SAVE THE DATE
Early Bird Senior Expo
at the SOMERSET COLLECTION of Troy
north side, center court
Thursday, April 12th
7AM - 9:45AM

Shelby•Utica•Macomb
GAZETTE
Proudly serving the communities of Shelby, Utica & Macomb every Friday • www.GetYourGazette.com

Friday, March 2, 2018
Vol. 2, No. 11

Shelby Township Business Awards

Shelby Township businesses that have made significant contributions to the economy will be recognized at the 2nd Annual Shelby Township Business Awards on Friday, March 9. The awards celebrate Shelby's best corporate citizens across several key sectors.

This year, Acadia Home Builders, KUKA Robotics, Team Rehabilitation, and Da Francesco's will be awarded.

Amazon will also be recognized for its contributions to community redevelopment.

The ceremony will be held at the KUKA Robotics Tech Center, located at 51870 Shelby Parkway in Shelby, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tickets cost $20 for Sterling Heights Regional Chamber members. Tickets for general admission cost $25. To register, visit shrcci.com.

— Elena Dumbaugh

2018 State of Macomb Township Address

Macomb Township Supervisor Janet Dunn will give her 2018 State of Macomb Township address on Friday, March 16.

The event will be held at the Sycamore Hills Golf Club in Macomb Township. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with breakfast available for those in attendance. The official program starts at 8:45 a.m.

Admission is $25 for Macomb Chamber members, Macomb Township residents and township personnel. General admission is $35. Call Heather Schmuckel at 586-493-7600 with questions about the event, or to learn more about the sponsorship opportunities available.

Inside

6
Horoscope
10 - 11
Arts & Entertainment
12
Perspectives

Ford Awards $10K Grant to Tech-Savvy UCSI Students

FORD MOTOR CO. has named the Utica for Science and Industry (UCSI) Michigan's only winner in a grant program that honors student-created projects that address a community issue. The company provided a $10,000 grant for students to create renewable energy through exercise equipment at local gyms. UCS students involved in the project include Lauren Crist, Tom Fezzey, Alena Krolczyk, Brendan Kucken, Anthony Lewis and Nick Spanos. "This national recognition reflects the leadership of our students to create the innovation that will guide their future," said Superintendent Dr. Christine Johns. Read the full story on page 2.

Gene Shepherd Park Splash Pad to Feature Indoor Clubhouse

As officials are hopeful that a much-anticipated splash pad at Gene Shepherd Park, located at 23 Mile and Dequindre roads, will be open in time for Memorial Day weekend, the latest development is the reuse of the existing storage garage at the site as an indoor ticket/registration booth and clubhouse.

"This is another example of Shelby Township taking what was a failed project under a previous Board and turning it into something our residents can use and be proud of," Township Treasurer Michael Flynn said. "This building was an eyesore and a constant reminder of a doomed development," he said referring to the failed Soccer City development.

"But, now that we have the park revitalized and plans to make use of the storage building, this will be a prime recreation asset for us and another example of the quality of life that makes Shelby Township one of the state's finest communities to call home."

The new entry way will feature a wall-size poster of Shelby Township firefighters spraying the entryway to the splash pad with a fire hose leading children directly out to the firefighter-themed splash pad.

"What kid does not love having fun in the water on a hot summer day, and what kid does not love to pretend to play firefighter," Shelby Township Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director Joe Youngblood said.

State Reps Introduce a Flurry of Legislation

State representatives for the areas of Shelby Township, Utica, and Macomb Township have been busying themselves in Lansing, introducing a number of pieces of legislation to address a issues including cyber bullying, armed robbery, auto insurance, and more.

Cyber Bullying. The House Law and Justice Committee this week approved state Rep. Peter Lucido's two bills that make cyberbullying a crime in the state of Michigan. The legislation defines "cyberbullying" as a message or statement that is posted with the intent to communicate a threat to fear bodily harm or death.

Anyone who commits cyberbullying may be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 93 days in jail and a $500 for the first offense with added violations carrying penalties up to one year in jail and a $1,000 fine under the legislation. If the offense leads to a fatality, it's a felony punishable up to 10 years behind bars and a $10,000 fine.

"Cyberbullying is destroying lives in our schools, businesses and homes every day," said Lucido, vice chair of the committee. "These bills are the starting point to establishing a crime for behavior that is not bound by physical boundaries, because it's on social media or otherwise on the internet, to protect our families and neighbors, without violating out First Amendment rights."

House Bills 5017 and 5018 advance to the House for its consideration.

Armed Robbery. This week the

See LEGISLATION, page 2

Saturday, May 5th • 10am-6pm & Sunday, May 6th • 10am-4pm
All Your Home Improvement Projects Start Here!
Oakland Spring Home Show
Inside. Outside. Everything For Your Home.
Oakland University O'rena
569 Pioneer Drive, Rochester
Admission $5 • Children 12 & Under Free

For Exhibitor Information Call Vickie at 248-524-4868 or Visit GazetteEvents.com

UCS Students' Renewable Energy Project Wins Big

UCS, From page 1

UCS students created the project to address the issue that 85 percent of current energy sources create pollution. Through the grant, students will create turbines that will capture the energy created by individuals using stationary bikes at the local gyms.

The energy will be stored into a battery to meet the needs of the gym.

"It was fun to see the minds of these students come together to create a strong program – one that will really affect their community," said teacher UCSI mechatronics teacher Scott Spry.

The project is part of the program's Powered by Ford Academy partnership, which offers students training, scholarships, work opportunities and internships and further develops the link between graduates and jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

A video describing the project can be viewed on Youtube by searching "Ford NGL STEAM Challenge - Project: Powerhouse." The video was created by the students working with teacher Michael Allore.

The Ford Next Generation Academy is offered through Ford Next Generation Learning, which is part of The Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of the automaker.

"Students can be an inspired, powerful force for good that can change their communities for the better and ultimately change the world," said Mike Schmidt, director, Education and Global Community Development, Ford Fund. "We want to create more opportunities for them to use their imaginations and energy to meet challenges and have a positive impact on more people."

UCSI – opened in 2008 - is a nationally recognized specialty program that provides an innovative blend of rigorous academics with real world applications. It works closely with industry to ensure the development of skills current employers are seeking for college and careers in high-paying, high-tech jobs.

The half-day UCSI program prepares students for the fields of engineering technology, mechatronics ('smart' robotics systems) and multimedia production.

Impact 100 Macomb & Oakland Meet and Greet

The Impact 100 Macomb County and Oakland County groups will host a meet and greet on Tuesday, March 6 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Rochester Mills Beer Co.

Impact 100 is a community of women seeking to transform lives by awarding high-impact grants to nonprofits. 2018 is the inaugural year for Macomb County, but Oakland County is in their third year of awarding grants.

Come meet some of their members, learn about their experiences and the charities that they have been able to help with their grants. Current members are encouraged to bring guests.

Rochester Mills Beer Co. is located at 400 Water St.

Reps Introduce Bills to Reform No-Fault Auto Insurance

LEGISLATION, From page 1

state House approved legislation to expand the statute of limitations from six to 10 years for an individual to be charged with armed robbery.

The bill, sponsored by state rep Diana Farrington of Utica, places armed robbery on the same statute of limitations level as other violent crimes, such as kidnapping or manslaughter.

"We need to give our law enforcement agencies the time to bring these criminals to justice because sometimes it takes a day, other times a few years for a witness to come forward or new evidence to be found," said Farrington.

During previous Law and Justice Committee testimony, Derek Miller of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office and Clinton Township Police Department Capt. Richard Maierle joined Farrington in speaking in support of the legislation. House Bill 5010 now advances to the Senate for its consideration.

Cash Assistance. Lucido this week testified on a bill to cut down on cash assistance fraud. Lucido's legislation would require an independent medical examination for cash assistance recipients who are exempt from work requirements.

"There is a need for our state assistance programs to help people get back on their feet. Without a doubt these programs are there to help people through hard times. But we must be vigilant of taxpayer dollars," said Lucido, of Shelby Township. "This legislation would save money in the state's cash assistance system by cracking down on the waste, fraud and abuse of doctor shopping."

