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Troy-Somerset Gazette

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December 9, 2019
Vol. 40, No. 12

Charity Hockey Showdown

On Saturday, December 14, local hockey clubs HoneyBaked Hockey Club and the Oakland Junior Grizzlies Hockey Club will play in a Charity Hockey Showdown to benefit Autism Alliance of Michigan, sponsored by Attendant Care Autism Services. The game begins at 2:15 p.m.

There will be a special ceremony during the intermission with presentations conducted by the teams, and the title sponsor, Attendant Care Autism Services. During this fundraising event, there will be an auction/raffle and a 50/50 drawing.

Past years have drawn crowds of over 400 guests, and this year is expected to be even better. The event takes place at Troy Sports Center, located at 1819 E. Big Beaver Rd.

Historic Village Has a Holiday Sale

Enjoy 40% off all Christmas items at the Troy Historic Village Store when you shop now through December 20.

Sale includes all Christmas ornaments and decorations, mini snow-people for the kids, and many non-Christmas items like cozy slippers, scented lotions, and candles (sale items are marked with a red dot).

The Village Store is located on the grounds of the Troy Historic Village at 60 W. Wattles Rd.

The Troy Historic Village Store is open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For questions, call 248-524-3570.



TROY MAYOR ETHAN BAKER presented a special proclamation on behalf of the city to the Troy Athens Boys Soccer team, congratulating them on their State Championship season. The Red Hawks finished #14 in the final national rankings from United Soccer Coaches. Photo courtesy of Cindy Stewart, City of Troy

Whitmer, Stevens Encourage Sign-Ups During Open Enrollment

This week, Governor Gretchen Whitmer hosted two roundtable events to encourage Michiganders to sign up for coverage during the ACA open enrollment period ending on Sunday, December 15.

The governor joined Congresswoman Haley Stevens (MI-11) at Beaumont Hospital in Troy. The governor then joined Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (MI-08) at Carefree Medical Clinic in Lansing.

"Every Michigander deserves access to quality, affordable health care," said Governor Whitmer. "Since the Trump

administration has cut funding for the ACA enrollment promotion by nearly 90 percent, we must do everything we can to ensure that everyone knows what options are available to them to get covered. Signing up for coverage during open enrollment is simple, and there are resources available to everyone who wants help."

"Healthcare is a right, and we must work together to make it more affordable for working families," said Congresswoman Haley Stevens. "I am proud to join Governor Whitmer today to urge all Michiganders to sign up for

comprehensive health coverage. She is working hard on the state level and I am fighting in Washington to push back against continued attempts to weaken the Affordable Care Act, causing healthcare costs to increase for everyone. We must remain vigilant in safeguarding protections for pre-existing conditions, and ensure everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare."

"No one should ever go broke because they happen to get sick, and no family should have to

See OPEN ENROLLMENT, page 2

City Auditors Give a Winning Report on Troy Finances

by CYNTHIA KMETT

In the wake of last Monday's annual financial report on the audit done by The Rehmann Group and presented by the City's new Chief Financial Officer Rob Maleszyk it appears the city's AAA bond rating will be good in the hands of Standard and Poor's if it is reviewed.

Troy has been nationally recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for Outstanding Achievement in Financial Reporting and Maleszyk believes both the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the summarized version the Popular Annual Finance Report (PAFR) will once again be honored. Troy is one a very few units of government in Michigan to be awarded all three recognition, and they have been awarded consistently over the past two decades.

The audit shows a steady improvement. The unemployment rate in Troy is 2.8 percent, the county's is 3.3 percent, Michigan's is 4.2 percent, and nationally it's 3.9 percent.

Taxable value was at its lowest at in 2013 at \$4.219 billion. But with all the building that's been going on, why is value back to where it was 10 years ago. It's pretty simple. The Headlee law.

