Jr. - 28666 Hildebrandt  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 for the purpose of considering a variance request for BZA-2015-024; Charles Sabadash Jr. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Board of Zoning Appeals has set the public hearing to consider the following variance:

1. **Side Yard Setback Variance.** A variance from Section 8.04(b)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance is requested to allow a 0-foot side yard setback for outdoor storage; a setback of 10 feet is required.

The subject property is located at 28666 Hildebrandt. DP#82-80-05099-0009-006



Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 6, 2016 and should be addressed to Carol Maise, City Planner, Planning Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

**Publish: December 17, 2015**

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# Inside|Out Display

From Page 1A



the fabulous collection here and bring it right to them – especially those who have never visited the museum before. We also love to do this because it gives us a chance to support arts and cultural programming already established within these particular communities. During the spring and summer, many cities hold outdoor concerts or art fairs, so they can add Inside|Out to provide pop up art from the DIA. It's a great tool for community engagement." Inside|Out will come to Ecorse in Spring 2016, while River Rouge participates that summer. Each community will receive 7 to 12 art reproductions for a total of three months, all of which derive from the DIA's original collection. Specifics on display locations or pieces granted to each city remain undetermined, though past replicas have included creations from various renowned artists – from Van Gogh to Monet. Nevertheless, Reese maintains that details will be released in the coming months. "We really leave it up to the community as to where they want to put the reproductions," she said. "We typically encourage them to place the art within walking and biking dis-

tance from each other because it's a great way to keep people active during the warm months. Some cities choose to place them further apart instead of clustering them together though; it's really up to each individual area." Inside|Out marks a continuing relationship established between the museum and the downriver area, capped off last summer by the introduction of DIA Away: Think Like An Artist – a mobile interactive trailer provided for kids throughout River Rouge. Last year, the gallery also sent buses to the city to transport residents back and forth to the museum. Next spring, the museum will additionally partner with the Ecorse Public Library to bring Inside|Out to the community. For Reese, Rouge and Ecorse stand as the perfect destinations for such an exciting program. "Last year, River Rouge applied for our program, but was unfortunately denied because we didn't have enough spots. We encouraged them to reapply, and we're glad they did," she said. "As you can see, we've had a relationship with this area for a while, so we're extremely happy to bring Inside|Out to both of these great cities."



# Memoirs of a Young Distracted Driver

By Xavier Jones – Telegram Intern



Xavier Jones showing what not to do behind the wheel

Driving a car seems to be every young persons' dream. Freedom to come and go when you please. A very surreal power that is often taken for granted. I remember a time when I sat in the passenger seat and being behind the wheel was a distant fantasy. A week after my seventeenth birthday I was awarded my drivers license. Half the day was spent at the Secretary of State Office. My next step was to trot down the hallways and classrooms of RRHS flashing my paper trophy. Ironically I walked home from school that day. My first official licensed drive was a five-minute drive up the street. Due to the fact I was a new driver without a car of my own many restrictions were set in place before I could get rolling. Rules applied in most cases. Only one passenger was allowed, no loud music, and having the car back home by a certain time. The world was my oyster, I envisioned myself

having access to go see any movie or basketball game I wanted to. These rules were in every way of my newfound freedom. Every rule was broken, sometimes I was caught but that was a rare occasion. The rules were set in place for my safety and to make me a safer, better, distracted free driver. In my early days on the road my comrades didn't bat an eyelash at my outlandish antics behind the wheel. Five years and thousands of miles of road under my belt I came to the realization that not all distractions were avoidable. Passengers in today's day and age are a lot safer. My friends help me to quickly tuck the distractions away. The problem is normally the usual suspect, my cell phone. Each factor made driving a different experience. Driving with a nervous mother didn't make matters better. My mother was never one to hide her concerns. If the driving was not to her standards her banshee like screams

of anxiety would make my ears ring. Causing an instant interruption. I can recall being the most distracted behind the wheel in situations like this. A cellphone was the lowest part of my problems. When I got my first car I knew that every single driving restriction had been lifted off my back. I begin riding with a maximum amount of five people in the car, it seemed as if I always had my crew ready for any shenanigans. My 2001 Ford Taurus was state to state at the strangest hours of the night. I participated in late night street races and handfuls of things my mother would not approve of. All in the name of a good time I led my passengers through a road roller coaster. Being twenty two the privilege of driving has lost the luster. Although I appreciate the freedom the overall responsibly gets tiresome. Sometimes I wish I could be the passenger again, it's a very underappreciated place to be. The distractions have evolved from when I was a new driver. Texting, eating, and communicating with people on and off the road are problems for me. I have never been involved in a serous accident due to distractions. My plan is to keep it that way. I'm very clear that I need to do better. It's almost 2016. Experienced drivers have adapted to the natural disturbances of the highway. It's time to get a grip on things to become safer more alert drivers.

