



FATHER'S DAY IS COMING!!!
GET READY

Volume 71 Number 45 www.telegramnews.net WEEK OF JUNE 11 - JUNE 17, 2015



TELEGRAM

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SERVING DETROIT AND THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY*

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Kicks-Off Its Annual National Convention and 75th Anniversary in Downtown Detroit



DETROIT -- Young people ages 16 – 25 are invited to participate in a day of inspiration, encouragement and empowerment during the NNPA National Youth Empowerment Day held

Youth Empowerment - Page 10A

Western Wayne NAACP and Westland Host Discussion on Proactive Approaches to City Policing and Community Interactions



Westland, MI -- Earlier today (Wednesday, March 10) the Western Wayne County NAACP with the City of Westland hosted a round table discussion called "All Lives Matter". Attendees included mayors, city managers, township supervisors, clergy and police chiefs from about 15 Western Wayne communities.

"We are here to be pro-active and discuss how we deal with our cities in Western Wayne. We are here to get to know one another," said Bishop Walter L Starghill Jr., president of Western Wayne County NAACP. "I

Lives Matter - Page 19A

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
Historic Prom King and Queen



The Queen, Zakiya Robinson, played for Woodhaven's Girls Varsity Basketball team the past two years. She has a 3.4 G.P.A and plans to attend Wayne State University to major in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Management.

The King, Robert Lee Oliver III, played two years of Woodhaven's Varsity Baseball and one year varsity Swim. He has a 3.3 G.P.A and plans to attend Siena Heights University, where he will continue to play baseball, with an undecided major.

River Rouge hosts 9th annual "Chalk on the Avenue" celebration
By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Reporter



Kids from Ann Visger School enjoy drawing in Memorial Park

RIVER ROUGE - For nearly a decade, River Rouge has hosted "Chalk on the Avenue" to encourage community engagement with local artists, while allowing children and residents to create their own unique pieces of art. This year's festivities took place on June 4th and 5th at Memorial Park, with a special feature provided by the Detroit Institute of Arts in the form of an

Chalk - Page 12A

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DEADLINE
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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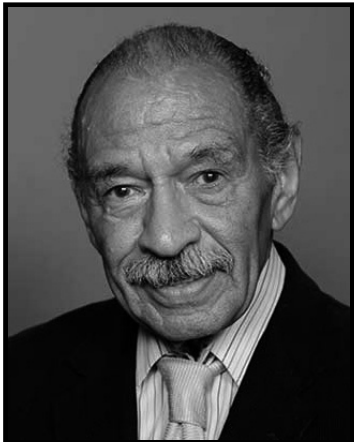


National Newspaper Publishers Association

Michigan Ethnic Media

NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

REP. CONYERS CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON
PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES
IN WAYNE COUNTY



DETROIT— Today, Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (MI-13) released the following statement urging a moratorium on property tax foreclosures and improved access to services for Detroiters facing today’s deadline:

“Today is the final day for anyone facing property tax foreclosure to get assistance. I urge any Detroiters who think they might be facing foreclosure by Wayne County to visit the Wayne County Treasurer’s office at 400 Monroe Street in Detroit, call 313-224-5990 or email at taxinfo@waynecounty.com. For more complex issues with property tax foreclosures, call the United Community Housing Coalition at 313-963-3310, or their emergency number at 313-405-7726. Today may be your last chance.”

“I remain gravely concerned over the fate of the tens of thou-

sands of Wayne County residents that could lose their homes to property tax foreclosure. While I greatly appreciate the hard work done by the Wayne County Treasurer’s office to keep people in their homes, including providing an extension, additional time is needed to protect our residents from being kicked out of their homes. Detroiters already suffered through a foreclosure crisis caused by the discriminatory lending policies and incompetence of our nation’s biggest lending institutions. We cannot tolerate another round of foreclosures and evictions – much less one carried out by our local government that has a duty to serve our citizens.”

“Despite the economic hardship faced by many Detroit families, too many Detroit homeowners are being obligated to pay taxes when they are eligible for a statutorily-mandated poverty exemption. Furthermore, the City of Detroit has not carried out its duty under Michigan’s Constitution (Art. IX, § 3.) to assess the actual value of properties on an annual basis. The failure of local authorities to fulfill these two legal requirements means that many homeowners owe inaccurate and unreasonable amounts in property taxes—in some cases, the owed taxes exceed the actual value of the home.”

“Finally, foreclosing on occupied homes actually hinders the goal of raising revenue. Selling these homes at auction only gathers a tiny fraction of the revenues owed in taxes, while the eviction of families from their homes increases blight, depresses surrounding property values, and destabilizes neighborhoods. For these reasons, I strongly urge Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz to immediately implement a moratorium on property tax foreclosures until there is an appropriate remedy for these families and our community.”

As of last month, 31,000 properties were facing property tax foreclosure in Wayne County, and about 9,000 of those properties are occupied, according to Wayne County Chief Deputy Treasurer David Szymanski. Detroit’s Loveland Technologies estimated that, of the 58,000 blighted properties in Detroit, 50,000 of them were impacted by tax foreclosure. An investigation by The Detroit News into area home sales and property value assessments found homes that were sold for under \$100 were valued by local authorities at nearly \$46,000.



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Time for Young People to Stop the Violence

By Julianne Malveaux - NNPA Columnist



I only recently embraced my status as an “elder.” Actually, I describe myself as an “episodic elder,” eager enough to take one of those lovely “senior” discounts when it serves my purpose, yet reluctant to turn in my party card. Elder status hit me upside the head, though, when a young woman told me she was “tired” of my generation preaching to hers.

I’m willing to stop preaching when young leaders step up. I applaud the Black Lives Matter movement, and am excited when those who are of not African descent join this movement. Still, I am waiting for the same young leaders to demand that their peers stop killing one another. I’m not embracing the right-wing hype about Black-on-Black crime, because they don’t address White-on-White crime. I’m not suggesting that the movement for police reform take a back seat to anything else (after all, we can have more than one movement at a time). I am suggesting, however, that young African Americans confront their peers and say “enough.” When “elders” say it, we are accused of preaching, but someone needs to say it.

What if the young people who abhor the killing of their friends and neighbors took shooters and their associates to task? What if they got up in their faces (in safe spaces, of course) and demanded to know why some of the young people who could contribute much to our community have now been massacred in the streets?

Some of those who lost their life were victims of mistaken identity, or trapped in the wrong place at the wrong time – some were little girls playing on their porches or sitting on Grandma’s lap. Some of them were simply walking home from school. Some of them were in the middle of simple misunderstandings and lost their lives because of an errant glare, a careless word. Some, like Charnice Milton, survived childhood on to go to her grave at 27.

Charnice was a talented, ambitious young reporter determined to tell the story of Southeast Washington, the part of the nation’s capital with the highest concentration of African Americans, the highest poverty rate and, more recently, the primary target of gentrification that pushes poor Black residents out of the homes in favor of young, affluent, White “urban pioneers.”

Her death was more than a faceless statistic – it was personal. Charnice was in my office fact-checking my most recent book for a few weeks, and she literally shimmered when she spoke of the stories she hoped to tell. She didn’t want to be the story, she wanted to tell the story of the least and the left out and of the people and organizations making a difference.

Charnice’s dreams of telling untold stories, along with her body, were tragically shattered when a depraved young man used her body as a human shield to protect him from a drive-by gunman.

Tears have been shed, hands have been wrung, and teddy bears and flowers have been left at the place where Charnice was slaughtered. A few days from now, someone else will be shot and the crying and handwringing will begin again. So far this year, 18 people have been killed in Ward 8 – almost one each week. The tears shed for Charnice are special tears for this amazing young woman, and yet they are the all-too-regular tears for lost life, for names that don’t quite make the news.

Some young leaders are quick to blame heartless police or and the right-wing obsession with crime – even while it is declining in some cities – but how many in Washington, D.C., in Baltimore (where 43 people were killed so far this year), in Harlem, in Third Ward or Fifth Ward Houston, in

Black Music Month - Inspiring words from musicians

On June 7, 1979, then President Jimmy Carter declared that June would be the month of black music. Black Music Month honors the past, present and future musicians and producers in the industry. To pay homage this month, we look at not the lyrics that have touched our lives, but the words artists have spoken.