See AUDIT, page 3

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Open Enrollment December 15 Deadline Approaches



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (center) and Congresswoman Haley Stevens (right)

OPEN ENROLLMENT, From page 1

decide whether they can afford to save the life of a loved one," Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin said. "That's why it's so important to sign up for health coverage through Healthcare.gov by December 15th. I'm proud to stand with Governor Whitmer to encourage folks to do so, as we

work in Lansing and Washington to protect people with pre-existing conditions and push back on the Administration's attempts to undermine the ACA, threatening coverage for so many Michiganders who depend on it."

To enroll, Michiganders can visit HealthCare.gov and follow the instructions on the website.

Also, to enroll or get assistance, people can call the Marketplace call center 24/7 during Open Enrollment at 1-800-318-2596 and talk to a trained enrollment specialist.

Cutting the Cord: Alternatives to Cable TV

Have you been considering canceling your cable television package but aren't sure how to access your favorite content without it?

The Troy Public Library will host a program on "Cutting the Cord," which will explore

alternatives to cable television, on Thursday, December 12 from 7-8 p.m.

Roughly 19% of American households live without cable TV by using devices such as Apple TV, Roku, Google Chromecast, and Amazon Fire TV.

This program will provide an overview of some of the most popular and user-friendly cable alternatives.

Troy Public Library is located at 510 W Big Beaver Rd.

For more information, visit Troypl.org/.

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Here's a Good Stocking Stuffer

Give the gift of Troy Recreation this holiday season. Buy a \$50 Gift Card in December or January and get \$10 for you. Gift cards are good towards classes and renewing/purchasing memberships (such as a fitness membership or TFAC season pass).

The Troy Community Center is continuing its Family Memberships, which will be available starting December 1. Now you can save money on bringing the whole family to the Troy Community Center with the new 1-month or 3-month packages. Choose a Basic Family Membership or upgrade to a Fit Family Membership or a Fit Family Plus Membership.

Visit Rec.troymi.gov/family for complete pricing and options for residents and non-residents.

Coulter Keeps Job as County Executive After Judge Dismisses Lawsuit

Oakland County Executive David Coulter issued the following statement in response to Circuit Court Judge Daniel P. O'Brien granting the county executive's motion to dismiss the Spisz v. Woodward and Coulter lawsuit after hearing arguments from all parties on the record in open court.

The ruling brought an end to this case and confirmed that Coulter's appointment as county executive was legal and proper. In the coming days, the attorneys say they will be seeking a signed order from Judge O'Brien to memorialize the ruling that he made from the bench. Christopher Trebilcock of Clark Hill PLC

represented Coulter in the lawsuit.

"We are pleased with the outcome of today's circuit court ruling, a case which never deterred my administration from moving Oakland County forward," said County Executive David Coulter. "We will continue to focus on building on Oakland County's strengths through balanced fiscal policies and renewed economic development that celebrates the diversity of our residents and creates economic opportunity in all parts of our county."

Audit Shows Steady Improvement in City Finances

AUDIT, From page 1

When a building went empty, the city had to reduce its tax rate from a full building to an empty one. It caused a major loss of revenue. When the economy turned around, the part of the Headlee Amendment said taxes on a property can only be raised at the rate of inflation of a max of five percent.

City Assessor Nino Licari had warned it would take about 18 years to recoup that loss of revenue. In the past, commercial

properties paid over half the taxes in the city, today that burden falls on the residents.

But Troy's account practices are very conservative, and every department has come in, once again, under budget.

While voters set a limit of ten mills per \$1,000 of taxable value several years back, that number has been reduced by Prop A to 8.1 mills. That means residents now pay just over 54 percent of the general fund budget. Where does that money go? The primary expense is for police and fire

protection. Since we're just slightly over the limit on unsecured and undesignated funds, and the city manager is the one to come up with a plan for any excess funds, you might expect it to be spent on major mile roads, and that was put off while I-75 was under construction.

Then there's the facilities report and some buildings definitely need some upgrades. You might see some suggestions for the money at the spring budget hearings.

Gift Wrapping Initiative at the Village

The Village of Rochester Hills has announced a charity gift-wrapping initiative with all proceeds benefitting Jay's Juniors, a program dedicated to supporting chronically and terminally ill children.

