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June 14, 2019
 Vol. 3, No. 26

Lucido to host auto insurance town hall

State Sen. Peter J. Lucido, R-Shelby Township, this week announced he will host a community town hall discussion on recent changes to Michigan's insurance laws and how they will affect drivers.

The town hall will be held Monday, July 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Palazzo Grande, located at 54660 Van Dyke Ave. in Shelby Township.

"The landmark legislative action recently taken to overhaul Michigan's auto insurance system was a big deal and will save a lot of people money," said Lucido, who will lead the panel discussion. "However, there is a lot to unpack and I want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to learn more about the changes that are coming their way, and to have their questions answered by the experts."

While the town hall is open to the public and no appointment is necessary, because of anticipated demand and limited seating, those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP to LucidoTownhall@Senate.Michigan.gov or call 855-374-8008.

Father's Day at Sherwood

Sherwood Brewing Company in Shelby Township will host a Father's Day special on Sunday, June 16 from 12-9 p.m. The package includes three courses and three beer samplers for \$15.

Sherwood Brewing Company is at 45689 Hayes Rd.



15th Annual Flapjack 5K gets a little help from Kiwanis

The Clinton Township Kiwanis Club helped make pancakes for participants of the Flapjack 5K Run Sunday at Shawnee Elementary in Macomb. Proceeds from the event went to Kids Coalition Against Hunger. Macomb Township Trustee Tim Bussineau is pictured here in the middle with a light blue shirt.

Two UCS grads earn college-based National Merit scholarships

Two Utica Community Schools seniors are among 3,500 students in the nation and one of among only 78 in Michigan to earn a college-based scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship program.

Megan Botkin and Katelynn Paluch, of the Utica Academy for International Studies, earned National Merit Scholarships grant financed by U.S. colleges and

universities.

Botkin received a scholarship Purdue University to study engineering and Paluch earned an award from Hope College to study medicine.

Both Botkin and Paluch are school valedictorians, IB Full Diploma candidates, UCS Advanced Placement scholars, members of the National Honor Society and candidates for a UCS

Seal of Global Language.

Students were offered scholarships between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study through National Merit programs funded by colleges and universities.

Students initially qualify for the Merit program by being among the top one percent of

See UCS, page 3

Macomb Twp Trustee: "I wish we could all play nice in the sandbox"

by ELENA DURNBAUGH

The Macomb Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to bring in outside legal counsel to investigate the union grievance filed by the township human resource specialist during a three and a half hour board meeting Wednesday night.

The June 12 agenda originally included an item that provided the union with an opportunity to outline the grievance between the township human resource specialist, listed on the Macomb Township website as Sharalyn Arft, and Thomas Esordi, the township human resources director and legal counsel. According to union steward Charles Pierce, the presentation would have laid out what happened, explained why the union felt that employee rights were infringed upon, and would have asked the board to come to a resolution regarding the grievance.

The item never came before the board, though. At the beginning of the meeting, Trustee Roger Krzeminski made a motion to remove the grievance from the agenda because the union did not allow him to hear a tape that was going to be played during its presentation. The motion was

See MACOMB TWP, page 2

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Macomb Township Board votes to bring in outside legal counsel to investigate union issue

MACOMB TWP, From page 1

supported by Trustee Nancy Nevers, but it never came to a vote. Township Supervisor Janet Dunn moved past the motion and called for other additions or deletions to the agenda. Nevertheless, the item was removed.

“Unfortunately, they chose not to hear it tonight,” Pierce said after the board meeting. “The fortunate aspect of that is that they are going to go get an outside counsel to do an investigation and hopefully they will do a thorough investigation, like should have been done, and come to a reasonable conclusion.”

During public comment, Pierce said that the collective bargaining agreement did not require the union to provide board members with any material for the hearing, but that it had provided a list of items for review prior to the meeting.

“We went through the steps appropriately to try and come to an agreement prior to ever coming to a board meeting,” Pierce told the Gazette. “The township took it upon itself to deny what we thought were valid claims, which is the reason why we came here tonight, and then they removed it.”

Pierce said that removing the grievance from the agenda was not in the collective bargaining agreement and that he wasn’t sure how that could be done at the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Trustee Tim Bussineau proposed adding on an agenda item to request to bring in outside legal counsel to investigate the grievance. Treasurer Karen Goodhue raised concern that there were last-minute additions, but Clerk Kristi Pozzi clarified that Michigan Township Association policy allows board members to add additional business to the agenda up to the time the board approves the agenda at the meeting.

“I believe on this grievance issue, there is a conflict of interest,” Bussineau said during the meeting. “I think this board is going to have to turn to somebody, and I think our general counsel is well qualified, but can we turn to him at a point where there’s a conflict of interest... We need a general counsel to give an opinion on an HR action, and I’m just not comfortable with hearing this grievance without hearing some kind of outside legal opinion.”

Since the township planning

director Patrick Meagher resigned in April, board members and community members have raised concerns about the dual nature of the HR/legal position Esordi occupies and have suggested that there is an inherent conflict of interest.

Last week, the township supervisor received a letter on behalf of Esordi from attorney Paul Cassidy. The letter advised board members to refrain from criticizing his client at public board meetings. In his letter, Cassidy said that in his opinion, there was no such conflict of interest in Esordi’s position.

“We’ve talked conflict of interest,” Bussineau said at the meeting, “but I think there is a big conflict of interest on this grievance.”

Trustee Nancy Nevers summarized a letter from former Macomb Township human resources director John Brogowicz that seemed to suggest that the supervisor could step in to remove any potential conflict.

“The supervisor could operate with outside counsel, but it wasn’t required. She or he could still do that if Mr. Esordi conflicted out. No difference, but even outside counsel represented the board, not the employee,” Nevers read. “Same as now, bottom line, no conflict.”

In a copy of the email Brogowicz sent to the board, which was obtained by the Gazette through FOIA, Brogowicz states that the township supervisor was ultimately responsible for addressing the subjects of harassment and hostile work environment. He said that this “‘check and balance’ approach in policy administration” was helpful in resolving disputes when the human resources director was involved. He never states whether the current situation was a conflict of interest.