House Bill 5183 remains under consideration by the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee.

Auto Insurance. Lucido also introduced bipartisan legislation this week reforming Michigan's auto no-fault insurance system. The seven-bill package allows drivers to exclude certain benefits and protections from their insurance plans to make coverage more affordable or include benefits to fit their needs.

"Michigan is the only state allowing private enterprises to control and mandate unlimited PIP coverage through auto insurance," Lucido said. "Every individual and household has different incomes and different needs as far as insurability and protection. Why is it necessary to buy more than we need to? If we are truly for free markets and competitive pricing, we must have more affordability for the consumer."

Drivers would no longer be mandated by the state to buy auto insurance, but those who want it could continue to buy unlimited PIP coverage or other PIP coverage amounts.

Lucido said the current no-fault system setup allows minimal choice.

Child Pornography. State Rep. Diana Farrington unveiled legislation on Monday to increase penalties for possession of child pornography. The bill is part of a 10-bill legislative package to protect Michigan's children and survivors of childhood sexual abuse, which Farrington helped unveil at a Capitol news conference.

"Our most vulnerable citizens need our protection from predators who seek to subject children to terrible, illegal and abusive acts," said Farrington, of Utica. "There is no reason for anyone to have images or video involving physical and sexual abuse of children."

Under her legislation, the maximum criminal penalty for possession of over 100 images will be 10 years in prison and a $50,000 fine. Repeat offenders also would be subjected to a mandatory five-year prison sentence.

The legislation is inspired by the recent sexual assault allegations against former physician Larry Nassar, who has been sentenced to up 175 years in federal and state prison for his crimes against more than 200 victims. Also attending Monday's press conference were several of Nassar's victims.

Falsely Accused. The state House this week approved legislation sponsored by state Rep. Peter Lucido to erase all arrest and personal identification information collected by law enforcement for any individual when charges are dismissed before trial.

"We're failing as a country if we continue to say someone is innocent until proven guilty, but our police departments keep specific identifying information for someone when the supposed victim admits to lying," said Lucido, vice chair of the House Law and Justice Committee. "There's no excuse to keep that detail for someone who never faces a day of trial, much less is not convicted."

Lucido's bills require that if an individual is arrested and the charges are dismissed before trial, then information such as fingerprints, DNA, other descriptive data and statements are to be expunged. The legislation also requires information removal from the Law Enforcement Information Network, used by law enforcement agencies across Michigan and the United States. Following the vote and the state Senate's approval this week, House Bills 4536, 4537 and 4538 advance to the governor for his review.

Taxpayers Can Switch to H&R Block and Get Half Off

A lot is changing for taxpayers: tax reform is already impacting their paychecks and will impact their refunds next year, Congress extended expired tax benefits for 2017, and there are more tax filing options than ever before. And taxpayers wondering if they should make a change from their usual tax preparation can now try H&R Block for half off what they paid somewhere else last year.

"When you switch to H&R Block, you get your maximum tax refund guaranteed, personalized tax advice with custom analysis of your tax reform impact and a transparent, engaging experience dedicated to you – all for half of what you paid somewhere else last year," said Karen Orosco, senior vice president of U.S. retail for H&R Block.

While 90 percent have a good relationship with their tax pro and half would be Facebook friends with them, in a recent survey of those who use a tax professional, the most common factor in choosing a tax pro is their knowledge and staying up to date on tax law.

"In a year with significant tax changes going into effect, your tax professional's knowledge is even more important," said Orosco. "Clients can come talk with a tax pro and learn everything they need to know about how the recent tax reform is going to impact them based on their personal tax situation. They will leave the office with tips that clearly tell them things they can do to reduce their taxes this year."

To switch to H&R Block and get half off, taxpayers should bring their tax preparation receipts from last year to their local participating H&R Block office to receive the tax filing discount before the offer ends March 25. The offer includes the cost of 2016 individual and business, federal and state tax returns. Returns are subject to a $125 minimum price. Taxpayers can schedule an appointment with a tax professional online or by calling 1-800-HRBLOCK.

Second Road Rage Incident in 30 Days for This Loose Cannon

POLICE PATROL

■ **ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, AGAIN.** Last Thursday, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Macomb County Sheriff deputies were dispatched to Groesbeck and Elizabeth for a road rage incident. It was reported that a black SUV was attempting to

strike a silver Lexus. It is believed the incident started over loud music and escalated from that point. The 32 year old male driver of the Lexus contacted 911 stating he was in fear for his life. The caller believed the black SUV repeatedly tried to strike his vehicle. At one point, it was reported that after the Lexus pulled off onto the shoulder, the SUV made a U-turn into oncoming traffic and then drove directly as the Lexus attempting to T-bone it. The Lexus was able to drive away and no collision occurred.

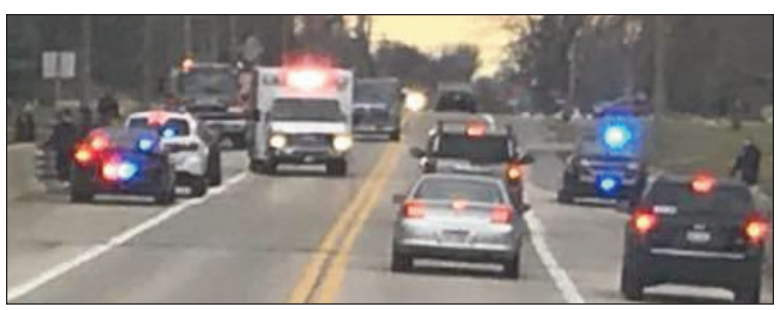
Macomb County Sheriff's deputies located the black SUV and initiated a traffic stop. The 28 year old driver out of Harrison Township, identified as Joshua Books, was taken into custody and lodged at the Macomb County Jail. Books is charged with one count of Assault With a Dangerous Weapon (4 year felony) and one count of Driving – Reckless (93 day misdemeanor). He was arraigned on 02/23/18 in the 41-B Clinton Township District Court and was given a $150,000 bond. Books is scheduled to be back in the 41-B Clinton Township District Court on 03/05/18 at 1:30pm. Books was arrested for this same type of incident on 1/24/18 by the Macomb County Sheriff's Office.

■ **SCHOOL THREATS INVOLVING SOCIAL MEDIA.** Last Wednesday, Deputies were called to L'Anse Creuse High School-North for a school threat report involving social media. The social media message originated from a male who previously attended L'Anse Creuse High School. The school official stated that the male student in question was currently on a long term suspension from L'Anse Creuse High School (Central) for a similar social media threat that occurred in January of this year.

While continuing to investigate this incident, a second incident was reported on the following day, 2/22/18 at 9:25 a.m. This report was made in Harrison Township at L'Anse Creuse High School (Central). A school official reported that a female student had reported inappropriate conversations taking place via social media. The female reported that the above male student had started a conversation involving several other students and was laughing and talking about school shootings. Macomb County Sheriff Deputies were sent to the male student's home in Harrison Township where he was taken into custody and lodged at the Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office authorized a petition for the male for False Threat to Bomb which is a 4 year felony.

"Our office takes these statements very seriously and will continue to thoroughly investigate and hold those committing criminal acts responsible. Our students, their families, and school staff need to feel safe in the educational environment. These types of statements, whether made in jest or some other form, will not be tolerated," said Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham.

Note: If you have any information on the aforementioned crimes or any other offenses, please call the Macomb County Sheriff at 586-469-5151.



Body Found Under Macomb Township Bridge

A FEW TEENS HAPPENED UPON a horrific scene Wednesday, when a deceased body was discovered under a bridge on Romeo Plank between 25 and 26 Mile roads in Macomb Township. Dozens of first responders were at the scene for hours. Preliminary reports suggest it was a suicide. If you or someone you know might be considering harming themselves, please reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Trench Collapse Kills Sterling Heights Construction Worker

NEARLY 75 FIRST RESPONDERS worked to recover the body of a construction worker on Monday in Sterling Heights after the trench he was working in collapsed. The trench – measuring 20 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 12 feet deep – collapsed when the worker, 39 year old Jason Holmes of Sterling Heights, was about 11 feet deep attempting to disconnect a sewer line. A state agency is now investigating the incident and say it could take several months to complete.
Photo courtesy of Macomb County Scanner

International Association of Firefighters Celebrates 100 Years

One hundred years ago on February 28, 1918, delegates representing 24 local fire fighter unions founded the IAFF. This week, local firefighters are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the IAFF, honoring the men and women who helped shape the IAFF into the union it is today.