The Gift-Wrapping Station will take place on weekends starting Friday, November 29 and will conclude Sunday, December 22. The hours are Friday 5-8 p.m., Saturday 12-8 p.m., and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

The Village of Rochester Hills will be providing all the materials needed along with skilled volunteer wrappers that will personally gift wrap each package. Shoppers will be able to have all gifts wrapped with a minimum suggested donation of \$5 for small packages, \$6 for medium packages and \$7 for large packages. The Village of Rochester Hills will match donations received during this holiday initiative and 100% of all proceeds will be going to Jay's Juniors. The Jay's Juniors Gift-Wrapping station will be located within The Village of Rochester Hills at 346 N Adams Rd in Rochester Hills.

This December will mark the 6th year that Jay's Juniors has taken children and their families on an all-expenses-paid trip to Walt Disney World.

In addition, children can bring their letters to Santa or write them onsite in the children's letter-writing area.

For more information and event details, visit Villageofrochesterhills.com/.

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FIFTH GRADERS FROM SCHROEDER ELEMENTARY and First Lego League participants Team Awesomeness presented their air pollution solution to the Troy Community Development Director last week. Photo courtesy of Cindy Stewart

Donors Give \$100,000 to Establish Annemarie Martz Scholarship Endowment

Last week the Troy Community Foundation announced the receipt of \$100,000 from anonymous donors to establish the Annemarie Martz endowed scholarship fund. They would be keeping the spirit of Annemarie Martz alive, as she was loved by many who knew her over the years.

Annemarie grew up in Troy, attended Smith Middle School, and graduated from Troy High School. She had her degree in Early Childhood Development and Master's in reading from Oakland University. She taught for the Pontiac School District and was looking at earning her degree in



nursing from Detroit Mercy.

Losing her life in 2011 at just 34 years of age, Annemarie's friends had nothing but kind words to say about this young woman. One recalled her as "humorous, intelligent, caring and a friend to everyone!" Another added, "Your smile and laugh were infectious, no one had a laugh like you! You were so brave and I get a lot of my strength from you." As a teacher, a friend noted that Annemarie's love and compassion for her students was inspiring.

The Endowed Scholarship fund will give scholarships to graduating seniors at Troy High

School who are pursuing an Education Degree at Oakland University. The Foundation expects the endowment to generate around \$5,000 annually for this scholarship.

"We are delighted to receive the largest ever donation of \$100,000 to start this scholarship fund. This fund will be a lasting reminder of Annemarie's life and commitment to education," said Doug Tietz, Chairman of the Troy Community Foundation.

Annemarie Martz was a passionate educator. Students aspiring to win this scholarship should speak with a Troy High School Guidance Counselor.

Anyone can start a named endowment that will leave a positive mark in our community for perpetuity with a gift as small as \$10,000. This year alone more than three different families and small groups have started endowments with the foundation.

The Troy Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit focused on promoting the very best in our community through endowments, grants, and community-focused events.



The Choice Group

The Choice Group Family of Companies would like to thank our fellow neighbors, institutions, and public servants of Troy, for making our city one of a kind.

During this season of giving, we remember the greatest gift received: Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness in the Land of Opportunity, the United States of America.

May Providence protect and bless our city and Nation and instill Peace on Earth.

Wishing You the Best Holiday Season Ever!

**Kamal, Yasmine,
Rob, and Omar Shouhayib**

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Holiday Closures for the City of Troy

The following is a list of the holiday closures for Troy City Hall, Troy Public Library, Community Center, Stage Nature Center, and the Troy Historic Village.

December 21 - January 1: Troy Historic Village Closed

December 22 - January 1: Stage Nature Center Closed

December 24-25: City Hall, Library, Community Center Offices Closed

December 24: Gym & Fitness Room Open 7am-12pm; Adult Lap/Therapy Pool Open 7:15-11:15am; No Open Swim.