In fact, in his letter, Brogowicz clearly states that he was only writing to provide information on how the Human Resources Department was previously run.

“I am not writing to debate the merits of bringing legal counsel into the Township nor combing the position with the Director of Human Resources,” Brogowicz said. “I am writing to you, the Board of Trustees, to provide relevant background information regarding the Human Resources Department.”

At the meeting, Bussineau questioned Nevers’ representation of the letter, and once again raised concern over

who the board was going to turn to for legal advice on a grievance concerning Esordi.

“I’m going to need some guidance when we go through this grievance procedure because it’s the same person,” he said.

Trustee Kathy Smith voiced support for Bussineau’s request.

“I would have to agree with Mr. Bussineau on this, and in fairness to Mr. Esordi,” she said. “It’s just the fair thing to do.”

At the board meeting on May 22, Clerk Pozzi requested that the board hire outside legal counsel to investigate the conduct of Esordi. That action was voted down, with some board members objecting to unknown legal fees and others finding the request “unethical.”

On Wednesday night, the supervisor once again raised concerns about legal fees. Pozzi said that the services of attorney Greg Meihn would have cost the township a flat fee of \$1,500 and again pointed out that the board paid over \$1,800 for outside legal counsel to investigate a low-level employee.

During Wednesday’s meeting, the board easily voted for a \$200,000 upcharge to break ground earlier for the Foss Park Plan.

Other members were concerned that an investigation would be handled unfairly. Nevers suggested that the township decide on which attorney to hire by pulling names out of a hat.

“I’m not afraid of anything coming out that would be a coverup of any kind, but I wish, and this is sophomoric, but I wish we could all play nice in the sandbox,” she said. “We were elected to get along.”

Pozzi also expressed her desire to be fair and said that she wished that the same fairness had been extended to her employee that was investigated by Esordi.

Smith volunteered to provide a list of names to the supervisor, and the supervisor suggested that the matter be postponed to the next board meeting.

“Can you guys make a decision?” one resident yelled from the audience.

Krzeminski made a motion to authorize the supervisor to find an outside labor attorney, and Pozzi added to the motion that the attorney be recommended by Smith.

The motion passed unanimously, but no deadline was set for action on the decision. The Board of Trustees will meet again on Wednesday, June 26.

USPBL week in review



The Utica Unicorns are off to the league’s best start at 11-3 to highlight this week’s action in the United Shore Professional Baseball League.

Jimmy Latona heated up for the Unicorns with a pair of home runs and right-handed pitcher Spencer Stockton improved to 3-1 on the season with another strong performance against the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers.

The Beavers’ Ross Haffey has homered in each of his last three games and leads the league with an impressive .941 slugging percentage. Haffey, a native of

Birmingham, was named USPBL Player of the Week on Monday after batting .364 with those three home runs and six RBIs.

Noah Gotsis has been impressive for the Diamond Hoppers. The 6-foot right-hander from Phoenix, Arizona, leads the USPBL with a 1.42 ERA and is a perfect 2-0 on the season. Gotsis is striking out just under nine batters per game.

USPBL games are played at Jimmy John’s Field Wednesday-Sunday this week. Fans can purchase tickets as low as \$6 (lawn seats) or \$12 (grandstand tickets at uspb.com/.

“Cat in the Hat” Dinner Dance

Join the Shelby Senior Center for, in the words of Dr. Seuss, “lots of good fun that is funny” at the “Cat in the Hat” Dinner Dance on Friday, June 21.

Doors open at 5:30 for a night of fun and dancing. Dinner will be served from 6-7 p.m. and after, people can dance the night away

until 10 p.m. Music for the evening will be provided by the Tommy James Band.

Tickets are on sale now for \$16 through the Shelby Township Senior Center. To learn more, call 586-739-7540. The senior center is at 51670 Van Dyke in Shelby Township.

DON'T MISS THESE GAMES

6/12 Westside Woolly Mammoths vs Eastside Diamond Hoppers
 6/13 Eastside Diamond Hoppers vs Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers
 6/14 Westside Woolly Mammoths vs Utica Unicorns
 6/15 Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers vs Utica Unicorns
 6/16 Utica Unicorns vs Eastside Diamond Hoppers

Wednesday, June 19
 Ladies Night **COPPOLA**
 Bouncin' at the Ballpark
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 First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Thursday, June 20
 Thirsty Thursday
 Jimmy Buffett Night
 Caribbean Blue Band
 First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Friday, June 21
 Teacher Appreciation
 Fireworks Spectacular
 First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Saturday, June 22
 QOLity 80's Night Featuring Square Pegz
 First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Sunday, June 23
 Superheroes
 First Pitch 1:05PM, Gates Open NOON

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UCS students receive prestigious national college scholarship

UCS, From page 1

students in the country taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

This year, the Utica Community Schools had nine National Merit Scholars who were named finalists for eligible scholarships. Scholars represent the top one percent of all U.S. high school graduates in terms of academic ability.

Earlier this spring, the National Merit Corporation announced merit scholarships to three UCS graduates: Drew Beckman, of Stevenson High School, Nicholas Koshy, of Eisenhower High School, and George Paul, of the Utica Academy for International Studies.

— Utica12.org/



MEGAN BOTKIN



KATELYNN PALUCH

Shelby Lieutenant Barnard graduates from F.B.I. National Academy

This week Lieutenant Patrick Barnard, a 21-year veteran of the Shelby Township Police Department, graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia after living on campus for 10 weeks.

The law enforcement leadership program is sponsored by the FBI and hosts four sessions each year. Lieutenant Barnard's class had 256 graduates.

Classes include Essentials in Law Enforcement Leadership, Public Speaking, Investigation into Violent Crime, and Crisis Negotiations.

"The thing that probably holds the most value to me were the relationships made with some great individuals," Barnard said of his time at the National Academy. "On a personal level, there were people here that I met that I will be seeing again at some point, solid individuals that have become friends of mine. Professionally, they and many others are an incredible resource. The network of connections you make here is the real value."