“Tomorrow is always another day to make things right.” – Lauryn Hill

“Everything that happened to me as a child involved music. It was part of every day life, as automatic as breathing.” – Nina Simone

“I was born with music inside me. Music was one of my parts. Like my ribs, my kidneys, my liver, my heart. Like my blood. It was a force already within me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me — like food or water.” – Ray Charles

“The blues was bleeding the same blood as me.”- B.B. King

“Musicians don’t retire; they stop when there’s no more music in them.”- Louis Armstrong

“I think, as an artist, you have to have experienced some deep turmoil, some kind of pain, because that’s what connects you with the world. That’s what makes it juicy!”- Jill Scott

“Music does a lot of things for a lot of people. It’s transporting, for sure. It can take you right back, years back, to the very moment certain things happened in your life. It’s uplifting, it’s encouraging, it’s strengthening.”- Aretha Franklin

“Experience is a great teacher.”- John Legend

“Music is my life, it is a reflection of what I go through.” – Lenny Kravitz

“Jazz comes from our

way of life, and because it’s our national art form, it helps us to understand who we are.” –Wynton Marsalis

“Some of us get a feeling when we hear music and we feel music, and you want to figure out how to continue to feel that.”- Pharell

“Music, at its essence, is what gives us memories. And the longer a song has existed in our lives, the more memories we have of it.”- Stevie Wonder

“An artist must be like a sponge and absorb everything about life, use his senses to pick up and store experiences.”- Marvin Gaye

“Hopefully my music is medicine, some type of antidote for something or some kind of explanation or just to feel good.” – Erykah Badu

“The wise musicians are those who play what they can master.”- Duke Ellington

“You are only as beautiful as the many beautiful things you do for others without expectation.”- Janelle Monae

“Once a song’s out there, it’s no longer mine. And that’s the whole purpose of music: to belong to people.”- Sade Adu

“All I can tell you really is if you get to the point where someone is telling you that you are not great or not good enough, just follow your heart and don’t let anybody crush your dream.”- Patti LaBelle

“It doesn’t matter how you travel it, it’s the same road. It doesn’t get any easier when you get bigger, it gets harder. And it will kill you if you let it.” – James Brown

“If everything was perfect, you would never learn and you would never grow.”- Beyonce

“You can’t just sit there and wait for people to give you that golden dream. You’ve got to get out there and make it happen for yourself.”- Diana Ross

“My music will go on forever. Maybe it’s a fool say that, but when me know facts, me can say facts. My music will go on forever.”- Bob Marley

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Yvonne Hill: A Real Wonder Woman

By: Janine Folks



In the Bible, the book of James, in chapter 3, it talks about some small objects that make huge impact. Verse 3 it speaks of a small bit in a horses mouth that guides his every move. Verse 4 talks about a rudder, with is a small device that controls the direc-tion of a large ship. Similarly, in verse 5, we read how the human tongue, being small in size, boasts of great things and how a small flame can set a great forest on fire.

In life, we come across people who are small in stature, but have a humongous impact on the world. I was blessed to call her my personal friend. This mother of two lovely young adult children, blessed more people than she ever realized. Some nicknamed her 'Praise Leader,' because that's just what she was. She was an en-courager, an inspiration and she had the sweetest way of 'telling you like it is.'

I can't think of many others in this world who could correct me, check me and direct me like she did. I could not get mad or disagree, because I al-ways knew she was right and I knew she operated in the purest sweetest love and in-tegrity.

Speaking of her in past tense, feels so wrong. Her name is Yvonne Hill. I don't like saying that's who she 'was', because in my heart, she still 'is.' She departed this life on Saturday afternoon, June 6, 2015.

Yvonne overcame many ob-stacles and achieved great success in many areas. Sev-eral years ago, she coura-geously returned to Detroit to finish raising her two children. She reunited with family and friends and made a lot of brand new friends. She had a heart for abused women, so she

founded a ministry that she called, "Ladies of Faith." This group met monthly in her home where she poured into women and empowered them.

She had a love for God that bubbled over so tremendously, it could not be mistaken for anything else but love and adoration for her God. She wanted the world to know and she wanted everyone to expe-rience this amazing love she had found in her daddy, the Lord. As a result, Yvonne had recently been licensed as a minister by her Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Brown at Union Sec-ond Baptist Church. She also completed studies at the GMMW Institute for Women in Ministry.

Yvonne was never without and encouraging word or words of wisdom. From her, I learned a new meaning for friendship. Her generosity, supportive na-ture and commitment was amazing. Her kindness was angelic. Not only did I experi-ence it, but everyone she en-counterred and interacted with experienced it as well.

The City of River Rouge has lost a gem, but those who came in contact with Yvonne gained tremendous insight on what a selfless humanitarian is like. They are the rare ones. She was like a modern day Mother Theresa in her very own way. She made a differ-ence in the world that will con-tinue to be felt for eternity. She changed lives. She showed us God. She showed us love and wanted the best for everyone she new, especially her chil-dren, Tierra and Terrell, her pride and joy.

Please remember Tierra and Terrell when you pray. Also, re-member Yvonne's relative's and friends, and everyone she touched. I remember. I honor. I celebrate her life. She changed me and so many others for the better and I am eternally grate-ful. She is a blueprint for how to be a strong woman. Yvonne was small in size, but she was, no, she IS, larger than life!! She is a wonder. A true wonder woman. Truly, signs and won-ders followed her in life.

Show Dad He's Your Hero this Father's Day



(StatePoint) If Dad is your hero, Father's Day is the per-fect time to let him know. Luck-ily, there are plenty of fun ways to shine a light on Dad's valor - - from cool new gifts to hand-made creations.

Athletic Gear
Maybe it's been a month since Dad laced up his sneakers -- but you can change that.

Whether it's a new set of weights, a mountain bike repair kit, or reflective running ap-parel, you can help keep Dad in super hero shape while pro-moting his athletic interests.

Cool Tools
Adults view many everyday

tasks as mundane, parenting moments -- whether it's chang-ing a flat tire, pitching the tent on a camping trip, or checking for monsters under the bed. But to a child, these tasks can seem heroic, especially with the right tools. Give Dad the right accessories to perform these tasks with the ease of a hero.

Wearable headlamps are not only comfortable and compact, but they can also help dads complete projects that require two hands. A new range of water-resistant, drop-tested headlamps from Energizer fea-ture powerful LEDs, a patented digital focus, dimming technol-ogy, shatter-proof lenses and a handy pivoting function, giving users the ability to control the beam direction. The Energizer

Vision HD+ Focus, the most in-novative headlamp in the col-lection, allows for a beam of up to 80 meters. More information can be found at www.Energizer.com/fathersdaysavings.

Write a Story
Celebrate all of Dad's heroic accomplishments with a comic strip or short story. Whether your Super Dad fixed a flat tire in an emergency, helped you finish your science project at the 11th hour or turned a bor-ing day of errands into an ad-venture, you can show your appreciation by making him the protagonist of your own literary creation.

This Father's Day, go beyond the standard tie. With a bit of thoughtful creativity, you can let Dad know just how much he means to you.

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| Sabbath Worship Service (Saturday) | 11:00 a.m. |
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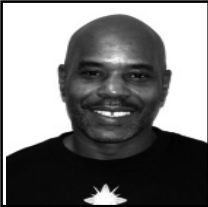
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THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH
(WHEN DID FREEDOM BEGIN?)



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or neither of these version could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. For whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was

statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee re-

lationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove the some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Visit one of the Churches listed in the Directory. They are waiting for you

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Church School at Study9:30 a.m.

Mid-Morning Worship10:50 a.m.

First Sunday: Baptism & Communion Service.....10:30 a.m.

Mid-Week:

Tuesdays- Bible Class9:00a.m. & 6:00p.m.

Wednesday - Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

CORPORATE PRAYER

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"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light into my path."

- Psalms 119:105

ALL ARE WELCOME

LIBRARY NEWS

ECORSE LIBRARY

brary is located at 4184 W. Jefferson Avenue.

EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

2015 SUMMER READING PROGRAM THEME

Readers of all ages will explore all things underground this summer as the Ecorse Public Library presents "Every Hero Has a Story" during their summer library program. Activities will include weekly programs including Insect Adventures, Super Man Ice Cream Party, Mighty Masks and a pizza party.

The 2015 Summer Reading Program is open to kids of all ages and will include weekly prize drawings, a reading club and more. Registration for "Every Hero Has a Story" begins on June 1, 2015. For more information, call the library at 313 389-2030 or visit our website at <https://ecorsepubliclibrary.wordpress.com>.

All programs are free of charge. The Ecorse Public Li-

ROMULUS LIBRARY

Romulus Public Library Presents a series of Programs Scheduled in June

Second Monday Book Club will be reading Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

Library staff can assist you in getting a copy of the book. For ages 18 & up.

Light refreshments are served Monday June 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Escape the Ordinary and sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Program. Registration begins Monday June 8, 2015 at 10 a.m. Stop by the library at your convenience and fill out a registration card and receive a folder of information concerning the program.

"Eating Healthy on a Budget" Come join Chef Jake Williams as he makes a meal right before your very eyes, demonstrating how easy it can be to eat healthy on a budget. Don't take my word for it. Come taste for yourself!

Monday June 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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BY

KATHY COVERT WARNES

AUTHOR AND NATIVE HISTORIAN

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Jennifer Williams Sworn in as the First Woman Police Chief of Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA)



DETROIT – Detroit native Jennifer Williams was sworn in today as the first woman Airport Police Chief at a ceremony held at the new Public Safety Headquarters. Chief Williams replaces the recently retired Chief Edward Glomb to lead the police force that provides law enforcement at both Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP).

“I am confident that newly appointed Chief Williams will maintain or exceed the level of excellence displayed by our Airport Police Department,” said CEO Tom Naughton. “Retaining a challenging accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for the last seven years is remarkable, and I expect that level of

service to the community to continue with the leadership of Chief Williams.”

Chief Williams is a 28 year veteran of law enforcement. She began her career with the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department in 1986 and has been with the Airport Police for 17 years, serving as Deputy Chief for the last nine years. Williams is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command. Chief Williams is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives and is a mother of two with five grandchildren.

“Being promoted to chief, I am honored to earn the opportunity to help and protect travelers and employees at both of

our airports,” said Williams. “We have a great team here, and I look forward to continuing to provide an exceptional level of safety and customer service to the airport community.”