The Macomb Township Professional Firefighters Local 5023 took to social media to celebrate, saying, "Along with fighting for a good living wage and benefits, the union has a history of fighting for a safer work environment. Things from appropriate staffing, hours, and equipment, to preventing cancer and helping members fighting it, PTSD treatment, and the list goes on."

Learn more at iaff.org.

MARIAN
Strong Women of Mind and Heart

SPRING INFORMATION NIGHT
for Prospective Students

Open to middle school and transfer students and their parents.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
7 PM

Marian is a Catholic college preparatory school for young women, sponsored by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
For admission information call **(248) 644-1946. www.marian-hs.org**
7225 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Shelby•Utica•Macomb
GAZETTE

High School Sports

EISENHOWER VARSITY DANCE has been selected to represent the United States at the 2018 International Cheer Union World Championships. They are the first high school team to receive the honor.

UTICA VARSITY HOCKEY was defeated by Grosse Pointe South in the MHSAA Pre-Regional Final. The Chieftains exit with a 7-19 record on the year.

— Sports page curated by Jacob Rogers

DAKOTA VARSITY HOCKEY defeated L'Anse Creuse Unified 4-3 in the MHSAA Pre-Regional Final. The Cougars will look to take the Regional Title March 3.

EISENHOWER

50-45
BOYS BASKETBALL
FEB 23 vs FRASER (W)
NEXT GAME: THU, MARCH 8 vs ROCHESTER

59-36
GIRLS BASKETBALL
FEB 28 vs ADAMS (W)
NEXT GAME: FRI, MARCH 2 at STONEY CREEK

UTICA

50-47
BOYS BASKETBALL
FEB 23 vs MARYSVILLE (L)
NEXT GAME: WED, MARCH 7 vs HARRISON L'ANSE CREUSE

50-34
GIRLS BASKETBALL
FEB 28 vs STEVENSON (L)
Regular season has concluded.

DAKOTA

69-64
BOYS BASKETBALL
FEB 27 vs LAKE SHORE (W)
Regular season has concluded.

41-32
GIRLS BASKETBALL
FEB 28 vs L'ANSE CREUSE NORTH (W)
NEXT GAME: FRI, MARCH 2 vs PORT HURON

(Game held at Port Huron Northern)

Protecting the Flock: Local Police and Pastors Train for Active Shooter

by
ELENA DURNBAUGH

Active-shooters and high-risk security threats have become synonymous with American life. People are especially worried about safety at soft-targets that have seen more bloodshed as of late, like schools and churches.

Responding to community interest, on February 27, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office held an active shooter and security training meeting for religious leaders. The presentation was part of the active shooter response program that the sheriff's office provides to schools and businesses.

"With active shooters and other tragic situations, to say these are unsettling times is a major understatement," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said during an interview on WJR. "Know law-enforcement is working 24/7 to interrupt the situations before they can occur and training to respond and mitigate if necessary."

In April, the Troy Police Department will offer a similar safety and security training program designed for religious leaders. The program, called "Fortify," is intended to unite the police force and religious communities to address security concerns faced by places of worship.

Although the Troy Police Department has offered a house of worship security program in the past, they are reintroducing it in an effort to get more people involved.

"This particular training we're doing is bigger and more comprehensive than anything we've done before," said Sergeant Meghan Lehman of the Troy Police Department.

The program will focus on best practices for security, common threats and scenario training. The classes will be offered in partnership with Forever Vigilant, a security company that specializes in church safety.

Forever Vigilant is run by Christophor Perlatt, a former marine and active police officer, and James Friedman, a pastor with 12 years of law enforcement experience.

Their flagship course, "Protecting the Flock," will be the basis for their security training in Troy. The critical incident response class is filled with statistical data on attacks at churches and common threats. It then builds off the information to help religious leaders develop an emergency operations plan, security protocol, policies and procedures.

The course also covers civil and criminal liability for churches that decide to have armed security. Under Michigan law, places of worship are designated as gun-free zones unless the executive of the house of worship grants permission for a concealed pistol license holder to carry a weapon.

FOREVER VIGILANT, the security company tapped by the Troy Police Department to help with their upcoming church safety training programs, say their goal is to not only inform and educate religious leaders in the community, but to provide recommendations for security improvements. Owner Christophor Perlatt said churches are starting to come around to the idea of using armed security, although the Troy Police Department stresses that this will not be an area of focus in their program. Both agree it is up to each church to make their own security decisions.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE held their "House of Worship Active Assailant Guidance" program in late February. Sheriff Bouchard and his training division said the class was so full that they have scheduled another event for Thursday, March 8. Bouchard regularly reminds his team that hope and prayer is not a strategy, preparation is. "We hope and pray to never have tragedy visit our doorstep, but we must be ready."

Perlatt said church security teams are often armed, though. "Most of the churches that we have dealt with don't have a problem with people carrying in the church as long as they notify the church leadership," he said.

Even churches that have been hesitant to use armed security in the past are beginning to consider it as an option. "We're trying to persuade them to realize this is something you need to look at, at least look at it," Perlatt said, "They're starting to come around."

And fear is a driving force behind that acceptance. "They want something because they understand the threat is real. Your church is not a fortress. It's not a prison. It's a welcoming place."

According to Perlatt, church security is more important now than ever. "We're doing God's work," he said.

Although churches are becoming more concerned about the possibility of an attack, Sergeant Lehman said there has not been an increase in security threats at places of worship. "More of what people are going to deal with are people creating disturbances and the more day-to-day type of things you deal with. So that's why we want this training to address that as well."

Sergeant Lehman stressed that armed security will not be the focus of the Troy program. "Some churches are going to have armed security," she said. "That's not something we're necessarily endorsing. We want the leaders to make the decision for what's best for them, and there's opposition to that. We don't care either way. We're just looking to help people pick the best security practices for them and their members."

Perlatt similarly expressed the desire to help places of worship develop the right security plan. "We don't tell churches what to do," he said. "We give you the information. We give you the recommendation, and then let you make the decision."

With the surge in interest, the Troy Police Department wants to make sure it's meeting the community's needs. "We want to partner with our houses of worship. We know that they're an important part of our community," Sergeant Lehman said. "Making those places safer and harder targets for either criminals or people perpetrating act of violence– that's something we want to help with and be a part of."

Questions about church security are being asked within the wider context of the debate on gun control in Michigan.

Last November, the Michigan Senate passed a bill that would allow concealed pistol license holders to carry a gun in pistol-free zones, including schools and churches. Under Senate Bills 584-586, license holders could earn an endorsement exempting them from gun-free zones by demonstrating they have at least eight hours of additional training, or that they are a certified firearms instructor.

The Senate's vote took place soon after the shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, which killed 26 people and injured 20 more. Senators Marleau and Brandenburg of state district 12 and 8 both voted in favor of the bill. Senator Knollenberg, district 13, voted against it.

After the bill was passed by the Senate, it was referred to a committee on Judiciary. The committee has not yet made a decision on the bill.

Michigan Congress tried to pass a similar law in 2012, but it was vetoed by Gov. Rick Synder.

What do you think? Should religious institutions and other gun-free zones consider allowing armed security in response to ever-increasing gun violence? Should the government do more to restrict access to guns? Would you like to see more active shooter training programs? Send a Letter to the Editor: Andrew@Gazettemediagroup.com.