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## We have to out smart the criminal to prevent being a victim

By Mike Moore - Ecorse Public Safety Director



Most often crimes are committed based on opportunity, and if you take some simple precautions this may limit the possibility that you may become the victim of a crime. These crimes could include fraud, theft, breaking and entering, scams and identity theft.

A big problem that seems to be everywhere are daytime burglaries into homes and nighttime thefts from cars. These events appear to happen in cycles and usually involves groups of people working together to target certain areas.

Although we have software to help identify trends and the individuals involved in these groups. There are many people whom are victimized by these intrusive criminals. In the City of Ecorse we have noticed a spike in burglaries and we are taking a proactive approach to apprehend the responsible party.

A vigilant citizen who sees something that just doesn't seem right and reports what they see to the police are usually the reasons these criminals get caught. These criminals usually want to avoid any physical confrontation and so they target the homes during the day and vehicles at night.

Another group of common crimes involve scams and identity theft. Everyday criminals target innocent citizens and steal their identity or rope them into a seemingly great deal. A simple rule of thumb that we need to pay attention to is: "if it seems too good to

be true, then it probably is".

These predators will try anything to make you either feel really bad for them with a very sad story, or will offer you what seems to be the deal of a lifetime. They will victimize anyone and make every effort to make their pitch seem as real as possible. Some of these scams include: paving and home improvement, giving you a check for a large sum of money and only asking for a portion of it back, email offers, and many more very believable stories or proposals.

One final area that we can try to limit vulnerability in is, identity theft. We live in the information technology era where our personal information is both electronically and physically tracked by stores, banks, and medical services. It's critical that you be vigilant in protecting yourself, your children, elderly relatives and others from these very heinous crimes.

## New Minimum Wage for Michigan Employees



Effective January 1, 2016, Michigan workers will see an increase in the minimum wage rate from \$8.15 to \$8.50. This new change to state law marks the second of a gradual 25 percent increase of the minimum wage resulting in \$9.25 per hour by 2018. New online resources are available at [www.michigan.gov/wage-hour](http://www.michigan.gov/wage-hour) to help workers and employers understand the facts as the new rate takes effect.

On May 27, 2014, the Workforce Opportunity Wage Act, Public Act 138 of 2014 (Act

138) took immediate effect, replacing the Michigan Minimum Wage and Overtime Act (Act 154). Act 138 is enforced by the Wage and Hour Program within the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA).

Act 138 applies to employers in Michigan that have two or more employees age 16 and older. A copy of Act 138, along with the required poster may be downloaded from the Wage and Hour Program website.

Dates of Minimum Wage Rate

### Increases

The current minimum wage is \$8.15. The rate increases as follows:

- January 1, 2016 - \$8.50
- January 1, 2017 - \$8.90
- January 1, 2018 - \$9.25

### Youth Training Wage

Act 138 allows an employer to pay a newly hired employee age 16 to 19 \$4.25 per hour for the first 90 days of employment.

### 85% Minimum Wage

Act 138 also allows an employer in Michigan to pay 85 percent of the minimum wage to employees aged 16 and 17; however, note that the current Federal Minimum Wage rate is \$7.25 per hour. Employers that are covered by both State and Federal Minimum Wage law should pay the higher applicable rate. Information on Federal Minimum Wage can be obtained by calling the United States Department of Labor at 866-487-9243.

## CRIME ALERTS

### RIVER ROUGE

DECEMBER 5TH, 2015

At 2109hrs, an officer was patrolling the area of Polk Street and Eaton when he observed a silver 2012 Ford Fusion heading east bound on Eaton Street. The officer had prior knowledge that the driver, a 24 year old male had two outstanding Felony Warrants for DRANO. He affected a Traffic Stop at Ethel & Eaton Street and asked the driver for his license and vehicle information. A check with LEIN showed the two warrants confirmed by MSP. The male also told the officer he is a medical Marijuana Card holder, and stated he has a lock box in the trunk with Marijuana in it. Officers inventoried the vehicle and found three cell phones and a lock box in the trunk. The male was placed under arrest and was placed in the patrol vehicle. The vehicle was impounded and the lock box and \$276.00 was tagged as evidence.

December 5th, 2015

At 1350hrs, officers were patrolling in the area of Maple and Richter Street when they observed a loud dispute and arguing on the corner. As officers approached the crowd five juveniles took off running down the alley to Pine from Maple. Officers apprehended three of them in front of a home in the 100 Block of Pine. One of the youths told the officer all of the youths were at his home in the 100 Block of Pine when they saw the fight on the corner. He states he and his friend began fighting a youth. Officer spoke to the other youth involved, two brothers, who stated they were confronted by five youths. And when one of the youth approached him he picked up a stick and told the suspects to back up or he would hit them with the stick. After striking one of the youths with the stick the five suspects began to punch one of the brothers. One of the youths was struck in the ear by one of the suspects.