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2014 and is one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan’s largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from nearly 150 non-stop destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by Wayne County Airport Authority, which also operates nearby Willow Run Airport—an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations. Visit www.metroairport.com for more information.

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Representative Julie Plawecki

By Shelby Jefferson – Telegram Staff Reporter



Representative Plawecki reads to children for Reading Month in March

The “Getting to know our elected officials” feature is designed to provide access into the minds of local public figures. This week we chatted with State Representative Julie Plawecki about her decision to go into public service, legislative bills currently in the works, the most rewarding aspects of serving as a politician, favorite pastimes/hobbies and much more.

1. When you were growing up, did know that you wanted to go into public service?

Well, sort of. I grew up the third of seven children, and we were always taught to look out for our other siblings. From that, I always knew that I wanted to do something to help people. When I first started my career, I worked as a medical technologist, but later went back to school for a teaching certificate to teach 6th-8th grade. That was an awesome job, but I needed a change. I had been thinking about running for state representative, but wanted to wait until my kids were old enough. An opening came up when all three of them were in college, so I said it's time to run. I can't say that I always knew I would run for public office, but I did know that I wanted to do something where I could constantly help people.

2. Where did you go to high school? College?

I grew up in Warren, so I went to Mott High School, which is now Warren High School. I got my bachelor of science in medical technology from Oakland University, and my teaching certificate from the University of Michigan Dearborn.

3. What do you enjoy most about your position? I enjoy meeting constituents when I'm out and about in the district, and others like stakeholders and special interest groups in Lansing. Everyone has a different story to tell, and I love to hear them. I also like when people keep in touch with me via email, or send me

invitations to their events. My office is always open, so they can contact me whenever they need something.

4. Can you recall a specific experience where you were really able to reach someone?

There was a constituent dealing with a hospital issue, and every time he tried to get the problem solved he hit a wall. I met with him at one of my coffee hours, and later related his concerns to my constituent relations staffer. They made two phone calls and everything was solved. The next time I saw him he was very grateful, so sometimes all it takes is a phone call to a state rep, or someone else with a connection to make what seems like a huge problem easy to solve.

5. Are you currently working on any specific legislation in Lansing?

I'm working on a motorcycle endorsement bill. There's a group called ABATE that's all about motorcycle safety, amongst many other issues. Just for real background, when you drive a motorcycle you're supposed to have an endorsement on your license, and if you get pulled over without one you receive a \$100 fee. ABATE wants to increase that fine to encourage people to take a class for motorcycle safety. I also have a pigeon bill in the works for a constituent dealing

with a pigeon issue in the yard next door. Their city doesn't have legislation in place that allows them to regulate it.

6. What do you see as the biggest problems facing the 11th District today?

I would say that one of the big issues involves schools dealing with declining enrollment. A lot of students are choosing to go to charter schools, resulting in decreasing funds for public districts who are now left with deficits they're struggling to get out of. In just about every city, jobs and poverty also remain a huge concern. Many people are out there seeking employment that they can actually live on.

7. What values should elected officials/city employees bring to the table in order to effectively serve residents?

First and foremost, they need to have compassion and empathy in order to put themselves in their constituent's shoes. Obviously integrity is another necessary quality, and I'm finding out that perseverance is also very important. I went into this not knowing how long it takes to get bills passed, and one day someone told me, 'Plan on spending about four years trying to get this done'. In this job, you definitely can't give up. You must additionally possess a good sense of humor to laugh at yourself when you make mistakes.

8. What is your family status? What hobbies/interests do you engage in during your leisure time?

I've been married to my husband Mark for 26 years, and we have three daughters. The oldest just graduated from Yale Graduate School, and our two younger ones attend the University of Michigan. In my free time, I try to get out and play tennis (I played high school, though not very well). I also like to read both fiction and nonfiction books, and I love spending time with my family.



State Representative Julie Plawecki

ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THE AREA

Find the last name of local State Senators and State Representatives



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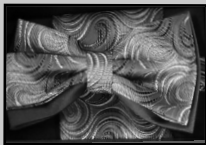
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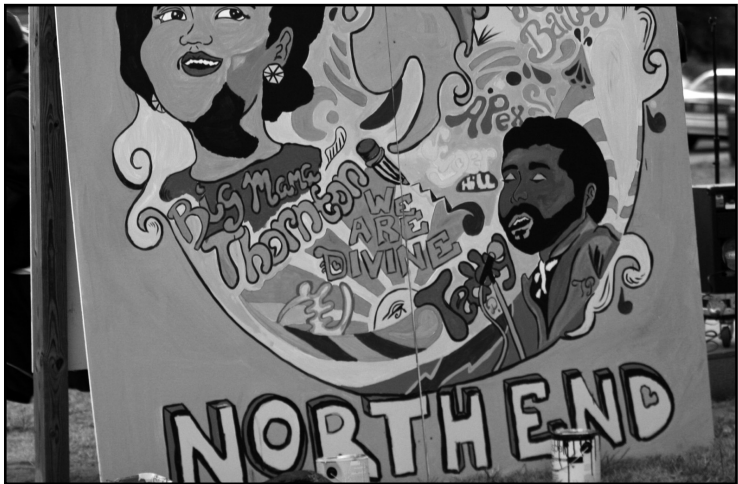


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Detroit's North End Art, Music to Oakland Avenue

By : Steve Furay - Contributing Writer



Detroit's North End Art, Music to Oakland Avenue

'A Summer of Color' has been declared by a network of artists and activists in Detroit, and the city can look forward to a new murals, art exhibits, concerts, workshops and more along historic Oakland Avenue in Detroit's North End.

The Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition is a community organization in Detroit's North End district that has been taking a unique initiative towards revitalizing an area plagued by blight and poverty, working to transform the blocks into a network of artist initiatives and community organizing programs. They have now announced this summer's

programming, filled with family fun, art and healing for residents and guests from throughout the city.

On Saturday, June 13, 'The Abstract Oracle Exhibit' will celebrate its opening, featuring the art of Dr. Makeeba Ellington, Traci Ricks and Androme West, with the exhibit running until July 1 at The Bureau of Emergent Urbanity, located at 8326 Oakland. The opening party, sponsored by the O.N.E. Mile Project begins at 2pm, and art will be available for sale.

On Tuesday, June 16, the Afro-Pop band Kina Zore from Boston will perform a free outdoor concert from 5:30-8pm at the Oakland Avenue Garden & Greenhouse, 9354 Oakland.

North End Art - Page - 10A

ASK ALMA

Before you what ~ know your why?



Dear Alma,

I've been married for over 10 years and I'm very happy with my husband and two kids. My husband is very kind to me. My kids are very well behaved and we have a good life. Before I got married I was in love with a man who said he would never get married and he didn't want any kids. I always hoped that he didn't mean that and would marry me but he never did. After more than a year and a half, we broke it off and I met my husband and got married. After I got married I would see him from time to time and he stayed in touch with my brother. When he and my brother would go out, he would always ask about me to see how I was doing. Recently my brother told me that he said he should have married me. I know you're gonna think I'm crazy but I can't stop thinking about him. I think we need to have a conversation because I have so much I want to say to him. I am trying to figure out my best option. I could email him or reach out on Facebook. I was thinking I could ask him to meet me. How should I contact him in a way that's the most respectful?

Excuse me, did you say respectful? What exactly is respectful about a married woman trying to reconnect with an ex? Because that's basically all you're trying to do. You wanna know how I know – cause I thought the same thing. And when I did, I asked my BFF Neasy about it. Yep, I wanted to contact my old “here he comes, I can't breathe” high school crush named Poopie.

Girl, it was a crush like no other, LOL. Like you, I was happily married, life was good, and all I wanted to do is let him know just how much I truly loved him. I did my best explaining and exasperating my heart and soul to Neasy and you know what she asked me: Why? Yep, just that simple. So now I'm asking you. Why? What if he misunderstands your actions? Is it worth your marriage, the love of your husband, the happiness of your children? If he wanted to marry you, he would have. Ain't no truth in shoudda, cudda, wudda. Stop romanticizing over what you wish could have happen and live in what is happening. What is happening is that you have a loving husband and father to your children. If circumstances were the other way around and your husband wanted to have a conversation with an ex, girl pleez, we wouldn't even be having this conversation. You'd be accusing him of all kinds of disrespect! Turn your twinkle toes towards what's real and watch the video, live version of Whitney Houston, “All the Man I Need” and fall back in fabulous love with your husband. My favorite is the one with her in a beautiful red gown, Kirk Whalum's on the sax. It's the concert she did for our troops. Girl, rewind it two or three times if you need to. All the romance and attention you're looking for is already living inside your home. You just need to breathe new life into it. Let that other man go, that conversation and action of sharing words, just isn't worth the risk of losing your happy home. I never contacted Poopie and I'm perfectly fine with that decision. Give it some time and you will be, too. If not, go find a BFF you can confide in, who'll keep you on track named Neasy!

Alma -

Alma - NNPA Columnist
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.

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Poets and Musicians to raise funds for NOAH Project Detroit

By: Steve Furay



Networking, Organizing, and Advocating for the Homeless

If everyone pitched in just a little, homelessness and poverty could be a problem of the past. That is the spirit of Detroit Artists vs. Homelessness, a benefit performance for aiding the NOAH Project Detroit, coming to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History on Friday, June 12.