GMG
Gazette Media Group

Seeking Editorial Interns and Freelance Writers

INTERNS
- News, Sports, & Digital roles available
- Must be in pursuit of relevant degree
- Ability to work at our office in Troy

FREELANCE WRITERS
- City Council meetings
- Business spotlights
- Event coverage with photos

Interested?
Send your resume and a short introduction to
Andrew@GazetteMediaGroup.com

Pisces, Stand Up for Yourself and Claim That Last Slice of Pizza

YOUR MARCH HOROSCOPE

by
PAULA LYNDE

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Mars and Jupiter are in control this month, so get ready to B-E A-G-G-R-E-S-S-I-V-E. For those who weren't cheerleaders in high school, that's Be Aggressive. Yes, fish with teeth are scary, but you'll feel your fangs all through March, both at work and at home. So, now is definitely the time to ask for a raise at your current job or land your perfect position with your dream company if you're looking for work. It's also a good time to be assertive with family members and partners. Think hard. Is there something that you want from a loved one that you're not getting? Even if it's just dibs on the last piece of pizza from time to time, *ask!* Stand up for yourself and claim your slice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Guess what? 90% of the planets are located in the eastern half of the chart, and Uranus leads the way for rams from mid-month until the end of March. This will give you an incredible feeling of independence in all things. This could work out very well at your job, as you show off your leadership skills and ability to be self-motivated and autonomous. However, personal relationships could suffer if you forget about the other person's needs – or the fact that they exist. Just take this as a warning if you don't want to find yourself watching Netflix by yourself in April.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Planetary power is situated in the northern sector of the horoscope for bulls this month, so work and money dominate your priorities. This is fine, because there is a very good chance that you'll meet some important financial goals in March. Just don't leave your family/significant others on the backburner for too long. You may find that you need their support to complete your goals at some point around the 20th. But please don't say, "Hey, look. I'm sorry I've been distant and awful, but I need your support to complete some personal goals." That probably won't win you any favors. Just be nice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): More than 90% of the planets are moving forward for you this month, and this means that March will be a whirlwind of social and professional activity. Now is a great time to make friends and be the life of the party, but not the ideal month for serious romance. So, if you're single, friend-zone *everyone* until the chaos blows over. Come April, you may discover that some interesting potential in one of your new "friends." And, by then, you'll have actually gotten to know them a little bit, so making that transition will be a little easier. Crazy, huh?

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The Sun is in your House of Career this month, so there's a lot of potential for crabs to advance in their professional lives. However, exactly how far you get with your job in March will depend largely on your social connections and ability to win people over. So, now is definitely not the time to play wallflower. Get out there. Be the first one on the dance floor, don't keep that hilarious joke to yourself, and use this time in the sun to show the world how brightly you can shine. As a bonus, if you're single, get ready to catch the eye of someone whom you previously thought was out of your league.

LEO (July 23-Aug-22): Hey, lion. Most of the planets are situated in the Western half of your chart during March. This will have you feeling uncharacteristically humble and less king/queen-of-the-jungle-like than usual. Strangely, though, this may be your month for romance. If you're single, get ready for a meaningful connection with a very special person. Or, if you're already in a committed relationship, this connection is likely to get stronger before April. The lesson here? People who matter really like the kitten in you. So, don't be afraid to show your warm fuzzy side from time to time.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22): This is going to sound very strange to you, Virgo, but you should sit back and relax this month. No, seriously. Most of the planets are in the Northern sector of your horoscope, and life is good, so chill. Even the financial forecast is solid – you'll probably get a windfall of cash from an unexpected source. And your love life couldn't be better. You're connecting with your partner – or, if you're single, you're putting out all of the right vibes. So, why are you so worried? Oh, wait. You're a Virgo, and always eager to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory. But, you know, this month, for once – *don't.*

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22): Whoa, Libra. 60% of the planets are against you this month. So, for you, March may come in like a lion and go out like a velociraptor. But, take heart. Tread lightly, and you'll make it. You may lose your car keys, forget your lunch at home a few times, and test the patience of your significant other, but you'll come out stronger on the other side. In fact, come April, you'll develop so much character that you'll probably be glad that March wasn't the greatest – maybe. At any rate, get ready to find out who your true friends are. And that really is something worth knowing.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21): Pluto in retrograde is putting the brakes on your career ambitions this month, and putting your focus on family and spirituality. So, this is an interesting time for Scorpios. Not typically the squishy, feely type, March is your time to explore a softer, gentler side of your personality. Yes, it's actually there, but you may have to look real hard. No, you don't necessarily need to hold hands with random people and sing "It's a Small World," but it probably wouldn't hurt. And, if you're married, get ready to get a little closer to your spouse around the 25th. For single scorpions, this will be the time to tell a friend that they're more than a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21): The planets are concentrated in the Southern half of your horoscope, so you'll find yourself getting uncharacteristically sentimental – yes, *you.* Normally, Sagittarians move forward, forward, *forward* at the speed of light with that wanderlust and need for exploration that only archers can understand. However, this month, will send you deep into your past to find answers to burning questions. And, don't worry. There's absolutely no shame in watching a Lifetime or Hallmark Channel movie to help you sort it all out. That's what they're there for.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19): If you feel like you're rushing toward your goals, that's because there is a forward momentum in 80% of the planets affecting you this month. So, things will happen quickly in March. If you're working toward a promotion at work, for example, don't be surprised if you finally get that call. Or, if you've been in a romantic relationship for a while, that next level of commitment is likely just around the corner. Or, it may be the case that – after months of dedication – you'll earn enough stamps to get that free sandwich at your favorite restaurant. The universe has different goals for everyone, so don't be mad if yours isn't exactly the one *you* had in mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Planetary power is in the Eastern half of your chart this month, and this makes you a very lucky water bearer. Essentially, all through March, the opinions of others won't matter. You can do what you want, dress how you like, and make the kinds of decisions that only make sense to you, and you'll still find success. Granted, "success" may mean something fairly unique. For example, you might win your office's hokey-pokey challenge, or your spouse or significant other may finally laugh at one of your jokes. Whatever. Your victory will feel pretty amazing no matter what it entails.

The Macomb County Genealogy Group Meeting

The Macomb County Genealogy Group will meet on Friday, March 9, at 1 p.m. in the Mount Clemens Public Library auditorium, located at 150 Cass Avenue. "Getting Started on Geni.com" will be presented by Dave Kaleita, Geni.com curator.

On Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. also in the auditorium at the Mount Clemens Library, will be a "Let's Talk...Genealogy" meeting. The subject for discussion will be "DNA Tested...Now What? - Round 2". They will continue this series by reviewing some ways to make sense of those matches, this time focusing on Family Tree DNA and GedMatch.

These programs are free and all are welcome. For more information, call the library at 586-469-6200 or go to mcgg-letstalkgenealogy.blogspot.com.

Shelby Optimist Club "Optimist International Oratorical" Contest

The Optimist International Oratorical contest is a wonderful way to gain experience and earn money at the same time. The Shelby Optimist Club is offering the opportunity to all students under the age of 18 to give a 4-5 minute speech on the topic of "Where are my roots of Optimism."

The local Club will be hosting this event on Monday, March 26 at 6 p.m. at Monfort Elementary School.

The top three winners will receive a medallion and first place will get $250, second $150 and third $100. The winner of the local contest will move on to the Zone contest and then that winner to the District. The District winner will receive a $2500 scholarship. The District contest will be May 12 in Lansing.

To participate, have your student complete an application by the deadline date of March 17. The form can be found via Google at "2018 Optimist Oratorical Contest Application."

You can email the form to: Oratorical2018@Gmail.com or mail to: STAOC PO Box 182187, Shelby Twp MI 48315

The information about our club required on the form is: Shelby Township Area Optimist Club, # 17496. Contact person is Su-z Shaw at 248-652-4906.

The club does reserve the right to cancel the contest if the minimum number of applications are not received. For questions, contact jwstark@comcast.net.

Shelby•Utica•Macomb
GAZETTE

Home & Garden *Digest*

Senior Living: Should We Downsize?

HOME MATTERS

by
LINDA REA

The prospect of de-cluttering, downsizing, and delegating can be simply overwhelming at this new stage of life and you need more than a realtor, you need a trusted friend! Let the Linda Rea Team, located in Rochester, Michigan, be

that friend and advisor to guide you every step of the way on the path to your new destination. We want to help you experience retirement living as is should be- stress free!