December 9th, 2015

At 1014hrs, an officer took a Missing Person complaint in the police station lobby. A 37 year old female stated her uncle has been missing since March of this year. She states the issue is ownership over property in the 300 Block of Palmerston Street. She states her uncle did a Quit Claim Deed on the property that originally belongs to her father and she has been living there for the last two years. Now he is posting letters on the property stating he is the owner and whoever lives there will be evicted. She states she filed a PPO against her uncle but the court denied the order.

December 10th, 2015

At 1609hrs, an officer was dispatched to the police station lobby on an Assault & Battery complaint. A 15 year old female juvenile states she had an altercation with another female juvenile at River Rouge High School at 1600hrs. She states the two began to fight and the other female ended on top of her and began to "stomp" in the face. The 33 year old mother of the victim states the school was taking proper actions on their end but stated she wanted to file a complaint against the other female.

December 10th, 2015

At 1345hrs, an officer was dispatched to the police station lobby for a Domestic Violence complaint. The 18 year old female states she had a verbal argument with her boyfriend, a 28 year old male. The incident took place at her mother's home in the 1000 Block of Coolidge Street. She stated he accused her of having an attitude and they began to argue. She tried to use her phone but he refused to let her and started choking her, then struck her several times with a metal hammer. The officers took pictures of her injuries and forwarded this information to the detective's bureau.

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Joel Fluent Greene PRESENTS

Friday/January 1st/Doors open @ 5pm/Showtime 6:00pm-9:00pm  
The Wright Museum/315 E. Warren/Detroit/MI.  
\$10 General Admission  
\$7 Advance  
\$7 Museum Members (Door only)  
Free for children 12 and under  
Slam is open to ages 18 & up

The \$1000 Big Money Poetry Slam.  
A Special Edition of Mahogany @ The Museum  
12 Poets, Competing for \$1000 & a Performance Opportunity in NYC  
Hosted by Joel Fluent Greene

This will be THE BIGGEST POETRY SLAM OF THE YEAR!!!

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. Please note that although all poets are required to keep their material clean, there may be mature subject matter. Parental discretion is advised.

**FIRST PLACE**  
\$1,000 Cash/Performance with Kraal Charles Media in NYC/Paid featured performance @ an upcoming edition of Mahogany @ The Museum/Wright Museum Membership.

**SECOND PLACE**  
Gift Bag/Paid featured performance @ an upcoming edition of

Mahogany @ The Museum/Wright Museum Membership.

**THIRD PLACE**  
Gift Bag/Paid opening performance @ an upcoming edition of Mahogany @ The Museum/Wright Museum Membership.

**SLAM RULES:**  
12 poets.

\$20 registration fee.

**NO REFUNDS** (Show up!)  
3 rounds  
Must use original poems.

Poems must be clean. Mature content is allowed, but keep in mind this is an all ages event.

No time limit per poem.

No props allowed.

There will be 4 pre selected judges. Judges will remain a secret until event day.

Slam will be scored using the decimal system. Ex: 8.7

Highest score allowed is 10.

First round will include all 12 poets.

Second round will consist of the top 8 highest scoring poets from round one, eliminating the bottom 4.

Third round will consist of the top 3 highest scoring poets from round 2, eliminating the bottom 5.

All poets must arrive NO LATER than 5:30PM day of show. Late arrival = LOSING YOUR SPOT.

Slam starts at 6PM SHARP. Performers do not receive comp guests. All attendees that aren't competing must pay the required cover charge.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?  
E M A I L  
jfgpresents@gmail.com

**Kwanzaa Celebrations Every Day!**

Sat., Dec. 26 - Fri., Jan. 1 African American tradition of Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African culture and historic heritage. During this seven-day holiday, we will unite and celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa. There will be African drumming, dancing, poetry among other performances to celebrate each of the seven principles. These events are FREE and open to the public except for Friday, January 1, which has an admission price.