Shelby Township Police Chief Robert Shelide said Barnard's leadership experience is a value to their department. "We are so proud of Lieutenant Barnard," said



Lieutenant Barnard with Deputy Chief Mark Coil

Shelide. "He leads through his personal integrity which happens to be exemplary. Patrick is someone that not only represents the highest standards of the Shelby Township Police Department, but he is also a tremendous asset to our noble profession."

Lieutenant Barnard joins two other members of the Shelby Township Police Department who have graduated from the FBI National Academy. Deputy Chief Mark Coil is a 2016 graduate and Chief Shelide is a 2013 graduate.

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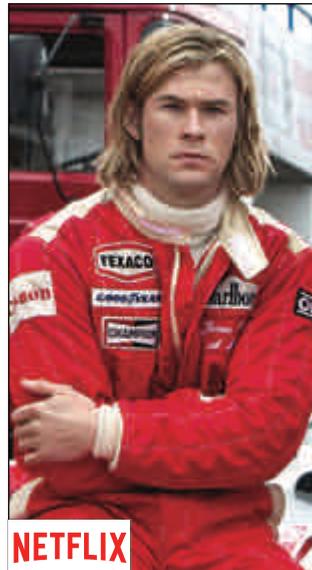
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Arts & Entertainment



X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX
PG-13, Sci-fi/Action



RUSH
R, Biography/Action



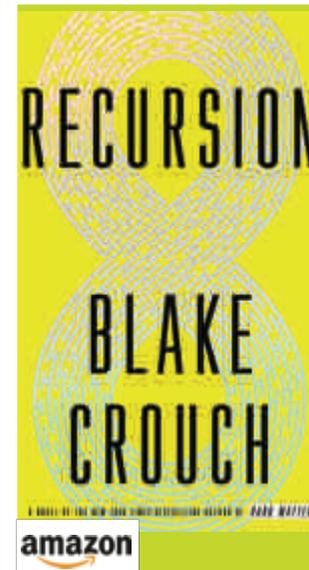
THE COKEVILLE MIRACLE
PG-13, Drama



THE UPSIDE
PG-13, Drama/Comedy



AFRICA SPEAKS
Santana - Latin Rock, Concord



RECURSION
Blake Crouch - Science Fiction, Crown

MUSIC

First State Bank Summer Sounds Concert Series
Thursdays through Mondays, 5:30 p.m. The Mall at Partridge Creek, Clinton Township

Remnose Friday, June 14, 8 p.m. Ghostlight, Hamtramck

The Evan Mercer Trio
Saturday, June 15, 6 p.m. Cliff Bells, Detroit

Jason Isbell & Father John Misty Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m. Fox Theatre, Detroit

Death Cab For Cutie Tuesday, June 18, 8 p.m. Masonic Temple, Detroit

New Kids on the Block
Tuesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, Detroit

The Gasoline Gypsies Friday, June 21, 8 p.m. Coyote Joe's, Shelby Township

Grace Jones Monday, July 1, 8 p.m. Masonic Temple, Detroit

ON STAGE

313 Comedy Sundays, 8-10 p.m. Detroit Shipping Company

Name This Show Fridays & Saturdays, 11:45 p.m. Go Comedy Improv, Ferndale

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind Now thru June 30, Matrix Theatre Company, Detroit

Anastasia Now thru June 23, Fisher Theatre, Detroit

The IT Girl Now Thru June 23, Meadow Brook Theatre, Rochester

AROUND TOWN

Packards & Pints Friday, June 14, 7 p.m. Packard Proving Grounds, Shelby Township

Frank Lloyd Wright Affleck House Tour Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. 925 Bloomfield Woods

Manic Monday June 17, 7 p.m. Painting with a Twist, Shelby Township - \$25

Line Dance Tuesdays in "The Loft" Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m. Danny J's Brick Tavern, Utica

Friends Trivia Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m. Unwined Winery, Shelby Township

Tons O Trucks Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m. Seneca Middle School, Macomb

Rochester Mills Anniversary Party Saturday, June 22, 9 p.m. Rochester Mills Beer Co.

Rock 'n' Rides June 20-23, Downtown Royal Oak

River Days June 21-23, Detroit Riverfront

LIBRARY

Ispy Bottle Challenge
Monday, June 17, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Utica Public Library - Can you find all of the hidden objects inside the bottles of rice? Drop in any time to complete the ispy challenge.

Organic Micro Farming
Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m. Shelby Township Library

Free Presentation & Vegan Food Tasting Monday, June 24, 6:30 p.m. Clinton Macomb Public Library

Hot Reads Pop Up Library with CMPL Tuesday, June 25, 10 a.m. The Mall at Partridge Creek, Clinton Township

Sorting Sentimental Clutter
Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. Shelby Township Library

KIDS & TEENS

Kaboomistry! Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m. Utica Public Library

Teen Craft: Sharpie Tie Dye
Saturday, June 15, 1 pm. Romeo District Library, Washington

Spacecraft Craft Stations
Saturday, June 15, 1:30 p.m. Shelby Township Library

Our Universe Rocks
Wednesday, June 19, 1:30 p.m. Shelby Township Library

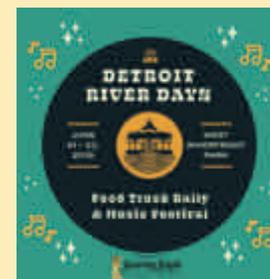
SAVE THE DATE

John Mayer Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, Detroit

Incubus Wednesday, October 16, 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, Detroit

Mike Doughty Thursday, October 24, El Club, Detroit

To submit an event, email News@gazettemediagroup.com. Submissions run in the paper space permitting. To advertise an event, email Advertising@gazettemediagroup.com.



DETROIT RIVER DAYS

Now entering its thirteenth year, River Days will take place June 21-23 on the West Riverfront in Detroit. Admission to the festival is \$5 and children ages 3 and under as well as seniors ages 65 and up get in for free.

Admission to the festival will be free between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, June 21. Also, if you participate in the Riverfront Run you will receive a free admission coupon.