December 25: Community Center Closed

December 25-26: Trash Pick-Up Delayed One Day

December 26: Holiday Blood Drive – Community Center, 9am – 9pm

December 31-January 1: City Hall, Library, Community Center Offices Closed

December 31: Gym & Fitness Room Open 7am-5pm; Adult Lap/Therapy Pool Open 7:15-10am; Open Swim 10am-4:30pm; Family Night Out 5-8:30pm

January 1: Gym & Fitness Room Open 10am-8pm; Adult Lap/Therapy Pool Open 10-11am; Open Swim 11am-7:30pm

January 1-2: Trash Pick-Up Delayed One Day

January 2 & 9: Holiday Blood Drives – Community Center, 9am – 9pm

January 10: Holiday Blood Drive – Fire & Police Training Center, 4850 John R Road

Special Winter Break Indoor Pool Hours at Troy Community Center

December 23-January 6

Open Swim

M: 11 am-6:50 pm • Tu/W: Holiday Hours

Th/Fri: 11 am-9 pm • Sa/Su: Normal Hours

Adult Lap & Therapy

Tu/W: Holiday Hours • M/Th/F: 5:30-10 am

Sa/Su: Normal Hours

Other Special Open Swim Hours at Troy Community Center

Dec 6: 7-9:30 pm

Jan 20: 12-6:45 pm

Feb 17: 12-6:45 pm

Feb 18: 12-9 pm



STOP BUYING GIFT CARDS FOR STRANGERS ON THE PHONE

Stop it. Just cut it out.

POLICE PATROL



by
CYNTHIA KMETT

■ **STOP IT.** No legitimate agency is going to ask for

gift cards of any sort. This victim received a phone call from a subject claiming to be from the United States Marshall Service. The Charter Drive resident was told his Social Security number was used several times in Texas and there were criminal charges filed in his name. The victim provided his personal information to the caller and was advised to purchase three \$200 gift cards, which he did and provided the caller with the redemption codes. The suspect was asking for \$3,000 but when the victim contacted friends, he was informed he was being scammed.

■ **HERE'S WHY YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY** – This Troy resident discovered unknown suspect(s) opened two fraudulent accounts using her personal information. The suspect(s) were able to open a loan and a credit card with FNB Omaha. The victim did not give anyone permission to do such and does not know how her personal identity was compromised.

■ **THEY BUY CARS, TOO** – This victim discovered an unknown suspect used her deceased husband's information a fraudulent car loan. The victim did not give anyone permission to do such and does not know how his personal identity was compromised.

■ **FIVE-FIGURE LOSS** – This victim discovered unknown suspects were able to fraudulently transfer \$40,000 out of her TCG Account and place it into several online investment accounts. The victim did not give anyone permission to do such and does not know how his personal account was compromised.

■ **HOPE THE BANK HAS A GOOD SECURITY SYSTEM** – This victim discovered an unknown suspect were able to intercept two checks that were sent to her and cashed them at a Chase Bank. The checks, an income tax check, and a heating credit check had her signature on the back, written by the unknown suspect.

■ **NO BOSS WANTS YOU TO BUY GIFT CARDS** – If they really

want cards, you can hand them to him and he can pass them out. It's a scam, It's always a scam. An Employee at a Troy firm received an email from whom she thought was her boss, requesting that she purchase eBay Gift Cards, take photos of them including the serial numbers, and send those photos back in the e-mail. The employee did as requested, purchasing \$1,400 worth of gift cards, providing the photos to the unknown suspect(s). The employee later discovered the bogus email's address was similar but not the same as her boss' e-mail address, realizing she had been scammed.

■ **SOMEONE HAS HIS INFO** – A Hundsford Drive resident received four letters from Chase Bank, three indicating that unknown suspect(s) used his personal information to apply for credit cards, two used to fraudulently complete purchases totaling \$248. The fourth letter contained a credit card that the victim had not applied for. The victim did not give anyone permission to do such and does not know how his personal identity was compromised.