Detroit Artists vs. Homelessness will begin at 8pm and entry is free, with donations for the NOAH Project Detroit being accepted all evening. The performances will be a mix of poetry and music, including guests Thornetta Davis, Chace 'Mic Write' Morris, Angela Davis, Jeff Nelson, Amy Brown, Al Bettis and more. The evening is hosted by LaShaun phoenix Moore.

The NOAH (Networking, Or-

North End Art From Page 10A

The show is sponsored by the Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition and North End Christian CDC, and local performers will also be present as openers.

On Friday, June 26 from 6-8pm, the new art show 'I'm On Deck: Longboard Exhibit' sponsored by Cr8ive Minds will feature the work of artist Jasmine Harris and her custom longboards and skateboards. The event takes place at The Garage, 7615 Oakland, and the evening will feature drumming and dance.

On August 22, the third annual North End Urban Expressions Art Festival: The Healing will take place as an all day affair, featuring live music and poetry, live art creation, vendors and workshops.

The Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition has been sponsored by several supporting grants, including the work of Community + Public Arts Detroit (C+PAD), an initiative of the Center for Creative Studies. For more information about the Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition, including more events throughout the summer, visit www.oaacadetroit.org.

Youth Empowerment

From Page 1A

at the Wayne County Community College District – Downtown Campus on June 16, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Speakers and topics for the day include:

DR. JOSEPH KIMBROUGH, LEADERSHIP EXPERT
SHEILA P. COATES, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, BYOB – BE YOUR OWN BRAND
GAIL PERRY-MASON, FINANCIAL COACH, AUTHOR, AND SENIOR DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS, OPPENHEIMER & CO., INC.
DR. EDDIE CONNOR, AUTHOR - INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, LIVE, LOVE & HEAL – EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND WALK IN THEIR UNIQUE PURPOSE
KAMILIA LANDRUM, PROGRAM & MEMBERSHIP SERVICES DIRECTOR, DETROIT BRANCH NAACP

A special session will be conducted by the B.A.L.L. Foundation that addresses bridging the gap between youth and law enforcement. The day will conclude with a performance by Detroit's own Malaya Watson, American Idol Finalist.

"The goal of this event is to en-

courage our youth to feel empowered in various areas of their life...career, finances, relationships, in their community, and politically," said Dr. Ben Chavis, CEO, National Newspaper Publisher Association.

Admission is free and complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided, Attendees will receive a souvenir event bag and the opportunity to win great door prizes. Pre-registration is required.

Attendees can pre-register at <http://nnpanationalempowermentday.eventbrite.com>

About NNPA
NNPA is a trade association of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. Since its founding 75 years ago, NNPA has consistently been the voice of the black community and an incubator for news that makes history and impacts our country. As the largest and most influential Black-owned media resource in America, NNPA delivers news, information, and commentary to over 20 million people each week. Americans from all backgrounds seek news from the Black perspective from the NNPA member newspapers around the country. In America, now among the most diverse countries in the world, the Black Press of America is more relevant than ever. For additional information visit www.nnpa.org.

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Comerica Bank Coffee and Jazz Coffee House Series
Featuring the Marvin Jones Trio
When: June 16th at 6:00 PM
Where: Detroit Public Library
Cost: FREE

Big Show @ the Joe: **Lil' Wayne, Trey Songz, Yo Gotti, August Alsina, Omarion, Trick Trick**
When: June 19th at 7:30 PM

Where: Joe Louis Arena
Cost: \$125, \$65, \$55, \$45, \$35, \$20

Floetry and Estelle
When: June 20th at 8:00 PM
Where: Chene Park
Cost: \$75.00, \$62.00, \$48.00, \$32.00
Jodeci and Jon B.
When: June 27th
Where: Chene Park
Cost: \$100.00, \$66.00, \$56.00, \$46.00, \$36.00

The Luther Vandross Experience
When: June 27th at 8:00 PM
Where: Berts Entertainment Complex, 2727 Russell Street, Detroit.
Cost: \$15.00

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Free Fishing Weekend offers fun events across the state June 13-14



This coming weekend (Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14), everyone in Michigan – including residents and nonresidents – can fish without a license, but all other fishing regulations still apply.

Those two days make up the Summer Free Fishing Weekend – the Department of Natural Resources’ annual effort to promote Michigan’s world-class fishing opportunities. While many individuals and families will head out to fish for free on their own, there are many organized events scheduled throughout the state to celebrate the weekend, too.

There are many more Free Fishing Weekend events scheduled in various locations throughout the state in more than 25 Michigan counties. For

more information about the 2015 Summer Free Fishing Weekend please visit michigan.gov/freefishing.

Michigan has celebrated the Summer Free Fishing Weekend annually since 1986. With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, Michigan and fishing are a perfect match. Folks heading out this weekend are encouraged to share their photos with the DNR on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Just use #FreeFishing.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Learn the history of Ecorse Township

(The Cities of Ecorse, River Rouge, Lincoln Park, Wyandotte and Detroit)

THE DOWNRIVER DELTA CDC INVITES YOU TO A BOOK SIGNING AND PRESENTATION

BY KATHY COVERT WARNES

AUTHOR AND NATIVE HISTORIAN

THURS., JUNE 11 2:00pm TO 3:30pm ECORSE SENIOR CENTER 4072 W. JEFFERSON (1/2 mile off Outer Dr.) Ecorse, MI 48229 Light refreshments will be served

Did you know that Ecorse Township comprised of the cities of River Rouge, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Ecorse and part of the Detroit area.

Come to the event and find out more information about the history of the Downriver community.

Chalk

From Page 1A



Interactive 53’ Trailer stationed at Ann Visger Elementary School.

Each year, “Chalk on the Avenue” is presented by Commissioner Patty Campbell, who established the event nine years ago. Last week, Ann Visger students had a blast creating their own chalk inspired drawings on area sidewalks, while also receiving an opportunity to jump aboard the DIA’s “Think like an Artist” exhibit—a mobile, interactive classroom that provides an educational, hands on experience through the exploration of arts and science related activities.

“A lot of people have no idea about the DIA’s traveling art programs,” Campbell said. “They bring replicas of famous art pieces to different locations, though I was unable to get that for “Chalk on the Avenue” last year. I eventually formed a collaboration with the museum, and they brought a traveling exhibit that would stay in the neighborhood overnight. Everyone was welcome to come and explore the display, so we saw a lot of community members, parents and students throughout the entire event.”

Though the DIA exhibit stood as one of the main attractions for local children, this year’s “Chalk on the Avenue” was also made possible through a

partnership with the local police department and River Rouge Public Schools. High school students were on site filming their own documentary chronicling the ins and outs of the annual festivities, with youngsters Makeila Black, Diamond Hendricks and Ronnie James slated to present footage to the DIA at the end of the movie’s production.

“We’re involved with a lot in the River Rouge High School Performing Arts Department, so we were personally chosen to do this as part of a class,” James said. “It’s be a lot of fun for us to be able to film out here.”

For Campbell, these types of additions only serve as the beginning of what the city will be offering over the next several months.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg; we have so much going on relating to the performing arts,” she said. “There’s a lawyer coming in who only deals with artists, so he’ll be teaching them how to write up different contracts, and we have a collaboration in the works for National Fire Month where we’ll be shooting a video called “Stop, Drop and Roll”. All of these factors signify a growing community in the City of River Rouge. We’re very excited about that.”

“HOW IS DTE BRIGHTENING THE STREETS OF RIVER ROUGE?”

Thanks to a FDCVT grant from the State of Michigan, DTE Energy and the city of River Rouge are working together to upgrade the public lighting system. Changing over to LED lights will be a welcome improvement, providing savings and more reliable, efficient lighting for the city’s residents.

The upgrade project has begun and will continue until late July. During construction, electric service to homes and businesses will not be affected.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact our Community Lighting organization at 800.548.4655. Or contact your municipality and address your questions.



Tigers Selected Burrows in Player Draft

By Butch Davis



Beau Burrows, Detroit Tigers first pick (22nd overall) in the 2015 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

The Detroit Tigers this past Monday selected right-handed pitcher Beau Burrows from Weatherford High School in Weatherford, Texas with their first pick (22nd overall) in the 2015 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. Burrows posted a 0.78 ERA and 132 strikeouts in 72.0 innings as a senior at Weatherford High School. Burrows were selected to play in the 2014 Under Armour All-American Game at Wrigley Field and were named a 2015 Preseason High School All-American by Baseball America. "The Tigers organization is excited to select Beau Burrows this evening," Tigers Vice President, Amateur Scouting and Special Assistant to the General Manager, David Chadd, said. "He features a mid to upper 90s fastball with a plus breaking ball. We're very excited to have the opportunity to add him to our organization."

The 6-2, 200 pound right-handed pitcher was rated by MLB.com as the 12th-best right-handed pitching prospect available in this year's draft and the 30th-best prospect overall.