Musical headliners on the Soaring Eagle National Music Stage include Smokey Robinson on Friday, Brandy on Saturday, and Faith Evans on Sunday. Live music will be rocking all weekend on three stages including the Michigan Lottery Stage and Metro by T-Mobile Stage.

See the full schedule at Riverdays.com/.

Soaring Eagle named title sponsor of Arts, Beats & Eats

Arts, Beats & Eats – Oakland County's annual Labor Day weekend celebration of art and entertainment – this week

automotive sponsor in the event's 22-year history.

The festival returns to Royal Oak on Labor Day weekend,



announced that Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort has been given 2019 festival naming rights and has become the first-ever non-

August 30-September 2.

"When the option to assume naming rights came up, we knew we had to jump on securing them

First-ever Rock 'n' Rides coming to Royal Oak

Rock 'n' Rides is Royal Oak's newest addition to its summer festival list, with live music, a kids entertainment stage, food and drinks, and carnival rides. The festival will take place Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23 at 5th & Center in downtown Royal Oak.

The Fifth Street Block Party

lineup features Ali McManus, Overdrive Orchestra, The Reefermen, and The Gia Warner Band.

Carnival Rides

The nearly 20-ride carnival will be the largest downtown Royal Oak has seen, featuring the Cliffhanger, Ring of Fire,



will feature beer from Royal Oak's own River Rouge Brewing Company and ROAK Brewing. The Block Party is also conveniently located to the live music stage, where bands from a wide variety of genres will entertain guests throughout the weekend.

Live Music

On Friday, June 21, enjoy the sounds of classic rock, blues, and funk with bands like Wood & Grain, The Strangers, Ulterior Motive, and The Persuasion Band. On Saturday, groups including Banjolectric, Corktown Popes, The Ruiners, and Stone Clover will take the stage. And rounding out the weekend of sounds, Sunday's

Scrambler, Star Dancer, Vertigo, Tornado, Red Baron, Tilt-A-Whirl, Flivver, Century Wheel, State Fair Slide, Traffic Jam Fun House, Monster Truck, Toon Town, Wet Boat, Jumpin' Jumbos, Tinsel Town and more.

All day carnival bands are \$15 on Thursday, June 20 and \$25 Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23. Individual rides range between \$3 and \$6.

There will also be a zipline down 6th Street on Friday through Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and are not included in the carnival band.

For more information, visit Rocknridesro.com/.

quickly," said Raul Venegas, executive director of marketing, entertainment & sales, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. "It was an opportunity for us to be fully integrated with the festival that shares so much in common with what we stand for in terms of entertainment, cuisine, culture, and family."

Soaring Eagle, located in Mt. Pleasant, has supported Arts, Beats & Eats in years past, including serving up sandwiches via its Cuisine Machine and sponsoring gaming opportunities, as well as music and entertainment stages. Soaring Eagle will enjoy the title sponsorship of the festival for the next three years.

Flagstar Bank, headquartered in Troy, has signed on as the festival's presenting sponsor for the next two years.

Now officially named Soaring Eagle Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Flagstar Bank, the event will offer more than 200 performances on nine stages, a juried fine art show, and dozens of local restaurants. The event will be open 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1; and 11 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. Monday, September 2.

To learn more, visit Artsbeatseats.com or call 248-541-7550.

Leslie Odom, Jr. to perform at DSO's Heroes Gala and Benefit Concert

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) will be joined by Leslie Odom, Jr. at the ninth annual Heroes Gala and Benefit Concert on Saturday, June 22. The

State University and the Henry Ford Health System.

The event begins with red carpet arrivals and a cocktail hour for gala patrons, followed by a



event officially launches the centennial year celebration of the DSO's historic home Orchestra Hall, which began its construction 100 years ago in June and first opened its doors on October 23, 1919.

Odom, Jr. is well-known for originating the role of Aaron Burr in the Broadway sensation Hamilton; he is also an accomplished recording artist, TV and film actor, and author. Detroit native Damon Gupton, whose career also includes both music and acting, will conduct.

The Heroes Gala honors the remarkable men and women who impact the vision, values, and success of the DSO. This year's Honoree is Mort Harris. Harris is a decorated World War II veteran, successful Detroit businessman, and generous philanthropist, not just to the DSO but to numerous organizations including Wayne

formal dinner. The Orchestra Hall concert featuring Odom, Jr. and the DSO begins at 8 p.m. and is open to concert-only guests as well as gala patrons. An afterglow for gala patrons will begin after the concert.

The event takes place at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center (3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit).

This year's Heroes Gala Honorary Patrons are Judy and Stanley Frankel and Ann and Jim Nicholson; Honorary Chairs are The Harris Family Children and Grandchildren, Linda Dresner and Edward C. Levy, Sandy Morrison, and Gwen and Evan Weiner. Proceeds from the gala support the DSO's commitment to transforming the lives of children and youth through music education. Learn more at Dso.org/heroes/.