■ **THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IS NEVER GOING TO CALL YOU** – If you need to reach the Social Security office, it's an 800 number – call them or go to the office on Crooks in Clawson. This victim received a phone call from an unknown subject identifying himself as a representative from the Office of Social Security. The subject advised the victim that unknown suspects used her social security number to open lines of credit and to purchase a car. The victim was told to close her bank account, which she refused. She was then instructed to purchase \$2,000 worth of Best Buy Gift Cards (a big clue this is a scam) or she would be incarcerated. She did as instructed, providing the suspect with the gift card numbers and respective PIN numbers. When the victim's family could not get hold of her because she was talking to the suspect, they found her at home and took her phone from her. The family spoke with the suspect on the phone who informed them that the victim had been scammed. The family contacted Best Buy but the money on the gift cards had been removed.

■ **WAS THIS PHONE GOING TO BE MADE OUT OF GOLD?** A Rockingham Drive resident was having issues with his cell phone and he contacted a number he thought was Apple Support. He

spoke with who he thought were Apple Support employees, who convinced him to purchase \$2,600 worth of eBay Cards and provided them with the serial numbers so his phone could be fixed. He did as instructed and when he was asked to purchase more, he realized he had been scammed. You can buy a new iPhone at almost any corner in Troy, and if yours needs a new battery, go to "You Break It, We Fix It" on Crooks, just north of Big Beaver.

■ **STUDENT'S LIST CAUSES CONCERN AT MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Deputy who is assigned as a School Resource Officer (SRO)

was contacted by a school administrator from West Middle School regarding a threat made by a 14-year-old student who had written a "Kill List for Future" and was observed adding names of students while in a classroom. Several students witnessed the student making this list and notified their teacher. The teacher cleared the classroom and notified school administrators. Detectives and the SRO responded to the school to speak with the student's parents and to interview the student. The student admitted to making the list and said it was a way to vent their frustration and

feelings. The student denied the desire to follow through with the list. The student has been suspended by administrators from the Rochester School District. The students' parents agreed that they would petition the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Note: If you have any information on the aforementioned crimes, or any other offenses, please call the Troy Police Department at 248-524-3477.



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Arts & Entertainment



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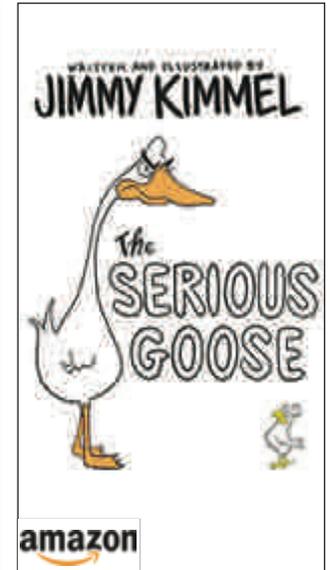
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AD OC Feb. 23

Troy Schools “ONE Troy Creative” Announces Podcasts



Meet the Preschool Podcast team, l-r: Erin Keyser (Director, Early Childhood Programs), Natalie Haezebrouck (Director of Teaching and Learning), Kris Griffor (Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Instruction) and Ron Keolean (Technology K-12 Curriculum Specialist) Photos courtesy of Troy Schools

The Troy School District is now offering TSD World Class Podcasts, new weekly podcast series that feature everything going on in the district along with the latest trends in education. There are currently seven podcast series,

Inside TSD with Dr. Rich Machesky

Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky discusses recent news and achievements from within the Troy School District.

The 5th Pillar

Athens teacher Ron Keolian talks to the people in TSD to get to know them better, learn about

their passions, and explore updates in TSD technology.

The One Thing

Learn what Troy teachers think of as the “one thing” that motivates them and makes them proud to teach in the Troy School District.

Sidelines

Athens Soccer Coach Adam Burns focuses on district sports and talks about why it’s “more than just a game.”

After the Tassel Turns

Troy College & Career High School Principal Bill Turner talks about trends, careers, and what students can expect after

graduation.

TSD Readers Roundtable

Similar to a book club, TSD leaders discuss their favorite books and how they influence them to become better educators.