In the meanwhile, the Tigers stopped an eight game losing streak by beating the Chicago White Sox this past weekend. Miguel Cabrera's two-run home run in the fifth inning snapped the Tigers out of their slump. They went on to score five runs that inning, routing the White Sox 7-1 on Saturday. David Price struck out 11 in a five-hitter as the four-time AL Central champion Tigers stopped their worst skid since 2005 and avoided falling below .500 for the first time this year. J.D. Martinez and Yoenis Cespedes homered in the sixth inning to power the Tigers past the Chicago White Sox 6-4 on

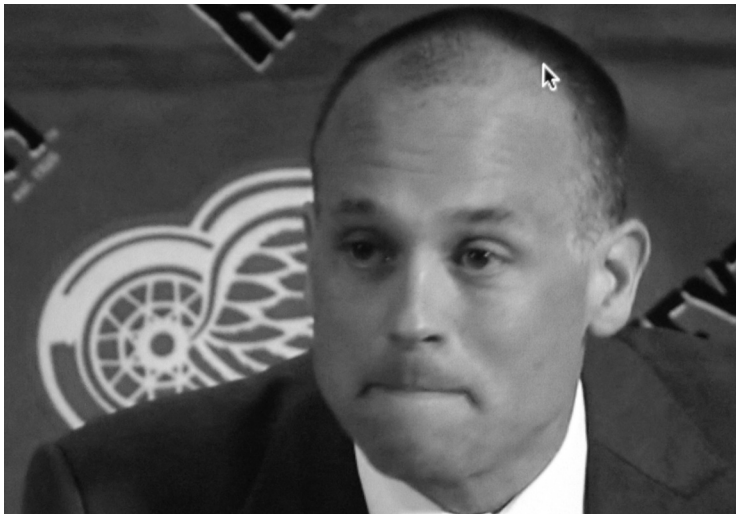
Sunday. The Tigers have won consecutive games after dropping eight straight, their longest skid since 2005. Alfredo Simon (6-3) struck out seven and allowed four runs - one earned - in eight innings. Joakim Soria earned his 16th save in 18 chances. Detroit finished with 10 hits after getting 18 on Saturday. The middle of the order, Cespedes, Tyler Collins and Martinez - combined for eight hits and six RBIs.

By the way, Cabrera extended his on-base streak to 26 games, the longest active run in the majors. In addition, the team has not announced when RHP Justin Verlander (triceps strain) will make his next start. Verlander struck out nine and allowed an unearned run in 5 2-3 innings Saturday in possibly his final rehab assignment at Triple-A Toledo. Tigers Manager Brad Ausmus said Verlander was feeling good.

The home team Tigers will take on the Cleveland Indians this weekend and also take on the Cincinnati Reds at Comerica Park this upcoming Monday and Tuesday before traveling to Cincinnati to take on the Reds Wednesday at the Great America Ball Park the home of this years All Stars game the 14th of July.

Blashill, New Head Coach of the Red Wings

By Butch Davis



Red Wings New Coach Jeff Blashill who replaced Mike Babcock

The Detroit Red Wings announce their next head coach at Joe Louis Arena this Tuesday past at 11am. The new coach is Jeff Blashill who replaced Mike Babcock who left Detroit to coach the Toronto Maple Leafs May 20. Blashill has numerous connections to Northern Michigan. He grew up on the campus of Lake Superior State in Sault Ste Marie, played goalie and assistant coached at Ferris State University in Big Rapids and has many family members living in Traverse City.

Jeff assisted Mike Babcock on the Red Wings bench during the 2011-2012 season. He has spent the last three seasons as the coach of their AHL

affiliate in Grand Rapids. He even won a Calder Cup with the Griffins in his first season on the bench. Blashill has been the heir apparent to Babcock for the last year. The Red Wings gave him a new contract with a raise in pay in order to block him from interviewing for other NHL coaching vacancies.

Born in Detroit and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Blashill won the Louis A. R. Pieri Memorial Award as the AHL's most outstanding coach in 2013-14 and was named head coach for the 2014 AHL All-Star

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River Rouge, MI 48218

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MOTORCYCLE BASIC RIDER
COURSE STUDENTS
AMONG FIRST TO
RECEIVE HIGH-VISIBILITY
VESTS



New, specially designed high-visibility vests will be given to motorcycle riders who complete a three- day public-sponsored basic rider training class in Garden City Thursday morning. The vests are part of a pilot project to dramatically increase the number of motorcyclists wearing high-visibility clothing or gear.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is working with the Michigan Department of State, which organizes and manages the state/public-sponsored courses. OHSP is providing nearly 9,000 vests through federal traffic safety funds. The newly trained riders receiving the vests, like those finishing the class at Schoolcraft College, should have sharpened skills and a more visible profile on the road.

The course provides classroom and actual motorcycle operator training in a controlled, off-street environment. Successful completion of an approved course allows a person to waive the rider skills test requirement needed to add a motorcycle endorsement to their driver license.

When:
Thursday, June 11
11 a.m.

Where:
Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center
1751 Radcliff St.
Garden City, MI 48135

Who:
Kristen Schopieray, Schoolcraft College, Motorcycle Safety program coordinator
Joe Kelly, Michigan Department of State, Motorcycle Rider Safety Training Program
Anne Readett, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, communications manager
Vince Consiglio, Schoolcraft College, project manager, Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach trainer

Why:
Wearing the new high-visibility vest makes it easier for other drivers to see the motorcyclist and should reduce the number of near misses and crashes that occur when passenger vehicle drivers fail to notice a motorcyclist in the mix of vehicles.

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Pastor Ralph Godbee, Inner Court Christian Center
Cheryl Slaight, Clinical Therapist - Team Wellness Center
Herman Moore, Former NFL Detroit Lions All-Pro
Dr. Terra DeFoe, Author

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015
6 p.m. Networking Reception | 7 p.m. Summit Opening
INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL CENTER
375 Salliotte, Ecorse, MI 48229 | (313) 389-2700
www.igcministries.org | igcinfo375@gmail.com
Pastor Marvin & First Lady Carolyn Miles

For vendor information, please call (313) 520-1088. Commitment deadline is Friday, June 5.
Endorsed by the NFL Alumni Detroit Chapter

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Equal Housing Opportunity

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STAY INFORMED ABOUT HAPPENINGS GOING ON IN YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT READ THE TELEGRAM NEWSPAPER


CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ROMULUS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Adar Realty – 10725 Harrison
July 1, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 for the purpose of considering a variance request for BZA-2015-011; Adar Realty Front Yard Parking Expansion. 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 a variance from the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance as follows:

1.Front Yard Setback Variance (Section 8.04) to allow a parking lot expansion to encroach into the required 40-foot front setback. A front yard setback of 28 feet is requested.



10725 HARRISON
80052990002707

The subject property is located at 10725 Harrison. DP #80-052-99-0002-707. The property is zoned M-T, Industrial Transportation District. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 4:00 p.m., July 1, 2015 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: June 11, 2015

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE CITY OF RIVER ROUGE

The City of River Rouge is accepting bids for the demolition of the following : 199 Summit and 127 Walnut.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk or by calling 313-842-5604. Bids must be submitted on an official bid form by 10:00am on Monday, June 22,2015 at the Office of the City Clerk.

Patricia H Johnson
City Clerk

CITY OF INKSTER PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ELECTION/CLOSE OF REGISTRATION CITY OF INKSTER
August 4, 2015 City of Inkster Primary

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF INKSTER, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the City of Inkster **on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE ELECTION IS MONDAY, July 6, 2015 BY 4:00PM.**

Persons residing in the City of Inkster registering after the deadline will not be eligible to vote at the August 4,, 2015 election. Voters may register by mail using a mail-in voter registration form or in person at the Secretary of State Branch Office, Wayne County or the City of Inkster Clerk’s office. Registrations will be received Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (CLOSED 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.)

The Inkster City Clerk’s office will be open the Saturday prior (August 1, 2015) for the August 4, 2015 Election from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to receive Absentee Voter Applications and Ballots.

A qualified elector may obtain an Absentee Ballot at the Inkster City Clerk’s office located at 26215 Trowbridge Inkster, MI. 48141.

The following locations will hold a Primary Election for the City of Inkster:

The polling locations for the Primary Election:

| District/Precinct | Location: |
|------------------------|---|
| District 2/Precinct 1 | Inkster Recreation Complex -2025 Middlebelt |
| District 2/Precinct 2 | Inkster Recreation Complex -2025 Middlebelt |
| District 3/Precinct 1 | Smith Chapel Church - 3035 Walnut |
| District 3/ Precinct 2 | F. L. Peterson Academy - 4000 Sylvia |

Published June 11th, 2015

Felicia Rutledge, City Clerk
City of Inkster

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF RIVER ROUGE, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of River Rouge held on May 19, 2015. Meeting called to order at 7:44pm

The following Commissioners were present:
Present: Campbell, Cooney, Perry, Pierce, Ward
Mayor Bowdler in the Chair
Excused: Pruneau

15-114 Approval of minutes
15-115 Voucher approval
15-116 Apporval to hold 1st Annual All Class Alumni Picnic on Aug. 8, 2015
15-117 Approval to hold B2S Tools & Time even at Higher Ground Ministris on August 30,2015
15-118 Apporval of parade route for Ecorse Public Schools Band
15-119 Approval to support the grant application for Mi. Blight Elimination Pro gram
15-120 Approval of 4th quarter budget
15-121 Approval of 2016/2017 budget as proposed by Plant Moran
15-122 Approval of memorandum of understanding between River Rouge and Wayne Metro
15-123 Approval of voucher 55222 for appraisal fees
15-124 Denied the application to canvass neighborhoods by AGR Field Services
15-125 Motion to adjourn

A complete copy of the minutes can be obtained at the City Clerk’s office (313) 842-5604.