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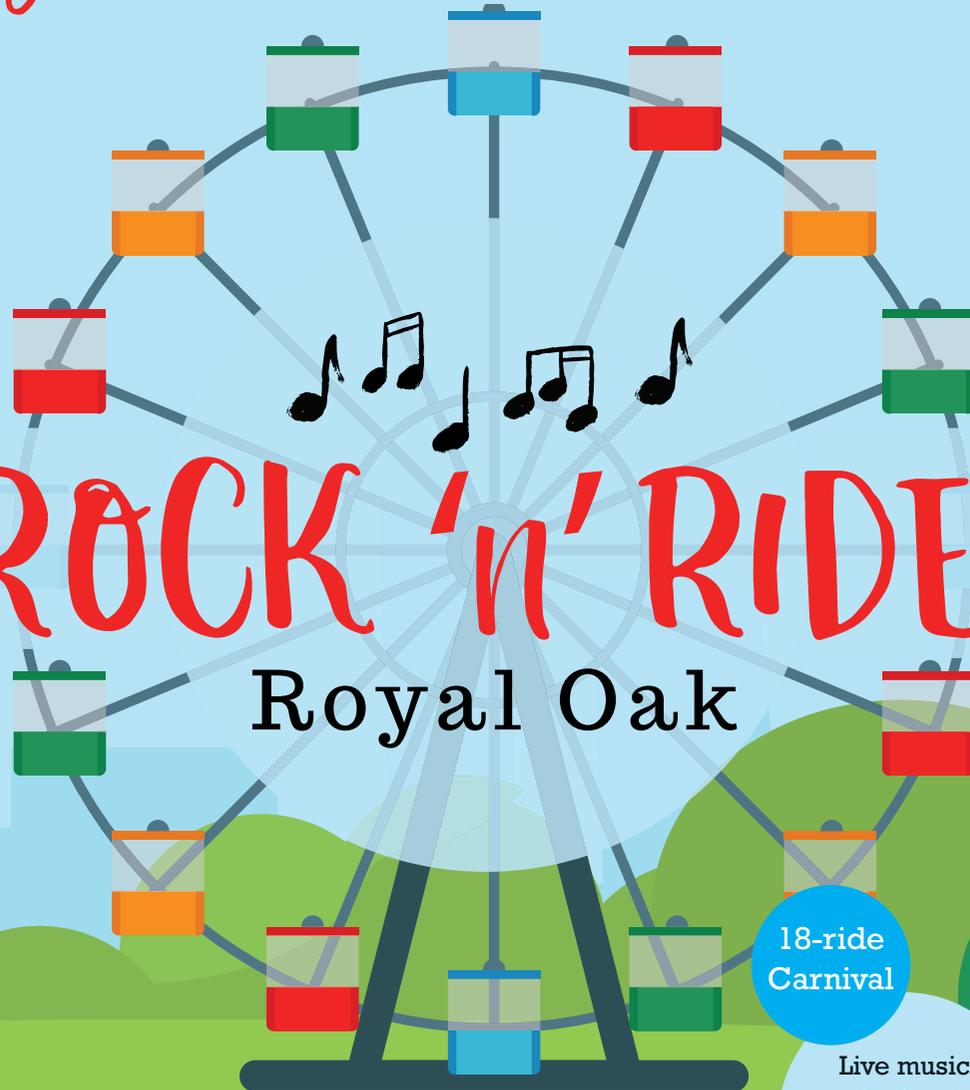


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ROCK 'n' RIDES

Royal Oak



Downtown Royal Oak

Thursday, June 20: 2pm – 10pm

Friday, June 21: 11am – 11pm

Saturday, June 22: 11am – 11pm

Sunday, June 23: 11am – 10pm

A portion of the proceeds benefits over 20 local non-profits, schools and churches!

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Food
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Block Party on
5th Street
(Friday – Sunday)
featuring ROAK and
River Rouge Brewing
Companies

Friday, June 21

- 2:00pm: Wood & Grain (American Roots Rock)
- 3:00pm: Ameera and The Undertones (Funk/Alternative)
- 4:15pm: The Strangers (Rock/Indie)
- 5:30pm: Christian Vegh (Blues/Rock)
- 7:00pm: Dave Hamilton Band (Rock)
- 8:30pm: Ulterior Motive (Rock and Roll)
- 10:00pm: The Persuasion Band (Party Music)

Saturday, June 22

- 12:00pm: Banjolectric (Global Electro-Folk)
- 1:30pm: WØLFDARLING (Alternative)
- 3:00pm: Rock Steady (Classic Rock)
- 4:30pm: Corktown Popes (Americana/Rock)
- 6:15pm: Nina & The Buffalo Riders (Rock & Roll & Soul)
- 8:00pm: The Ruiners (Garage Rock/Punk)
- 9:45pm: Stone Clover (Paddy Slag/Rock)

Sunday, June 23

- 12:00pm: Al Bettis (Pop/R&B)
- 1:30pm: Ali McManus (Soft Rock/Pop)
- 3:00pm: Maiyana Davis (Blues Rock)
- 4:30pm: Overdrive Orchestra (Rock)
- 6:00pm: The Reefermen (Rock)
- 7:30pm: TAVISTOCK (Rock/Classic Rock)
- 9:00pm: The Gia Warner Band (Rock/Americana)

Sponsored by



More info at rocknridesro.com

Yes, our roads suck, but so do our bridges

PERSPECTIVES



Op-Ed by
NATHAN INKS

Michigan roads have received a lot of attention in recent months, and while that attention is certainly well deserved, a similar infrastructure problem with potentially greater impact has received comparatively less attention. That subject is Michigan's bridges.

In terms of current conditions of roads versus bridges, the state's bridges do not look too bad. Over the past decade, the percentage of Michigan bridges in poor condition has hovered around 10%, while roads in poor condition shot above 40%. The problems with the state's bridges are not necessarily at the extremes but in how widespread this issue could become if changes are not made. Projections from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) only have the number of bridges in poor condition increasing to 16% over the next decade, but the number of bridges in fair condition would drop to about 25%, with well over

a majority in fair condition.

Exacerbating the potential effects is the fact that a closed or dangerous bridge has more significant impacts than an individual road in poor condition. While a closed road may cause drivers to have to resort to an inconvenient detour, those detours still allow drivers to get where they need to go most of the time. But navigating around a closed bridge is not always that easy; detours can be incredibly time-consuming, and some areas may be completely inaccessible until travel across the bridge is restored. That leads to just more than frustrated drivers; if customers cannot reach businesses, closed bridges can have disastrous economic impacts on neighborhoods.

One of the biggest contributing factors to Michigan's increasingly deteriorating bridges is that local governments are using the vast majority of transportation money allocated to them from the state solely on roads. While it varies by county and municipality, on average local municipalities and road commissions spend less than 5% of transportation money allocated to them by the state on bridges.

The result is that MDOT estimates that it would take around \$3.4 billion to cover the physical costs of replacing the

bridges currently listed in poor condition. Once the costs of demolishing existing bridges and designing new ones are factored in, this number would increase, and the figure does not account for the future need to replace or repair bridges that are not yet in poor condition. If MDOT and local governments do not dedicate additional funds, fixing just the bridges currently in poor condition would take close to a century according to MDOT's estimates.