We have clients that have lost loved ones and are paralyzed with the grief and loss; we are there to lend referrals to make the transition go smoothly. From planning estates sales to finding the right company that will assist you with boxing and organizing, we have people to help guide you through the process. Whether you are looking for a small, low-maintenance ranch in town or a condo in the city, our trusted team is on your side and our goal is to help you relocate in a sanctuary you feel serene and secure with. If you want to stay within your hometown, it's important to start a list of essentials. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

- Do you require transportation?
- Will you need assisted living?
- Do you desire a walkable community?
- Is having a pet friendly neighborhood a necessity?
- Do you require a home where the maintenance and upkeep of the home/property are managed and cared for by the community in which you live?

We are blessed in the greater Macomb and Oakland communities to have so many phenomenal resources available to seniors making this life-changing decision to downsize. For example, the Older Persons' Commission offers transportation not only to their fabulous facility, but to doctor appointments and interesting outings. The Rochester Community House has a plethora of activities that all allow residents to stay social. And the Downtown Development Authority is constantly striving to bring innovative and entertaining activities that engage and delight residents regardless of age, making this area truly a stellar place to live, work, play, and retire.

We will respect your wishes and work with you to list your current home, move it off the market, and get you moved on and into your new nest as seamlessly as possible. For more than four decades, people have trusted our team to help their family, generation after generation, to settle in and never settle for less than the best life has to offer.

Visit our website at www.thelindareateam.com for insightful blogs, market reports and listings to entice and motivate you toward your next move. Remember, we're more than just houses, we're family, built on values to live by.

When It's Time To Replace Your Water Heater

The next time you find you have a too-old or already-broken water heater, these tools and advice from the U.S. EPA can help.

Water heaters typically last about 10 years. If your water heater is older than that, you could avoid a potentially costly and complicated emergency replacement by taking action now. In many places, utilities offer rebates on Energy Star certified water heaters, up to as much as $600. With or without a rebate, choosing a model that's earned the government's Energy Star label can pay you back in energy bill savings.

Water heaters are the second highest energy user in the home, costing a household of four up to $620 every year to run. Replacing your old, electric water heater with a heat pump water heater could put a significant dent in your energy costs. In fact, a family of four can save up to $3,500 in energy costs over the water heater's lifetime.

Pointers On Heat Pumps

There are some installation considerations to keep in mind with heat pump water heaters, but if you already have an electric water heater, it could be an easy switch.

Will a Heat Pump Water Heater Work in My Home?

In many homes, a heat pump water heater can be installed right where your current water heater sits. Heat pump water heaters need:

Access To Air: They pull in air from the surroundings to heat water and release cold air, so they need access to plenty of air.

The water heater location should have a room air temperature greater than 40° F year-round and space that's at least 100 square ft. (10 ft. x 10 ft.) or a smaller space that can be fitted with louvered doors or ducted.

Head Room: Heat pump water heaters are a few inches to a foot taller than conventional electric water heaters and require a certain ceiling height based on the size of the water heater—which is dependent on household size.

The water heater location should have at least a 6-ft.-high ceiling for a household of fewer than six or at least a 7-ft.-high ceiling for a household of six or more.

Water Drainage: Heat pump water heaters require proper drainage, since—like air conditioners—they dehumidify air and produce condensate that must be removed via a nearby floor drain, or another outlet using a small condensate pump.

The heater location should have access to one of the following:

- Floor drain
- Utility sink
- Sump pump
- Existing drain pipe
- Outside (only for locations that are above freezing all year round).

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

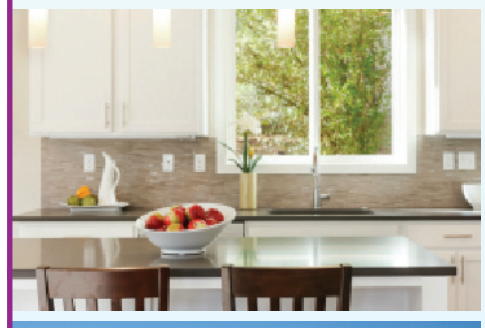
For facts about Energy Star certified heat pump water heaters, visit www.energystar.gov/waterheaters.

Make Your Home Picture Perfect!

All Your Home Improvement Projects Start Here!

Oakland Spring Home Show

Inside. Outside. Everything For Your Home.



SATURDAY
May 5th
10am-6pm

SUNDAY
May 6th
10am-4pm

Oakland University O'Rena
569 Pioneer Drive, Rochester
(On the Campus of Oakland University)

Admission $5
Children 12 & Under Free

For Exhibitor Information Call Vickie at 248-524-4868

Shelby Garden Club to Host Telly's Owner for "Newest and Best Flowers for 2018" Presentation March 8

by AMY FORTUNE

On Thursday, March 8, the Shelby Garden Club will host George Papadelis, owner of Telly's Greenhouses, for a presentation introducing the most exciting annuals and perennials of 2018. Featured flowers include Senecio Angel Wings, Corabells, Hecherella, and some gorgeous Petunias.

"I think most gardeners attend this presentation to stay informed when it comes to new varieties," says Papadelis.

When I first spoke with Mr. Papadelis, he was so enthusiastic about his floral offerings for 2018 that I had to visit to see the beauties for myself. While their Shelby Township location is closed for the season at the moment, their Troy location is open for business. And even though the annuals are still in their "infant" phase, they're an impressive sight to behold. Truth be told, the entire greenhouse is a wonderland of vibrant and exquisite plants and flowers.

"Today's vegetable gardener is looking for the best vegetables to grow in their garden. Maybe they want the new compact determinate tomato that can be grown in a pot, will yield fruit over a long period, and does not require staking," says Papadelis before mentioning Cucamelon and white strawberry, adding, "There are lots of fun new veggies to try."

Papadelis says some annual gardeners are always on the search for something new to try in beds or containers, "or maybe they are like me and want to be able to identify every plant they see in the neighborhood."

"There are also many new calibrachoa, petunias, gerbera daisies, and much more. Some of these will be very popular plants in the next year or two," he adds.

And of perennial gardeners, Papadelis says they are usually looking for new colors, new plants, or just something that looks good for an extended period of time. "The list of new perennials is very long," he mentions. "It includes new varieties in several dozen genera including coral bells, hardy hibiscus, Hosta, peonies, phlox, daylilies, and many more."

The Shelby Garden Club presentation is scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at 1 p.m. at the Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 Riverbends Drive in Shelby Township. The event is free, so anyone with a green thumb should make plans to attend.

Ways to Refresh Your Home for Spring

Spring is a time for renewal and awakenings. It's also the perfect time to take your cues from Mother Nature and devise a plan to reduce and reimagine your way to a refreshing, updated home you can fully enjoy once more.

Reorganize cluttered areas

If a room (or rooms) in your house are in disarray, start by reorganizing those often-used spaces to give them a like-new look and feel. Begin by removing everything from the room - including the furniture, if you're able - and separate your belongings into boxes or piles based on what you plan to put back in the room, move to another location and throw away or donate. Once you've cleaned the space, resituate the necessary furniture then place items you're keeping back in their places in tidy fashion so they're easy to locate.

Eliminate the extras

While you're freshening up the house, it's the perfect time to purge unwanted and unused items, but remember that items in good condition can actually do good for those in need. By donating clothing, electronics, furniture, household goods and vehicles to be sold in The Salvation Army Family and Thrift Stores, you can help transform lives in your local community. A good rule of thumb: if you haven't used it in the last year and it doesn't have special sentimental value, it's probably time to let it go.

Get rid of grime

A whole season's worth of dirt and dust accumulates during the cold winter months. A deep clean inside and out can restore your home to its former glory. Inside, take time to launder all of your linens, including curtains, rugs and bedding. Move furniture to vacuum behind and below, and don't overlook dust and dirt magnets like mirrors, light fixtures and the insides of cabinets, especially higher shelves that see infrequent use. Outdoors, hose off or power-wash surfaces like windows, siding, decks and concrete to restore a crisp, clean appearance.