Patricia Johnson City Clerk

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| CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE | | | | | CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| MINUTES OF REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING May 26, 2015 Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 | | | | | 101-3110-731.7x.xx Public Safety Department 4,638,304 16,526 4,654,830 101-3910-739.7x.xx Public Services Department 544,127 12,740 556,867 Expenditures 101-2920-729.89-01 General Fund Contingency 64,864 (64,864) (0) To move the cost of reducing annual furlough days from 13 to 6 days from contingency to their respective payroll accounts Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-182 5G. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Choate to account for Project Costs as it relates to the TIFA Vining Road Bond issue (Council #15-143). Bond proceeds recorded with BA 1415-20. FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET AMENDMENT BUDGET TIFA Vining Road Construction Fund | | | | |
| The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem, John Barden. Pledge of Allegiance Roll Call Present: Kathleen Abdo, John Barden, Linda Choate, Harry Crout, Celeste Roscoe, William Wadsworth. Excused: Sylvia Makowski. Administrative Officials in Attendance: LeRoy D. Burcroff Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk Excused: Stacy Paige, Treasurer 1. Moved by Crout, seconded by Abdo to accept the agenda as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-173 2A. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Abdo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on May 11, 2015. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-174 2B. Moved by Crout, seconded by Choate to approve the special meetings held May 11, 2015: 6:00 p.m. Study Session, Amendments to Zoning Ordinances; 6:30 p.m. Study Session, Mandated Changes to City FOIA Policy and changes to Entertainers Ordinance; 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing, Aerostar, Application for Tax Abatement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Barden, Choate, Crout, Roscoe, Wadsworth. Nays – None. Abstain – Abdo. Motion Carried. | | | | | Revenue 406-0000-410-69-51 Bond Proceeds - - Expense 406-4270-742.90-10 Project Costs - 3,649,607 3,649,607 406-4270-742.90-11Cost of Issuance - - Fund Balance 406-0000-390.00-00 Fund Balance 3,649,607 (3,649,607) - To account for Project Costs as it relates to the TIFA Vining Road Bond issue (Council resolution #15-143). Bond proceeds recorded with BA 1415-20. Motion Carried Unanimously. Clerk's Report: 15-183 6A1(a). Moved by Crout, seconded by Wadsworth to recognize Ruth Zimmerman on her 95th birthday. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-184 6A1. Moved by Choate, seconded by Wadsworth to approve second reading, final adoption of zoning map amendment for PC-2014-014, and PC-2015-012 and zoning ordinance text amendments for Article 8, Industrial Districts; Article 11, Use Standards, and Article 24, Definitions. These were introduced at the Council meeting of May 11, 2015. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-185 6A2. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Crout to adopt the amended City of Romulus FOIA Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2015 – this includes the state-mandated changes to FOIA. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-186 6A3. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Crout to approve first reading of an ordinance to amend Article IV, Section 4-171 (C) (5), Entertainers and Dancers, to be effective January 1, 2016. Motion Carried Unanimously. 6B. Treasurer's Report 7. Public Comment: A resident complained about the noise in the Jones Subdivision. Jan Lemmon, Chairperson, Cemetery Board of Trustees announced that the VFW has provided flags for the Romulus Memorial Cemetery and there will be a flag dedication ceremony on June 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the cemetery Bill Crane, from Crane Funeral Home, has donated a granite marker to the Romulus Memorial Cemetery. The marker will have bronze emblems placed on it signifying each war. 8. Unfinished Business Councilman Wadsworth thanked Daryl Jamieson for his donations to the Animal Shelter Bowl-a-Thon. Councilwoman Abdo announced the Drug Task Force Fundraiser will be held Friday, May 29th with proceeds to go for high school students' scholarships. 9. New Business: Councilwoman Abdo announced there are 15 new members of the Romulus Honors Society. Councilwoman Roscoe made the following announcements: Elementary Day Program at Romulus and Halecreek Elementary Schools begins June 22nd. Cedar Point tickets are available at the Recreation Dept. with a savings of \$14.00 per ticket. PeeWee Soccer Summer League begins June 23rd – last day to register is June 19th. 15-187 9A. Moved by Roscoe, seconded by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Debbie DeMoisey. Motion Carried Unanimously. 10. Communication: City Clerk, Ellen Craig-Bragg, announced that non-hazardous, free-dumping for residential (not commercial) will be held at the DPW Dept. Thursday, May 28th thru Saturday, May 30th. Proof of residency must be shown. 15-188 11. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to approve Warrant 15-10 in the amount of \$771,503.28. Motion Carried Unanimously. 12. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Crout to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council. Motion Carried Unanimously. I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on May 26, 2015. | | | | |
| 3. Petitioner: None 4. Chairperson's Report: Mayor Pro-Tem Barden read a list of City worker's names who played in the City versus St. John's Lodge #44 baseball game - the City team took the trophy this year. Mayor Burcroff announced that the fourth major park has re-opened in the past two years – Park #1 which was renamed the St. John's Lodge #44 Community Park. Al Hindman took pictures of the event and they were shown at the Council meeting. Mr. Ezell Wooden, on behalf of St. John's Lodge #44, expressed appreciation for the honor bestowed upon the St. John's Lodge. 4. Moved by Choate, seconded by Roscoe to accept the Chairperson's Report. Motion Carried Unanimously. 5. Mayor's Report: Mayor Burcroff spoke about the new grill Romulus Rotary donated to Elmer Johnson Park. Keith Boc, Assistant DPW Director, announced that the City received the "2015 Project of the Year Award" from the APWA (American Public Works Association) for the downtown development improvements and historical preservation of the World War I monument re-design. 15-175 5A. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Crout to award Bid 14/15-28 for the purchase of a 2015 4WD Double Cab GMC Sierra 2500 HD Pickup Truck w/cab for the Department of Public Works to the lowest bidder, Berger Chevrolet, in the amount of \$31,768.30. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-176 5A1. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Crout to adopt a resolution to recognize VFW Post 9568 for their service to this community. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-177 5B. Moved by Roscoe seconded by Choate to authorize the Department of Public Works to dispose of a 1999 GMC Safari Van and a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria in accordance with the City's Property Disposal Policy through Martin's Towing with a disposal fee of \$50.00 per vehicle. Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-178 5C. Moved by Abdo, seconded by Wadsworth to reflect additional Community Services Department program revenues and offsetting costs. | | | | | CITY OF ROMULUS | | | | |
| FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET AMENDMENT BUDGET General Fund Expenditures 101-2910-729.7x.xx Unallocated Part-Time Wages/Fringes 93,082 (30,042) 63,040 Expenditures 101-5160-751.7x.xx Senior Services Part-Time Wages/Fringes 42,065 30,042 72,107 To move the allocated wages for the part-time senior services liaison from unallocated to the senior services budget *Note: This has no affect on fund balance Motion Carried Unanimously. | | | | | CITY OF ROMULUS INVITATION TO BID ITB 14/15-31 Dust Control Program for Gravel Roads- Two (2) Year Contract- ITB 14/15-32 Inflatable MovieScreen/Theater System for Romulus Cable Department | | | | |
| 15-179 5D. Moved by Abdo, seconded by Crout to move the Teamsters 2014 signing bonus from from contingency to their respective payroll accounts. (No affect on fund balance). FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET AMENDMENT BUDGET General Fund Expenditures 101-1310 & 1320 Clerk Department 216,446 2,376 218,822 101-1410 Treasurer Department 208,279 2,376 210,655 101-2110 to 2910 Financial Services Department 468,131 7, 142 475,273 101-3110 to 3410 Public Safety Department 3,558,844 4,753 3,563,597 101-2210 & 3810 Community Development Dept. 48,373 891 49,264 101-3910 to 4410 Public Services Department 532,854 9,273 542,127 Expenditures 101-2920-729.89-01 General Fund Contingency 91,673 (26,809) 64,864 | | | | | (1) The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified companies for the above items and servcies. (2) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City . Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN system @ http://www.mitn.info/ . (3) Two (2) copies of the bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:30 P.M., Monday, June 22, 2015 . At approximately 2:45 p.m., local time all timely received bids are to be publicly opened and read. | | | | |
| Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-180 5E. Moved by Choate, seconded by Abdo to create and appropriately account for the TIFA Vining Road Bond issue (Council resolution #15-143) into a "Construction Fund" per the "General Accepted Accounting Principles". | | | | | RESPONSE ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE ITB NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED: ITB # ____ CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 | | | | |
| FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET AMENDMENT BUDGET TIFA Vining Road Construction Fund Revenue 406-0000-410-69-51 Bond Proceeds 3,829,607 3,829,607 Expense 406-4270-742.90-10 Project Costs 120,000 120,000 406-4270-742.90-11Cost of Issuance 60,000 60,000 Fund Balance 406-0000-390.00-00 Fund Balance 3,649,607 3,649,607 To create and appropriately account for the TIFA Vining Road Bond issue (Council resolution #15-143) into a "Construction Fund" per the "General Accepted Accounting Principles" Motion Carried Unanimously. 15-181 5F. Moved by Wadsworth, seconded by Abdo to move the cost of reducing annual furlough days from 13 to 6 days from contingency to their respective payroll accounts. (No affect on fund balance). FUND/DEPT. CURRENT AMENDED ACCOUNT NO. ACCOUNT NAME BUDGET AMENDMENT BUDGET General Fund Expenditures 101-1210-712.7x.xx Mayor Department 201,836 3,069 204,905 101-1230-712.7x.xx Community Services Department 94,866 2,446 97,312 101-1310-713.7x.xx Clerk Department 218,646 4,074 222,720 101-1410-714.7x.xx Treasurer Department 210,655 4,022 214,677 101-2110-721.7x.xx Financial Services Department 621,939 17,721 639,660 101-2210-722.7x.xx Community Development Dept. 164,030 4,266 168,296 | | | | | (4) The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive irregularities. (5) Bids shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the date for submitting bids. (6) The successful Bidder will be required to submit proof of all insurance required by the ITB documents and all required endorsements. (7) For additional information contact Lynn A, Conway, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing lconway@ci.romulus.mi.us . | | | | |
| | | | | | Please Publish: Thursday, June 11, 2015, The Telegram Newspaper | | | | |

CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Joshua Cruz – 16546 Jessica Ln.
July 1, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 for the purpose of considering a variance request for BZA-2015-012; Joshua Cruz. 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 a variance from the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance as follows:

1.Projection into Yards (Section 12.05) to allow a concrete patio to extend into the required front yard (exterior side yard) along Becky Ln.