While fixing Michigan's roads certainly needs to be a top priority, a successful road plan cannot be enacted to the detriment of the state's bridges. Roads and bridges are such intertwined and integral parts of our infrastructure that their improvements need to be tackled together. Piecemeal and stopgap infrastructure proposals are what got the state into the current situation. As lawmakers continue to negotiate in Lansing, the goal must be a bill package that addresses the state's infrastructure as a whole; anything less simply kicks the can down the road for another few years.

Want to add your voice to the conversation? Send a letter to the editor by emailing Andrew@GazetteMediaGroup.com and we may publish it.

Michigan Launch Initiative could put us back in space

State Sen. Michael D. MacDonald on Tuesday supported supplemental state funding to help Michigan return to space.

Senate Bill 150 is a supplemental appropriations bill for the current 2019 fiscal year. It includes a \$2 million state grant for the Michigan Launch Initiative (MLI) to conduct surveys of possible locations for an \$80 million launch site and a satellite command center.

The MLI is a proposed public-private partnership that would offer a collaborative platform in Michigan to provide low Earth orbit and hypersonic launch technology for commercial and defense applications.

The launch site would be nearly entirely financed by private investment.

SB 150 now heads to the governor for consideration.

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GM launches Dealer Technician Scholarship program at MCC

Through a new program launched by General Motors, 12 Dealer Technician scholarships will be offered at Macomb Community College, beginning this fall semester.

The scholarships will cover full tuition and fees while students earn an associate degree in automotive technology and on a pathway to jobs at GM dealerships.

In addition to coursework at Macomb, students will participate in paid co-op opportunities, with hands-on learning experiences led by experienced technicians at local Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealerships. Students will

be exposed to new technologies including battery-electric vehicles, semi-autonomous driver assistance systems, and built-in Wi-Fi connectivity.

"We're tearing down the barriers that stand in the way of people pursuing these good-paying, high-tech jobs," said Terry Rhadigan, executive director, GM Corporate Giving. "After two years, we want people to hit the ground running, so we will help them get a quality education, technical training and hands-on experience without the burden of student loans."

"We're excited to partner with GM to create greater

opportunities for our students to connect to good careers and the growing possibilities in automotive technology," said Don Hutchinson, dean, Engineering and Advanced Technology, Macomb Community College.

The deadline for submission of completed scholarship applications is 5 p.m. on July 26. Students awarded the scholarships must be enrolled full-time, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 and complete co-op rotations at local GM dealerships or ACDelco Professional Service Centers. To learn more, call 586-445-7015.

Romeo AAUW scholarship winners announced

Every year the Romeo Branch of the American Association of University Women awards three scholarships to three Romeo High School girls to help them fulfill their college dreams.

The scholarships are named after three members of the AAUW who also were teachers in the Romeo Community Schools.

The Elizabeth Parsons scholarship was awarded to Hannah Encisco who will be attending Ohio North University majoring in Drama with a minor in Creative Writing.

The winner of the Leora Fay scholarship is Julia Fadanelli. She will be attending the University of Michigan to study immigration

law and/or training how to become a United Nations representative.

The Nancy Barr scholarship winner is Charlene Yarema. Charlene will attend Wayne State University to study occupational therapy. She was also selected to play soccer for Wayne State.



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Senior Living

Moving? Keep a positive outlook while packing up

(NAPSI) Relocating is a stressful endeavor at any age and can be particularly difficult for seniors transitioning into retirement or into an Assisted Living community. Seniors many times must part with beloved possessions and adjust to living in a neighborhood environment.

To help ease moving-related anxiety, consider the following tips for seniors:

Think positively. Leaving a home you love is a difficult decision, but try to focus on the

positive aspects. Your new home will be easier to manage and will allow you plenty of time to enjoy your golden years.

Plan ahead. Start packing six to eight weeks before you move. Begin compiling files for your personal and financial records.

Finalize transactions. Remember to return borrowed library books and pick up items from the cleaners. If you are currently renting, give appropriate notice to your landlord as stipulated in your lease or rental

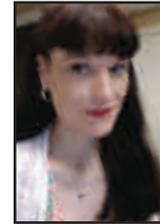
agreement.

Don't pack everything. Take important items with you. Jewelry, wills, family photos, and essential phone numbers should stay within sight.

Unpack slowly. Unload and assemble your furniture first. This not only gives you a place to rest, but also lets you arrange the furniture to your liking.

Meet fellow residents. Take a break and introduce yourself to your new neighbors.

Summer destinations for seniors



by
AMY FORTUNE

Does sunshine and warm air give you the travel bug? If so, you are not alone. Summer is a great time revisiting favorite destinations and discovering new places. But if you are itching to explore uncharted territory as a senior, where do you start? What is your ideal vacation spot? You may be looking for a place that offers easily accessible sites and activities, affordable dining options, and senior-friendly accommodations. Of course, you also want tons of fun, chances to meet new people, and opportunities to make beautiful memories.

So, where should you go? Here are a few ideas to spark your inspiration and make you want to start packing.

Fun, Safe, and Affordable Vacation Spots for Seniors

Grab your spouse, best friend, or favorite family member and check out these wonderful summer travel destinations. Or, if you need a little me-time, pick the ideal spot from the list for you and you alone.

Florida

Whether you like shopping, theme parks, golf, fine dining, or beaches, Florida has it all. There is, after all, a reason why so many senior citizens retire in Florida. And having held the title of Chosen Destination for Seniors for many years, Florida boasts many restaurants, hotels, and attractions that cater to senior needs and interests. If you are traveling with grandkids or other young children, or you are simply a kid at heart, consider adding Disney World to your Florida agenda.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

The renowned artist, Georgia O'Keefe, was inspired by the natural beauty of Santa Fe and built her summer home there. And while her actual home is closed off to the public, visitors can tour the surrounding area of Ghost Ranch. This historical site, along with dozens of museums, including the Florence Hawley Ellis Museum of Anthropology and the Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology make

Santa Fe a wonderful destination for curious types with a lust for learning. Santa Fe also boasts fantastic hotels and incredible dining options for luxury lovers and epicureans.