Revise for real life

If there's an area of your home that isn't quite working for your lifestyle, spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to make a change. That may mean reconfiguring furniture for a more functional living room or converting an underused guest room into a useful craft or project space. Take time to consider what changes will make the space more practical.

Visit SATruck.org to schedule a donation pick-up or find a thrift store near you.

— Source: The Salvation Army

Questions and Answers about Assisted Living

SENIOR LIVING ADVISOR

by LAURA SMIGIELSKI, LPC, LNHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR BICKFORD ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE

Question: What are some of the differences between Assisted Living & Memory Care communities that I should be aware of?

A: I recommend that you select a community that is state licensed as Home for the Aged. This means that third parties provide impartial oversight, including the Fire Marshall, Health Department and State Surveyors who will represent your best interests. Also, they should employ certified caregivers who participate in ongoing trainings in first aid and nursing care. And, a Registered Nurse should provide onsite oversight of medication management and overall care supervision. Licensed and certified staff brings peace of mind to you and your loved ones.

Laura Smigielski is a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and a licensed nursing home administrator (LNHA). She is currently the Executive Director for Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care in Shelby Township.

Please feel free to send Laura any questions you may have to laura.smigielski@enrichinghappiness.com or call her at 586-685-5800.

Shelby•Utica•Macomb GAZETTE

CLASSIFIED

March 2, 2018

RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Shelby•Utica•Macomb GAZETTE

GetYourGazette.com

Publisher
Mark Nicholson

City Editor
Andrew Neal

Editorial Staff
Cindy Kmett
Drew Howard
Amy Fortune
Peter Maurer
Nathan Inks

Editorial Interns
Elena Durnbaugh
Sadie Layher
Rose Chehrazi
Jacob Rogers

Production
AJ White
Sydney Bryngelson

Circulation
Jarrett Mertz

DISPLAY ADVERTISING:
248-524-4868
Advertising@GazetteMediaGroup.com

TO SUBMIT EDITORIAL:
News@GazetteMediaGroup.com

248-524-4868
6966 Crooks Road Suite 22
Troy, MI 48098

Our Weekly Papers
Troy-Somerset GAZETTE
Rochester & Rochester Hills GAZETTE
Shelby•Utica•Macomb GAZETTE

Gazette Media Group
GazetteMediaGroup.com

HELP WANTED

American Axle & Manufacturing is looking for experienced CNC Production Machinists to join the team at our Auburn Hills Manufacturing Facility. Compensation is based on proven skills & experience. One year CNC production machining experience required.
For more information go to: www.aam.com
Click on: Join Us Select: Hourly Careers
1/1

CLEANING

Cleaning person with 20 years experience will clean your home. In flexible time.
586-484-6969
1/1

VOLUNTEER

HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS
Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative started by Families Against Narcotics (FAN), aimed at bringing law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol.
A person struggling with any drug addiction can come to any of the participating police agencies and ask for help. They will be greeted with support, compassion and respect.
Hope Not Handcuffs volunteer 'Angels' help with paperwork and provide compassionate support until a treatment option is found. Angel's can choose their own time slot by signing up to be on call for just 2 four hour blocks per month.
To sign up and learn more, visit familiesagainstnarcotics.org/volunteer

FREIGHTERS "ON ICE"

Freighters are a fixture of Michigan's Great Lakes, even in the winter.
On Monday, March 12, join the Greater Clinton township Historical Society for a video presentation of "Freighters 'On Ice'" by Roger Hewlett, a towboat captain and marine engineer.
The presentation includes scenes of freighters contending with ice around the Great Lakes with the help of U.S. Coast Guard ice-breaking vessels and specially-equipped commercial tugs. It will also show data from NOAA, NWS and U.S. Army CORPS of Engineers.
The program will be held in the auditorium of the main branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. Refreshments will be served before the event at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m.
No reservations are required. To learn more about the program, call Jeri at 586-286-9173.

FRESH START

FREE Fresh Start Workshop at Vince & Joe's Gourmet Market Shelby Township on Thursday, March 8 - 6 p.m.
Executive Chef Angelo Loria and St John Providence Health Systems Dietitian Beth Theisen will shar ideas on making healthier food choices.

MOM & BABY YOGA CLASS

Earthside Prenatal Yoga Mom and Baby Yoga class offerings will give you the opportunity to regain your strength and flexibility while bonding with your baby and connecting with other moms of like-aged children.
Classes are held Saturday's March 3-24 at noon at Earthside Prenatal Yoga - 46755 Hayes Rd, in Shelby Township.
Special attention will be placed on regaining core strength and stability with a focus on strengthening the back, abdomen and pelvic floor, as well as relieving tension in the neck, shoulders and back. Class size will be limited, preregistration required. This class is best suited for babies aged 6 weeks to active crawlers.
Bring a blanket and a few small toys for your baby. No prior yoga experience necessary. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels. To register, visit earthsidepre-natalyoga.com

BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood. Alison Wissen knows the power of blood donations. She received 22 units of blood products after experiencing complications during childbirth. "I truly owe my life to blood donors," she said. "Even the skilled hands of my surgeons could not have saved me without the blood."
Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
Upcoming Blood Donation Opportunities
3/3: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Concorde Inn, 44315 Gratiot, Clinton Twp
3/4: 7:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Rd, Utica
3/4: 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Peter Lutheran Church, 17051 24 Mile, Macomb
3/7: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friendship Church Shelby Township, 53245 Van Dyke Avenue Shelby Township
3/11: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. SS John and Paul Catholic Church, 7777 28 Mile Road Washington Township

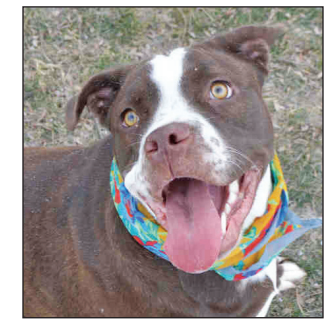
ADOPT A PET

The Humane Society of Macomb works to prevent cruelty to animals, and place adoptable pets into good, permanent homes with responsible owners and promote spaying and neutering to prevent overpopulation. The Humane Society of Macomb has many cats, dogs, puppies and kittens waiting for a new home. They are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.– 3 p.m. for adoptions. Give them a call at 586-731-9210, and visit them at 11350 22 Mile Road in Utica.

Bunny

ADOPT A PET

Anna Kat



Jinx

Kringle

Place Your Classified Here

Three Great Papers, One Low Price!

Place your classified ad in all three Gazette Newspapers and your message will reach six of the most desirable communities in metro Detroit, including: Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Shelby Township, Utica, Macomb Township, and surrounding areas.

	1 Paper	2 Papers	3 Papers
15 Words	$12	$20	$25
Each Additional Word	25¢ per word	50¢ per word	50¢ per word

To place a classified advertisement, call 248-524-4868, fax 248-524-9140, or email classifieds@gazettemediagroup.com

Troy-Somerset GAZETTE | Rochester & Rochester Hills GAZETTE | Shelby•Utica•Macomb GAZETTE

Sudoku

1	9		3			2		
					9	4	3	
	4		7			9		6
	2			6			7	8
		4	2	3	1	6		
5	6			8			4	
4		2			8		6	
	1	8	6					
		7			5		9	1

To place a classified advertisement, Call 248-524-4868, fax to 248-524-9140, or email classifieds@gazettemediagroup.com
15 words for $12.00, each additional word 25¢ • Phone numbers and hyphenations count as 2 words, abbreviations count as 1 word
Single line of caps 75¢ • Bold single line of caps $1.00 • Double line of caps $1.50 • Bold double line of caps $2.00
Payable by credit card or mailing a check to GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS, P.O. Box 482, Troy, MI, 48099. Please make check payable to Gazette Media Group.
Deadline for ad placement is 10 a.m. Wednesday, the week of publication.
Gazette Media Group reserves the right to revise, classify, or reject in whole or in part, any advertisement in this newspaper. Errors / Corrections: The Gazette is committed to correcting errors that appear in the newspaper. Those interested in contacting the paper for that purpose can email: News@GazetteMediaGroup.com or call 248-524-4868. Please note, the Gazette is not responsible for errors in advertising.