## ASK ALMA

### I think my cousin is stealing from me



Dear Alma,

I love my cousin dearly and we spend a lot of time together. She and I grew up together, we're close in age and we have a ton of stuff in common. We both love to travel and the outdoors, we go hiking, skiing and scuba diving. Here's the problem: I think she's stealing money from me. On occasions when we're traveling, I noticed money missing from my wallet. When out to dinner, after I leave I find some of my money is missing. A few times it was all my cash and on other occasions she left a one-dollar bill. At first I thought I was crazy, so the other night, I counted all my money before we met and after and yep, she got me. I'm not sure what to do. I don't want to stop seeing her and I don't know how to bring it up on conversation. I don't have enough nerve. We are gainfully employed and she sure doesn't need my money.

ally like you. Hmm, I wonder, could she really be that sad and lonely on the inside? Or is she just overspending and short when it comes to paying her bills? Nonetheless, her actions require consequences, because she is jeopardizing your relationship.

My hot-mess side says, dang, stealing from family is jacked up and she deserves a smack! While my highly favored and blessed side says, this is undoubtedly a devious cry for attention. The fact that you don't want to address her is a sure softhearted indication that you don't want to hurt her feelings. With that said, before you next excursion, I'd suggest that you stuff your dollars in your brassiere.

Family is family, and one things for sure, she doesn't like or respect you like long-time kin. Otherwise she wouldn't steal from you. Allow some time and grass to grow under your feet in between hook ups for outdoor adventures. This relationship is flighty, there's no debt or foundation. Sometimes what you want and what it is, are two different things. Forgiveness is fine, but don't lose sight that she's gone rogue.

— Alma

What's your advice?

— Crushed Cuzzin

Dear Crushed Cuzzin,

Aww sweetie, like your cuzzin in this moment, I seem to be conflicted, wondering if she's taking advantage because she needs help or just doesn't re-

Alma Gill's newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newsday and the Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Follow her on Facebook at "Ask Alma" and Twitter @al-maaskalma.



## NUMEROLOGY

### HOT PICKS

516	102	543
360	167	599
1234	3271	8765
6092	0943	0698

#### BIG MOMMA'S HITS

237	879
652	773
000	221

#### BIG RAY'S PICK 4

6129	9911
0748	2773
2188	6509

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## For Communities of Color, the Fight against Diabetes is Far from Over

Patricia Maryland - NNPA News Wire Guest Columnist



Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the rate of new cases of diabetes in the United States declined by about 20 percent from 2008 to 2014. This represents the first sustained decrease in diagnosis since the disease emerged as a major threat to public health over the course of the past two decades. But the fight is far from over, especially for communities of color.

While the CDC report is good news regarding an overall decline in diabetes rates, it did not acknowledge a significant change in prevalence among the African-American community, which continues to be far more vulnerable to the disease than other racial and ethnic groups.

Consider the data: Black adults are about twice as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as non-Hispanic White adults. They are also twice as likely to die from the disease. What's more, African-Americans are more than three times as likely to suffer from health complications related to diabetes, such as lower-limb amputation and kidney failure.

It's clear that the African-American

community is shouldering an unequal burden when it comes to diabetes treatment, prevention, research and education. And so the CDC's announcement—while welcome news—does not signal that the fight against the disease is over. There is more work to do to not only overcome the diabetes epidemic, but also eliminate the healthcare disparities that disproportionately plague our community.

To do that, we must redouble our efforts to create a culture of health in African-American communities—one that removes the stigma of seeking care and helps our neighbors and family members access the opportunities provided under the Affordable Care Act. Healthcare.gov is now available for the open enrollment period through January 31, 2016, and taking advantage of the options available today is the first step our community can take to reclaim Black health and wellness.

But coverage alone isn't enough to guarantee better health outcomes for African-Americans. Healthcare providers have a responsibility to deliver inclusive, quality care that considers the needs of the whole patient. That means providing patients with relevant, reliable information that empowers and engages them to make choices for a healthier life.

The truth is that all healthcare providers should strive to provide an environment where no one is excluded—where everyone has access to compassionate, personalized care and the opportunity for better health regardless of their struggles or

station in life. And that's the right model for all providers. Because we must get to know our patients on an individual, holistic level—not prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach—if we intend to truly improve their health outcomes.

Finally, our policymakers, civic leaders and all who have a stake in the health of our community must address the social determinants that influence and widen the diabetes equity gap. For years, we've known that diabetes can be prevented and managed with healthy lifestyle changes such as exercise and good nutrition. But it's difficult to go for a run around the block when you live in a high-crime neighborhood. It's challenging to find fresh fruits and vegetables when you live in a food desert. We must marshal our communities around the policies that affect our environment's ability to support a culture of health and wellness.

Diabetes has been—and will continue to be—a major public health issue in the U.S. We're making progress in the fight against the disease, but we need to do more to address the disparities felt by the African-American population. With a focused effort from members of the Black community, policymakers, civic leaders and healthcare providers to create a culture of health, deliver compassionate, personalized care and advance the policies that make healthy lifestyles viable, I am confident we can curb the diabetes epidemic for good, for everyone.

*Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for As-*

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