Corpus Christi, Texas

Corpus Christi attracts beachcombers who enjoy easy access to countless activities that are fun and engaging for visitors of all ages. You can spend an entire day at the Texas State Aquarium and make some new, flipped friends in Dolphin Bay. Veterans and military buffs can take a tour of the USS Lexington. Or, for a relaxing afternoon, you can take a stroll through the Botanical Gardens. In the evening, enjoy an excellent seafood meal at one of Corpus Christi's many fine restaurants. Then, take in a show at the historic Harbor Playhouse.

Bryson City, North Carolina

If slow and easy is more your speed, check out this beautiful small-town jewel tucked in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. Visit Bryson City to enjoy great galleries, charming restaurants, and unique boutiques. While there, you can also walk the trails of Smoky Mountain National Park and gaze in awe at the waterfalls. Then, get your tickets for the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad and ride a passenger train to a gorgeous location like Fontana Dam. As a bonus, Bryson City is just minutes away from the Cherokee Indian Reservation and about an hour away from Asheville, North Carolina, and incredible city with amazing dining, shopping, and live entertainment options.

Take Your Best and Safest Trip this Summer

No matter where you plan to go, play it safe by letting friends and family members in on your plans. Also, make sure that you have an adequate supply of necessary medications, an easy-to-access list of emergency numbers, and secure places to transport sensitive documents, money, and payment cards.



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"If you would have told me six months ago I could **lose 26lbs, drop my A1C score, eliminate diabetes medication**, and run up a flight of stairs without stopping to catch my breath, I would have thought you were crazy." - Janice S.

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When is a good time to plan a funeral?

For many people, planning their funeral seems like a daunting task and something to be put off until later. Without a plan, though, the burden can fall to loved ones at a time when they're already stressed and dealing with grief.

Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons is hosting a free seminar at Sycamore Hills Golf Club to help people understand the best time to plan a funeral. The seminar will be held on Thursday, June 13.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association 2017 Consumers Awareness and Preferences Study, 62.5% of consumers felt it was very important to communicate funeral plans and wishes to family prior to their death, but only 21.4% had done so.

At the seminar, attendees will learn about funeral cost savings

by pre-planning and how to help ensure that their wishes are carried out on issues like estate planning and power of attorney. They'll also learn how pre-planning helps ease the emotional and financial burdens of family members and gain peace of mind by making decisions ahead of time. Finally, speakers will discuss how planning ahead puts people in charge of their own end-of-life decisions.

Glenn Matecun, a certified elder law attorney, and Michael Zuzga, a funeral director at Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons, will both be guest speakers at the seminar.

In addition to learning valuable information about funerals, attendees will get to enjoy a complimentary dinner at the golf club.

The seminar and dinner will be

held at Sycamore Hills Golf Club at 48787 North Avenue in Macomb. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Although the event is free, seating is limited. Those who are interested in attending should make their reservations early by calling 586-826-8550.

Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons is a family owned and operated funeral home in Sterling Heights and Shelby Township. Wujek-Calcaterra has been providing the funeral needs of local families for four generations. The funeral home offers services including funerals, cremations, pre-planning, funeral cost estimates, and grief support.

To learn more visit wujekcalcaterra.com or call the Sterling Heights location at 586-588-9438, or the Shelby location at 586-588-9833.

Donor Recognition Open House in Ray Township

The Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society will host a "Donor Recognition & Open House" on Sunday, June 30 from 12-4 p.m. in the Ray Township Public Library at 64255 Wolcott, just north of 29 Mile Road.

A **perpetual plaque** will be unveiled and placed in the Library near the newly installed custom archival cabinet which was part of phase two of the Library's "Renovations for Resourceful Spaces" project.

The community is invited to join in the celebration as the Society gives recognition and

thanks to those who donated to the Society and to the renovation project. Light refreshments will be served.

The event runs concurrently with the Township's Ray Day Picnic in the Park and the final day for bidding on items in the Society's annual Silent Auction held in the Library beginning June 17.

Proceeds from the auction benefit improvements to the exterior of the Ray Township Public Library building, formerly the 1863 one-room Mill School.

To learn more, visit rayhistory.org/.

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Metro Detroit

Alzheimer's Disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Alzheimer's Association 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report. The report also found that 5.8 million Americans are living with the disease, and that this year alone, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$290 billion.

There's still a lot of work to be done to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This summer, the Detroit Zoo is hosting the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, August 25.

Every year, more than 600 communities nationwide hold walks to raise support for Alzheimer's. The event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to participate and join the fight against the disease.

When people participate in the walk, their fundraising dollars go toward ending Alzheimer's and the walk itself helps raise awareness in the community. Although there is no fee to register for the walk, the Alzheimer's Association encourages people to fundraise to contribute to the cause and raise awareness.

Those interested in participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's can register online

now at act.alz.org/detroit/. Once people register, they'll have access to a wide range of tools and support through the website Participant Center to help them reach their fundraising goals and raise awareness.

On the day of the event, registration will open at 7:00 a.m., the Opening Ceremony at 8:30 a.m. and the Walk will commence at 8:50 a.m. The Detroit Zoo is at 8450 W 10 Mile Rd in Royal Oak.

To learn more about the walk or sponsorship opportunities, contact Event Manager, Kyle Amanda Leonard at kleonard@alz.org or call 248-996-1044.

Wozniak applauds House-approved budget that would boost senior care

State Rep. Doug Wozniak this week supported state funding for road repairs and schools, as well as investments to protect drinking water and enhance senior care services across Michigan.

"Just as Macomb County households operate within a budget, state government should also operate within a budget," said Wozniak, of Shelby Township. "I'm confident this House budget plan delivers value for taxpayers through a more efficient and effective government. It also signifies how we are able to prioritize what matters most to Michigan taxpayers without asking for more of their hard-earned money. This should be the cornerstone of any state budget plan, and will be my approach as the budget process continues."