The subject property is located at 16546 Jessica Ln. DP #80-140-02-0049-000. The property is zoned R-1A; Single-family Residential. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 4:00 p.m., July 1, 2015 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: June 11, 2015

RIVER ROUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at River Rouge, Michigan, the Board of Education of River Rouge will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2015-2016 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2015-2016 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2015-2016 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at River Rouge High School – LGI Room (1st Floor), 1460 W. Coolidge Highway, River Rouge, Michigan 48218.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be subject to this hearing.1

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Darryl Folks/ap
Darryl Folks II, Secretary

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET
THURSDAY, June 25, 2015

Notice: the public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2015-16 budget was originally scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2015. The hearing has been rescheduled, as indicated below:

Please take notice that, on June 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2015-2016 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2015-2016 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2015-2016 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

CAROL MIDDEL, Secretary

Publish: June 11, 2015

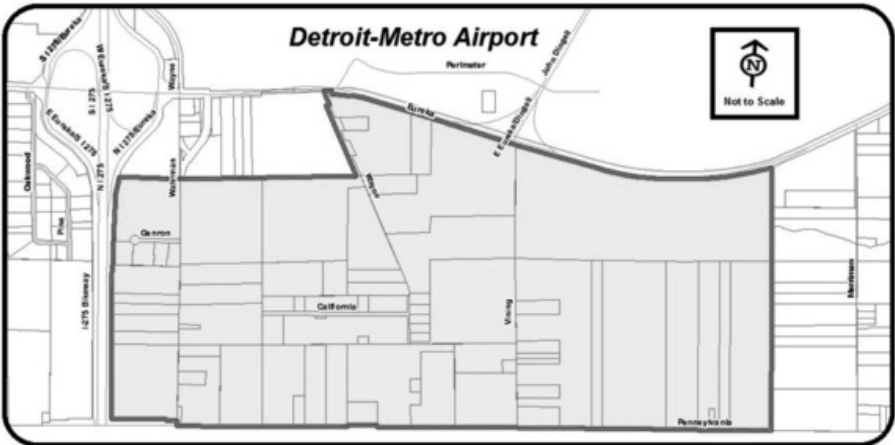
CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 15-007
CITY OF ROMULUS
APPENDIX A - ZONING
AMENDMENT 1.219

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 8 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS; ARTICLE 11 USE STANDARDS, SECTION 11.07, VEHICLE REPAIR, SERVICE AND PARKING, SECTION 11.10, INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING, SECTION 11.11 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIES, SECTION 11.12, TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING, SECTION 11.17, ACCESSORY; AND ARTICLE 24 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 24.10 DEFINITIONS "I", SECTION 24.20 DEFINITIONS "T", AND SECTION 24.22 DEFINITIONS "V" OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF ROMULUS AND AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS BY REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM M-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO M-2, GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given THAT THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-007 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING APPENDIX A- ZONING, AMENDMENT 1.219. The amendment will take effect on June 11, 2015.

SECTION 1. Article 8, Section 8.01, amended.
SECTION 2. Article 11, Section 11.07, amended.
SECTION 3. Article 11, Section 11.10, amended.
SECTION 4. Article 11, Section 11.11, amended.
SECTION 5. Article 11, Section 11.12, amended.
SECTION 6. Article 11, Section 11.17, amended.
SECTION 7. Article 24, Section 24.10, amended.
SECTION 8. Article 24, Section 24.20, amended.
SECTION 9. Article 24, Section 24.22, amended.
SECTION 10. Official Zoning Map – Southern Gateway Area, to rezone 948 acres from M-1, Light Industrial District to M-2, General Industrial District



CRIME ALERTS

POLICE BLOTTER

RIVER ROUGE

May 26th, 2015
At 1549hrs an officer was dispatched to 178 Haltiner Street to investigate a traffic related complaint. The officer spoke to a 56 year old male and a 45 year old female. The male stated they were traveling west bound on Dearborn St in the City of Detroit in the right lane when a semi truck with no trailer passed by them. The truck was traveling at a high rate of speed in the left lane while oncoming traffic was coming toward them. The male caught up with the truck before entering southbound I-75 when he pulled alongside of the vehicle to see if the driver was alright. The male states the driver of the truck a 37 year old threw a beer bottle at his vehicle and gave him the finger. The male states he stayed a distance behind the truck while making his way home. Both vehicles exited the Schaefer exit and followed east bound on Schaefer heading to the City of River Rouge, where the male and female lived. Both noticed the driver in the truck continued driving erratically outside of its lane at a much higher rate of speed, and blew the stop light at Coolidge and Division. The female dialed 911 on her cell phone and reported the incident and feared the driver in the truck might hurt someone. The male followed the truck to a home in the 100 Block of Haltiner Street where the driver of the truck tried to back into a driveway getting caught on the power lines. Then the driver of the truck proceeded to park the semi from the driveway onto the street nearly hitting a stop sign. Officers arrived and one asked the driver in the truck if he had been drinking. He stated no but had taken prescribed medication, Vicodin. The officer noticed the male's slurred speech and the smell of intoxicants emitting from his breath. He repeated his words over and over again. The male was offered a Breathalyzer Test but he refused and was placed under arrest for OWI. He was transported to the police station and read his Chemical Test Rights where he refused and also refused to be fingerprinted. The male was combative and uncoop-

erative during the booking. He was forced into a holding cell after he exposed himself. When the vehicle was inventoried officer found two unopened Corona beer bottles inside the pocket of the driver's side door. The vehicle was impounded and evidence was taken and tagged. The male was charged with OWI and Indecent Exposure.

June 2, 2015
At 2039hrs, officers were dispatched to the 300 Block of Beechwood on a report of a large group of females fighting. When officers arrived and observed several females walking in the middle of the street, impeding traffic. Five females ranging in age of 15-17 years of age were stopped by the officers. All were asked for their identification and one of the females started cussing and told the officers they hadn't done anything wrong. All were advised to watch their language or they would be placed under arrest for Disorderly Person. When the officer asked one of the females for her zip code she began cussing, and demanded the officer get out of her face. The officer warned her again about her language but she persisted and was placed under arrest, and then smacked the officer.

June 4, 2015
At 1051hrs, an officer was dispatched to the 300 Block of Burke for a Larceny complaint. The 63 year old male homeowner and his 29 year old son stated that his 31 year old ex-girlfriend stole several items from his home. The son said his neighbor stated he saw his ex-girlfriend accompanied by an unknown male was seen taking items from his home and placing them in a blue Chevrolet Impala. She stole a laptop, a 12 gauge shot gun and some guitars and left a note stating if the son gave her some money she would not come back to the house. The son states he gave her permission to use his vehicle and she left and had not returned until she did this. He also stated they had dated for three months and she lived at the home until recently.

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WEEK OF JUNE 11 - JUNE 17, 2015

Community Efforts Urged to Curb Mass Incarceration

By Jazelle Hunt - NNPA Washington Correspondent



WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Black community should take a larger role in curbing mass incarceration and be less reliant on public officials to slow prison growth, says Rev. Hebert Brown III, community organizer and leader of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore.

“In addition to banging on the system and going to the White House and moving on legislation to ban the box, et cetera, et cetera, I think it is a mistake for those who are most directly affected to wait for the experts to come do it,” Brown said.

He made his remarks during a panel sponsored by the Center for American Progress (CAP), a progressive policy think-tank in Washington. The panel was part of an event titled, “Toward a More Perfect Union: Bringing Criminal Justice Reform to Our Communities.”

Brown said, “[During the Baltimore uprising] we started to create the systems that we needed. We’re not calling 911 for everything. Let us move into spaces where we develop the training, skills, and whatever else is necessary, and just be neighbors and sisters and brothers again so that we can help to engage some of the issues that might lead to interpersonal violence.”

Justice system professionals, activists, and community organizers all agree that empowering ex-offenders is one of the best ways to rebuild communities and keep people from re-offending. But more than 5.8 million Americans – 1 in 13 Black Americans – are disenfranchised because of their criminal offenses, according to The Sentencing Project, a nonpartisan research and advocacy group for criminal justice reform. In effect, the people most affected by criminal justice policies are excluded from shaping policy decisions.

Though having a criminal record is no longer rare – 1 in 3 Americans has one – employers are generally unwilling to hire ex-offenders.