Arts & Entertainment

Music

PROPAGANDHI
SUN, MAR 4 - 8 p.m.
Magic Stick, Detroit

MIGUEL
FRI, MAR 9 - 7 p.m.
Royal Oak Music Theatre

MOTOR CITY
BLUES FESTIVAL
FRI, MAR 9 - 8 p.m.
Fox Theatre, Detroit

SORORITY NOISE
SAT, MAR 10 - 7 p.m.
The Loving Touch, Ferndale

On Stage

TENDERLY: THE ROSEMARY CLOONEY MUSICAL
THU, MARCH 8 - 8 p.m.
Meadow Brook Theatre

LES MISERABLES
NOW THRU SUN, MAR 11
Fisher Theatre, Detroit

STOMP
FRI, MAR 16 & SAT, MAR 17
Fox Theatre, Detroit

Library

PYSANKY EGG COLORING
WED, MARCH 7- 7 p.m.
Shelby Township Library

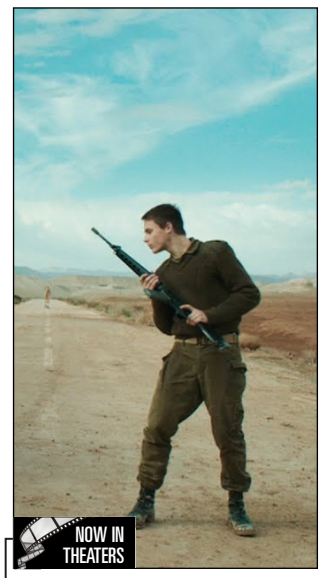
LEARN TO CROCHET
SAT, MARCH 10 - 10 a.m.
Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Main Branch

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
SAT, MARCH 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Shelby Township Library

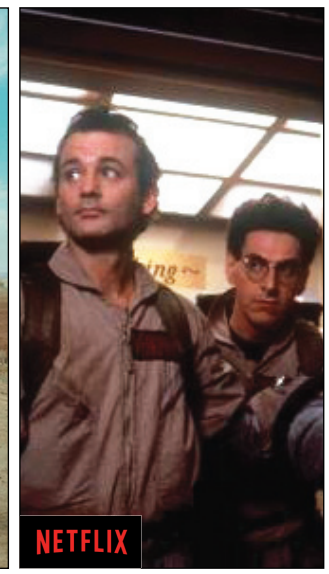
Kids & Teens

MUSIC AT MAIN: BRAZIL
SUN, MARCH 4 - 2 p.m.
Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Main Branch

DIY SOAP
MON, MARCH 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Clinton-Macomb Public Library, North Branch



FOXTROT
Drama, R



GHOSTBUSTERS
Fantasy, PG

FLINT TOWN
Docuseries, TV-MA

DADDY'S HOME 2
Comedy, PG-13

RED SPARROW
Mystery/Thriller, R

FOXTROT

Michael and Dafna experience gut-wrenching grief when army officials show up at their home to announce the death of their son Jonathan. Michael becomes increasingly frustrated by overzealous mourning relatives and well-meaning army bureaucrats.

RED SPARROW

Ballerina Dominika Egorova is recruited to 'Sparrow School' a Russian intelligence service where she is forced to use her body as a weapon. But her first mission, targeting a CIA agent, threatens to unravel the security of both nations.

Women and Gender Studies Film Festival Featuring Screening and Discussion of She's Beautiful When She's Angry

Marking its 34th year, Oakland University's Women and Gender Studies Film Festival will present Feminist Activism Now, with a screening of the film She's Beautiful When She's Angry.The screening and panel discussion will take place from noon – 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, in room 1050 of the Human Health Building on OU's Rochester campus.

The documentary chronicles the emergence of the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971, with a focus on the women who founded the movement, as well as controversies over race, sexual preference and leadership that arose during its development.

In addition, the film spotlights local and lesser-known activists, including the Boston authors of Our Bodies, Ourselves, the Chicago Women's Liberation Union and grassroots organizations across the country, using never-before-seen archival footage, emotion-filled music from the period and artful re-enactments.

She's Beautiful depicts the early days of the National Organization for Women, when ladies wore hats and gloves, and also features interviews with early feminists such as Kate Millett, Fran Beal and Rita Mae Brown.

"The Women and Gender Studies program is really looking forward to hosting the event," said Ami Harbin, assistant director of the Women and Gender Studies Program and chair of the planning committee for the film festival. We see it as a chance to reflect together about this important time in the history of feminist organizing, in order to better understand what kinds of feminist activism are most needed in our own communities today."

Since its 2014 release, the film has earned "Best Documentary" awards at the Hamburg International Queer Film Festival, Fairhope Film Festival, Independent Film Festival Boston and Mardi Gras Film Festival. The Detroit News called the film "A bubbling cauldron of newfound freedom and energy coming to life, an inspiring reminder of what people of a like mind and heart can accomplish." The film's director, Mary Dore, is an award-winning documentary producer who brings an activist perspective to her films. Find out more about the film at shesbeautifulwhenshesangry.com.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact the Women and Gender Studies program at 248-370-2154.

Burgess Shadbush Nature Center Exotic Animal Program, March 4

Burgess Shadbush Nature Center will host their first animal program on Sunday, March 4.

The day will kick off at 11:30 a.m. with an exotic animal program for ages 4+, featuring smaller animals for smaller audience members, including small lizards, snakes, and other friendly critters. Kids can also enjoy hands-on experiences with rabbits, chickens, and other fluffy/fuzzy animals (just in case scaly, slimy, or hairy friends aren't quite your speed).

There will be a program discussing the pet trade and how it is impacting society and native populations at 1 p.m.

The biggest, baddest, coolest show starts at 2 p.m., involving multiple species of large reptiles that will guarantee to put a big "alligator grin" on your and your friends' faces.

Throughout the day visitors can stop by a "meet n' greet" area to meet some crazy new friends, ask questions, and learn some of the do's and don'ts for exotic pet ownership and care. Pets and Things: Reptile Emporium will be on hand with some of their favorite animal-ambassador friends and expertise about bringing reptiles into your home.

Noted Naturalist and Educator Randy Baker from Naturalist Endeavors will be the guest presenter for this program and will be bringing in some of his animals.

Seating is limited, the program fee is $3 per person. The Burgess Shadbush Nature Center is located at 4101 River Bends Drive, in Shelby Township.

Meadow Brook Theatre's 53rd Season to Feature Premiere of 'Stick Fly' by Michigan Playwright Lydia R. Diamond

Meadow Brook Theatre's 2018-2019 season promises to please with a Michigan Premiere, a hilarious comedy, and a nostalgic musical sure to take you on a trip back in time.

The season opens October 3rd with Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring, which will run through October 28. This classic comedy involves two spinster sisters who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with arsenic laced elderberry wine.

The regular season then breaks for the holiday production of A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, running November 9 – December 2.

January 9 - February 3, 2019 Meadow Brook Theatre will feature Ken Ludwig's A Fox on the Fairway. The farce takes audiences on a hilarious romp, which pulls the rug out from underneath the stuffy denizens of a private country club. It's a charmingly madcap adventure about love, life, and man's eternal love affair with...golf.

The Spitfire Grill runs February 13 - March 10, 2019. This musical, based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, is the story of a feisty parolee who follows her dreams to a small town in Wisconsin and finds herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. It is for sale, but there are no takers. Hannah raffles it off, the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full.

Detroit native Lydia R. Diamond's drama Stick Fly will be on stage March 20 - April 14, 2019. The affluent, African-American LeVay family is gathering at their Martha's Vineyard home for the weekend, and brothers Kent and Flip have each brought their respective ladies home to meet the parents for the first time. As the two newcomers butt heads over issues of race and privilege, long-standing tensions bubble under the surface and reach a boiling point when secrets are revealed.