In addition to addressing key elements on issues including

roads, schools, and clean drinking water, the plan also includes a \$28.2 million increase for home-help services for seniors, and retains \$3.3 million for non-Medicare certificate facilities for hospice service.

In addition, Wozniak said the House is committed to increasing

programming for dementia care and enhance the MI Choice waiver program by adding 1,000 slot for long-term care options for the elderly.

The House-approved budget measures now advance to the Senate for further consideration.

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God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and at my departing.*

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www.WujekCalcaterra.com

Senior Olympics in Shelby Township June 19

Get your tickets for the Senior Olympics, taking place this year on Wednesday, June 19 at 10 a.m.

With an emphasis on fun, River Bends Park will be the site for the day of games hosted by Macomb County Community Action.

There are no special skills or talents required to participate, just a good attitude. After the friendly competition, enjoy a coney dog from National Coney Island's coney cart.

To learn more, call the senior center at 586-739-7540.

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Securing financial stability in your retirement years

(NAPSI) Most people have a vision of their golden years that includes a comfortable retirement in which they can spend their time doing the things they enjoy. That dream doesn't require a substantial amount of wealth, but it is a lot more attainable if you have some financial stability.

Unfortunately, just 17% of older Americans are "financially

seniors of some of their free cash flow and reduces the amount of money they can spend each month. Credit card spending is especially dangerous for retirees, so consider a pay-as-you-go habit for new purchases.

2. Be a smart investor. Whether you have small retirement savings or a large investment portfolio, a diversified

understandable for both emotional and practical reasons. But it might improve your financial stability to sell your current home and buy a less expensive one for retirement, pocketing the difference and investing it wisely.

4. Delay Social Security. For retirees who have not yet signed up to collect their Social Security benefits, it may be advisable to delay that start date as long as possible. This may sound counterintuitive if you are searching for financial stability, but research has found that most seniors will benefit from the higher payouts they will receive by deferring to age 70, if possible.

5. Increase cash flow. One way to raise the amount of cash available for funding your retirement is to work part-time, an option that is more available to seniors than ever before. Another possibility is to unlock cash tied up in assets that you might not realize can be sold.

A comfortable retirement is possible without an enormous nest egg, but it is difficult without some degree of financial stability. By staying out of debt, practicing smart personal finance and maximizing cash flow, the vision you had of your golden years could be within reach.



healthy" and four in five low- and moderate-income Americans over the age of 50 are struggling with at least some aspect of their financial lives, according to a 2019 study funded by AARP Foundation.

Here are five tips for increasing financial stability during your retirement years:

1. Stay out of debt. Debt can be destabilizing because it robs

low-cost investment strategy can deliver additional income for spending and help you stay ahead of inflation. Choose a mix of stocks, bonds, and cash that helps you sleep soundly at night, according to The Vanguard Group.

3. Consider downsizing. Many retirees are hesitant to move out of the home where they raised their children, which is

Have a great time on well-planned trips

Group bus travel is a lot of fun, especially when you don't have to do anything except show up. Planned motorcoach trips are enjoyable because you can see the country, walk down the bus aisle to stretch, snack, read, crochet and even enjoy a movie about the area you're seeing. Step On Bus has upcoming tours in Pigeon Forge, New York, and Egypt. Travellers can expect to see a lot of the "behind-the-scenes" places that they wouldn't see travelling solo.

Pigeon Forge – August 26 - 31, 2019. It's the Smoky Mountains show trip. Some of the highlights include a guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and your own time in historic downtown Gatlinburg, followed by the Hatfield-McCoy Dinner Theater. Travellers will also see the Smoky Mountain Opry Show with Bluegrass country music. The cost is \$610 per person and includes 5 nights lodging, 5 breakfasts, and 3 dinners.

New York and The Statue of Liberty – Sept. 19 - 25. "Big Apple" adventure continues with the new National 9/11 Museum, located at

the World Trade Center site. See Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and the One World Observatory, a three story observation deck located on floors 100-102 of One World Trade Center. You'll also get to enjoy a Dinner Party with Entertainment before returning to your hotel. The cost is \$825 per person.

Khalili Bazaar. Travellers will also enjoy Nile sightseeing, in-depth learning about the local economy and social systems, interactions with locals, and a discussion with a renowned Egyptologist. The cost is \$3499 double occupancy and includes 6 airfares, Nile Cruise, all but a couple of meals, and entry to all attractions.



Pharaohs of Egypt – October 2-11, 2020. This trip is a go! The minimum number of travellers has been met. Sightseeing includes the pyramids, the sphinx, Museum of Antiquities, Old Cairo, and Khan El

For more details about any of the tours, or for a complete schedule of tours, contact Step On Bus Tours, Rose Szwed, 248-619-6692.

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June 14, 2019



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Not only do their efforts benefit those in need in the community who need it most, they also help reduce food waste in the area by collecting large quantities of food from restaurants, wholesalers, and caterers. Forgotten Harvest is always in need of monetary donations and volunteers. Visit ForgottenHarvest.org for more information on how to donate your time, energy, and efforts to this worthy cause.

VOLUNTEER

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

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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.

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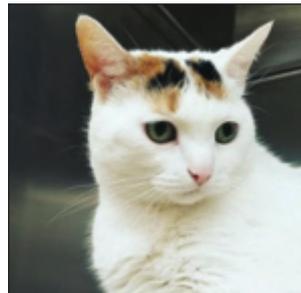


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		8		5	4	7	
		7	1				2 5
		3	5		1		8
1	5						9 4
	6		3		2	1	
2	4				9	5	
		5	4	2		9	
				3			1

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**Friday, June 21 -
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Headlining Acts Include:

- Smokey Robinson (Friday)
- Mary Jane Girls (Friday)
- Brandy (Saturday)
- Brian McKnight (Saturday)
- Faith Evans (Sunday)
- Carl Thomas (Sunday)

Admission, which supports the non-profit Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, is \$5 and includes a \$3 food coupon and is free on Friday before 5pm.