For decades, formerly incarcerated people have pushed to “ban the box” on job applications that require applicants to dis-

close past convictions. It’s often used to disqualify otherwise qualified candidates. The “ban the box” effort is gaining official traction, largely through state laws and updated guidelines from the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. But unless an applicant launches and wins a lawsuit, there are few repercussions for employers who dismiss applicants on this basis.

“What happens is, you have all of these folks who come home and they feel alienated from society, and they don’t feel like there’s any place for them,” said Pastor Darren A. Ferguson at the CAP event. Ferguson leads Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Far Rockaway, N.Y. and works to provide reentry support. The community organizer is also an ex-offender who spent nearly nine years in the New York corrections system.

“They can’t get jobs because they’re afraid to go to a job interview, because they’re going to ask them that magic question that frightens anybody who’s been incarcerated: ‘have you ever been convicted of a crime?’ And there’s a feeling across the board – there’s no place for me, there’s no hope for me, so what else can I do?”

The laws that created mass incarceration have not only failed to make provisions for mass reentry, but have also devastated Black families and communities. Department of Justice data from 2007 found that 6.7 percent of Black children had at least one incarcerated parent, compared to less than 1 percent of White children and 2.3 percent of Latino children.

Among today’s Black twentysomethings, 1 in 4 had a parent incarcerated during their childhood, according to CAP research. Another study from The Sentencing Project finds that nearly half of all Black women have a currently incarcerated family member, compared to just 11 percent of White women.

Alicia Garza, award-winning community organizer and co-founder of the national Black Lives Matter organization says that part of empowering ex-of-

fenders is to find ways to restore their voice.

“Part of that is having those folks shape what the policies, practices, and systems look like. Because nobody knows better how to shift the trend of criminalization than those who have been criminalized,” she said at the same CAP event. “Not only do we need to center those voices, but we need to put those who have been directly impacted by the systems we’re facing in positions of power. Folks actually need to be able to make decisions that impact their lives.”

Voting is not the only way to raise one’s political voice. Pastor Michael McBride, a San Francisco-based community organizer and a program director within the PICO Network, an organization of religious leaders working for social justice, who was also part of the CAP event. He points out that elected officials are often bending to the whims of private entities.

“Many of these things happen under the cover of night. A lot of our Fortune 500 companies are actually profiting off of private prison labor, and other forms of legalized slavery. And I think we can shame them publicly in a way that at least creates some form of accountability, and we need to do the same thing with elected officials,” he explained. “We have the responsibility to make it known, and then we have another opportunity to hold them accountable through our voting, through where we shop, through our support, et cetera.”

The tide is slowly turning against mass incarceration and unfair sentencing policies. In 2008, then-President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, which gives tax perks to employers that hire ex-offenders. In 2010 President Barack Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act, which significantly reduced the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder cocaine. And last year, the U.S. Sentencing Commission voted unanimously to raise the mandatory minimum threshold for drug-related offenses, and allow appeals for reduced sentences under the new guidelines.

Still, Black communities do not have to wait to have these disparities corrected by authorities. “I am thankful for those working at the federal level trying to move things forward there, but.... It takes so long before my day-to-day reality is impacted by something whoever is in the White House signs,” Rev. Brown said.

“We have to continue to build for power socially, economically, politically so that we can ... say, no more will we rely on the benevolence of a system that has an appetite for our destruction to decide our destiny. No more.”

Romulus Act of Kindness

By: Kellee Jordan - Telegram Intern



Romulus Police Officer Aaron Hathorn handing out a free ice cream cone voucher at Blue Sky.

During the month of May the Romulus Department of Public Safety participated in the national Random Acts of Kindness initiative. The event was co-sponsored by Blue Sky Ice Cream & Hamburgers, Romulus House Restaurant, TLC Hauling, both police unions POAM/POLC, along with the Romulus Fire Department.

"The goal of this initiative was to show appreciation to our residents and visitors in a non-traditional way," said Director of Public Safety Jadie Settles.

Police Officers and Firefighters spent time at two gas stations where they greeted customers, pumped gas for them and passed out \$5.00 gas cards. At Tim Horton's they greeted and provided customers with a free coffee.

During their time at Romulus House Restaurant they took on the role of servers by seating customer, taking orders, serving drinks and wiping down tables. Samer Suleiman part owner participation was because, "We feel that we are

part of the community... it was a fifty/fifty benefit."

At Blue Sky customers were greeted and given a coupon for a free ice cream cone. "The police officers are really good friends and customers and just decided hey lets do this for the community," says Lynn Ostrowski-Owner

Tim Horton's, Blue Sky and BP Gas all contributed matching funds for the vouchers. During the initiative, Police Officers and Firefighters distributed 480 free gifts.

Romulus Police Corporal Jaime Garcia, Officer Keith Haynes and Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Krause coordinated many aspects of the initiative.

"I am very proud and grateful for the extra efforts put forth by our outstanding Public Safety personnel," said Mayor LeRoy Burcroff. "Due to the success of the initiative, the Public Safety Department is planning additional random acts of kindness over the next few months."

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Lives Matter

From Page 1A



Mayors, City Managers, Township Supervisors, Clergy and Police Chiefs from about 15 Western Wayne communities sat around the table to start a community conversation on prevention

need you to talk to us and talk to one another so we can make things better. We are all tied together and all lives matter - Jewish lives, Arab lives, black lives, Asian lives, white lives and police lives - they all matter."

"We must talk before there is a problem," said Lisa Martin, 2nd VP of Western Wayne NAACP. "This is just the start of the discussion. By no means are we finishing the discussion today."

The dialogue focused on relationships between citizens and police as well as community interactions."You have to take a look at the culture," said Joseph Thomas, EDD, interim police chief of Inkster. "What is happening in Inkster could happen to you. We are changing our language. We look at our citizens as our customers. We are also re-educating our customers to become partners with our police to make Inkster better. When you dial 9-11 something bad has already happened. When the police arrive they should not become part of the problem. They have to be part of the solution. We have to hire good people and we can make them good police officers."

Many cities have policies and strategies in place to create a positive and responsive community. Many host "Coffee with a Cop" where police departments schedule informal meetings with citizens to discuss problems in their respective communities. "Every day is a community policing day for our officers," said Jason.J. Wright, deputy public safety director of

Van Buren Twp. "We take the time to talk to residents. We want to put our officers on the street to be more proactive instead of reactive."

In the City of Westland, Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik, is not only hosting "Coffee with a Cop" but he is putting more officers on foot at apartment complexes and in neighborhoods so they can get to know more citizens. "We are also looking to diversify our police department and our officers are also at schools recruiting students to careers in law enforcement," said Chief Jedrusik.

Cities of Livonia and Dearborn, among others, are also looking to create a more diverse police department. "We desperately need to have all of our police departments more diverse as we respond to the communities we serve," said Curt Caid, police chief of Livonia.

In Redford officers are patrolling on bikes in neighborhoods and talking to people. "There are no barriers with this approach," said Eric Pahl police chief. "There is no car or window to be a barrier in building relationships."

When Ronald Haddad became the police chief in Dearborn he first looked at resident complaints of the police department and immediately began changing policies on police force and use of Tasers. "Every police contact has to be a positive contact," said Chief Haddad. "If we don't engage community in very proactive way as police, we won't get where we need to go."

"Whether you are good, bad or indifferent, you always have to be civil and polite as a police officer," said Chief Haddad.

In Romulus, they take police department meetings on the road inside businesses as a means to build relationships with the business community. They also focused heavily on research and data to assess changes that need to be made.

The Western Wayne NAACP will follow up with each city to engage them in continued conversations about community outreach and race relations.

"I was extremely pleased and impressed with today's turnout. Everyone in the room had a common goal, to have a Community that has faith, confidence and trust in its police force. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to continue dialog and to share idea," said Chief Jedrusik.

"We are proud that Westland could help lead this effort and start what we hope will be an ongoing dialogue with cities, townships, the NAACP and citizens," said William R. Wild, Mayor of Westland. "This engagement was about exchanging of ideas and building bridges for future collaboration."

The Western Wayne Branch of the NAACP meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Christian Faith Ministries located at 27500 Marquette in Garden City, MI. The meetings begin at 7:00pm. To contact them send an email to wwc-naacp@gmail.com

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ANONYMOUS TIP LINE CASH REWARDS

**A new life for Southwestern
High School**
Jobs to come to the area



The scrappers had taken over the school since the school closed

An Indian manufacturing company is buying Southwestern High School in Detroit, and expanding its operations in the city.

Sakthi Automotive makes lightweight metal car parts. The company already has operations on either side of the high school. It's getting \$3.5 million in incentives from the Michigan Strategic Fund, and Detroit will spend \$900,000 in federal money to tear down a portion of the building.

Sakthi and its partner ProVisions say they'll invest \$31 million in the project. Sakthi officials say lightweight metal car

parts that are produced in China will soon be produced at the Detroit facilities, bringing 70 jobs in the short term.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan says the part of the high school built in the 1920s will be preserved and used to train engineers, "so a building that was a center for education for more than a century is going to become a center for education today as well."

Eventually, the company is expected to employ 650 people, some of them ex-offenders. That's something Duggan says he'd like to see more of in

the city.

"I understand that in Baltimore, the number-one hirer of ex-offenders is Johns Hopkins hospitals," Duggan said, "So next I'm going to go to my hospital friends and see if we can't extend even more opportunities."



Mayor Duggan hold a press conference to announce the redevelopment of the school

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