Running April 24 - May 19, 2019, the musical comedy The Marvelous Wonderettes, written and created by Roger Bean. This hit takes you to the 1958 Springfield High School prom where we meet four girls with big dreams who serenade with classic '50s hits including "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," and "Stupid Cupid." When the girls reunite to perform at their ten-year reunion we learn about the past decade's highs and lows.

The season will conclude May 29 - June 23, 2019, with the 1920's musical, The IT Girl by BT McNicholl, Michael Small and Paul McKibbins. A lightheartedtribute to silent movies and Clara Bow, The IT Girl reinvents the 1927 Paramount Picture "IT." Betty is a sassy department store sales clerk who wins an advertising contest held to find the girl with the elusive, thrilling quality known as "IT". Among those she enchants with sexy charm is the heir to the retail empire that employs her.

Season tickets are available by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre box office at 248-377-3300. They range from $161 - $234 per seat for the six-play season. Subscribers to the MBT season receive a 20% discount for tickets to the Children's Series and a 20% discount on tickets for A Christmas Carol before they go on sale to the general public.

Single tickets go on sale Monday, August 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets range from $30 - $45 for individual plays. For additional information on Meadow Brook Theatre, visit www.mbtheatre.com.

Making Macomb: A Journey Through 200 Years Detroit Tank Arsenal Program March 17

The Detroit Tank Arsenal takes center stage on Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m. during the Lorenzo Cultural Center's Making Macomb: A Journey Through 200 Years, a program series celebrating Macomb County's bicentennial. John Lind, local historian and director of the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum, will discuss the historical impact of the Detroit Tank Arsenal and the ongoing role Macomb County plays in outfitting today's military.

Built in 1940, the Detroit Tank Arsenal was responsible for the assembly of approximately 25,000 tanks that were sent overseas during World War II. Lind will discuss how the arsenal came about, how it helped America gain its footing in the war and what the arsenal meant after the war.

"Macomb County is the defense corridor of America," said Lind. "People from all over the world come to see what we produce here in Macomb every day."

Making Macomb: A Journey Through 200 Years, Feb. 28 through May 5, is held at the Lorenzo Cultural Center on the college's Center Campus in Clinton Township. The program series consists of presentations on the history and development of Macomb County complemented by a variety of exhibits in the cultural center's Discovery Hall.

While the presentations and exhibits are open to the public free of charge, preregistration is required for the presentations by by emailing culturalcenter@macomb.edu or calling 586-445-7348. No registration is required to visit the exhibits. The cultural center is open Wednesday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For a complete listing of all Making Macomb: A Journey Through 200 Years programming visit www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com.

Michigan Opera Theatre at Macomb Center

Michigan Opera Theatre presents '27' at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts for two days. The opera explores themes of love, loss, change and art set throughout two world wars. Show times are Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 11 at 2:30 p.m.

All tickets $57, plus a $4.50 handling fee per order. Order by phone at 586-286-2222. All sales are final. The Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is located at 44575 Garfield Rd (at Hall Road), in Clinton Township.

Governor and GOP to Blame for Crumbling Michigan Roads

PERSPECTIVES

Op-Ed by
PETE MAURER

Like all southeast Michiganders, I have become rather adept at driving around, over, and occasionally through the potholes that come with every spring. But this year, they are particularly bad, and although many in Lansing are busy throwing Mother Nature under the bus, the extent of the problem this year can be laid at the feet of the Republican Party.

Several years ago, despite Gov. Snyder urging lawmakers to come up with a funding plan to address Michigan's rapidly-crumbling infrastructure, the GOP legislature instead maintained their 'no-new-taxes' pledge. After several years of bickering and politicking, the Republicans finally agreed on a plan to raise fees to pay for increased roadwork – but the increased fees didn't take effect for many months after the legislation was passed.

The net result of all this foot-dragging was an extended delay in raising the money needed to address a problem that should have been confronted years sooner. In other words, party and pledge before infrastructure.

Yes, Mother Nature is more than willing to do Her share in pothole formation, making sure that the freeze-thaw cycle ensures road construction companies additional business. But the Republican Party was (and still is) focused on reducing taxes to the detriment of some very essential public services, including road maintenance.

So intent are they on reducing taxes, even by infinitesimal amounts, the GOP has forsaken Michigan's infrastructure, education, and public services. Again, party and pledge before the safety of Michigan residents.

Blown tires, bent rims, destroyed shock absorbers, damaged struts, and many other automotive components have given up the ghost, all so that the Michigan GOP can continue to cut taxes despite overwhelming support from the citizens to raise taxes to fix our roads.

And as many pothole victims can attest, most of these repair jobs are far more expensive than a few cents in gasoline tax, and higher registration and license plate fees. Most of us were willing to pay $100 a year or more in fees to fix our roads years ago, rather than pay the thousands of dollars in damage that a single pothole can cause today.

Party and pledge before the financial well-being of Michigan citizens. And lest you think Gov. Snyder is without blame, think again. It is the opinion of many political insiders that despite outward appearances, Rick Snyder has never been in charge of the Michigan Republican Party, yielding time and again to the whims of his GOP legislators.

Gov. Snyder is far more moderate than many realize, and even though he has done enough on his own to negatively impact various aspects of governance in Michigan, he also is not nearly conservative enough to satisfy the large and extreme element of the Michigan Republican Party.

This difference in political persuasion has left Michigan in a lurch at times, allowing that extreme element of the GOP to delay, slow down, defer, and otherwise suspend meaningful governance until they got their way.

This political petulance may have been effective against an ineffectual governor, but it left Michigan's citizens, roads, and bridges at the mercy of natural and political forces.

Party and pledge before consideration of Michigan's citizens.

And in honor of the collective efforts of Michigan's GOP, might I suggest that we refer to our potholes by an alternate, but well-earned, nickname – Republiholes.

The views expressed in the Op-Ed Perspectives column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gazette. We encourage readers to submit a Letter to the Editor to Andrew@Gazettemediagroup.com.

MCC Open House to Highlight Advanced Degree Opportunities

Macomb Community College will hold College Transfer Day on Wednesday, March 14 from 4-7 p.m., at the college's South Campus, 12 Mile and Hayes roads, in the John Lewis Student Community Center (K Building).

The event will provide prospective students with information about the more than 75 bachelor-degree completion, master's and doctoral degree programs available through the Macomb University Center's 12 partner institutions. Representatives from several Michigan universities will be on hand to discuss the degree programs they offer at the Macomb University Center.

Macomb Community College

Registering at macomb.edu/TransferDay is encouraged, although walk-in registration will be accepted.

2018 Macomb Business Awards

MACOMB COUNTY Department of Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller and Utica Mayor Thom Dionne pictured here at the 2018 Macomb Business Awards held this week at Mirage Banquets & Catering in Clinton Township. "A great opportunity to meet some of Macomb County's best today," Dionne said of the event. The winner of Champion of Workforce Development was St. John Providence, Corporate Citizen went to First State Bank, Diversification Leader to RCO Engineering, Inc., Model of OneMacomb was awarded to AGS Automotive, and Startup Business to Watch went to Rose-A-Lee Technologies.

UCS Board Approves Two-Year Teacher Contract

The Utica Community Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a two-year agreement with the Utica Education Association that provides $9.4 million in savings and slows the district's structural deficit.

The agreement, approved by the board by a 6-0 vote at its February 26 meeting, follows nearly a year of bargaining that included both a mediation and fact finding process.

UCS Board President Gene Klida acknowledged the work of the UCS and UEA bargaining teams, indicating that Michigan's current school funding system created a challenging environment for contract negotiations.

"Through the work of the negotiating teams, we have addressed one side of the equation – the expenditure side. It is now time for the State of Michigan to address the second side of the equation – revenues," Klida said. "Our state lawmakers must realize that the current school funding system is broken and needs to be replaced. We again call on our community to advocate for their schools by telling lawmakers it is time to fund the true cost to educate a child in Michigan."

The agreement includes five furlough days, dental insurance carrier change, step freeze for the first year of the agreement (2017-2018), half-step freeze for the second year of the agreement (2018-2019), and a calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.

The agreement provides some expenditure relief to the district for two years and will run through June, 2019.