The Elective

Teachers discuss elective courses that are offered at the middle and high school levels.

You can find the shows with the Podcasts app by searching for TSD World Class Podcasts. It can also be found in the iTunes Store. The podcasts can be accessed via Google podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and Tuneln, as well as through Amazon Alexa.

Musical Review: "Forever Christmas"

Reviewed by Suzanne Angeo and Greg Angeo

Just like getting together with old friends and family at this time of year, "Forever Christmas" is joyfully familiar and comes with surprises. This sweet and gentle musical revue – an Avon Players original – offers songs, comedy sketches and inspired storytelling that is not unlike a holiday party with some very talented guests.

Recorded music, along with dreamy video projections of snow falling and outdoor Christmas scenes, provides the cast of five singers and four actors a cheerful backdrop. A special appearance by legendary broadcast personality Chuck Daugherty lends a magical touch with his spellbinding narratives of the history of the Christmas tree and the origin of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." His melodious speaking voice, honed through his many decades on the radio, makes you clearly see the people and places he talks about, and yearn for more.

Five outstanding singers (Sherri Angelotti, Matt Cason, Clayton Hargrave, Kirsten Renas and Lori Smith), each of whom could have their own career in cabaret, blend their voices in beautiful harmonies and vibrant solos. Most of the singers were featured in last season's spectacular "Hunchback of Notre Dame". This show is a nostalgia trip for sure: A couple of numbers by the three lady singers recall the Lennon Sisters of the long-ago Lawrence Welk days, and some songs could have been sung by Bing Crosby or Perry Como. Granted, there are some modern twists to old standards, but by and large, this show takes you back to mellower times. Standout numbers include the sparkling "Jing A Ling" and lovely "Breath of Life", arguably the best in the show.

Bodi Johnson, Katie Jostock, Anthony Sherman and Johannah Steinbrecher-Booker, the four actors doing comedy sketches sprinkled between musical numbers, give their all to the zany mix. There's funny bits about co-worker crazies, a frenzied visit with Santa, a crabby TV hostess and a brutally frank dysfunctional family.

One critique would be the blocking – the singers have a chorus-line look at times, with minimal choreography. Breaking them up into small groups more often would give the musical numbers more depth and movement between sketches.

Projection design by Bryan Clifford gives just the right effect, as does lighting and set design by

the show's director, JD Deierlein. He's also spot-on as the vocal director. Deierlein first conceived this show 27 years ago, over the years evolving the cast, music and stories so that now it's a holiday tradition at Avon Players.

So sit back and relax. All you need to do is enjoy. But just one thing...

As of this writing, all but one of the remaining performances is sold out, but you can call or drop

by the box office for cancellations. Or if you're really lucky, they may decide to add some more shows. Then again, there's always next year.

"Forever Christmas" runs now through December 14. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at Avonplayers.org/. Avon Playhouse is located at 1185 Washington Rd in Rochester.



Photos courtesy of Avon Players



PERRY COMO, BOB HOPE, JUDY GARLAND, DONNY AND MARIE... These are some of our favorite Christmas companions. Whether or not you are old enough to remember these stars, everyone loves beautiful harmonies during the holidays. Forever Christmas – an Avon holiday tradition now celebrating its 27th anniversary – will tick all the boxes on your family's wish list. Tickets are on sale now and available at Avonplayers.org or by calling the Box Office at 248-608-9077.

The New York Times **CRITICS' PICK**

"JERSEY BOYS meets WEST SIDE STORY."

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AD and **OC** Feb 7.

School Funding Tele-Town Hall

On Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m., join Representative Kuppa and special guest Representative Jon Hoadley, Democratic Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, for a Telephone Town Hall Meeting on the past, present, and future of education funding.

To participate in the call, dial in using 1-844-881-1317.

Join to learn about what ideas are being considered, share how these issues impact your life, and ask questions about how you can get more involved.

Chamber Holiday Luncheon Highlights Michigan Businesses

Join the Troy Chamber on Thursday, December 12 for their biggest event of the year, the annual Holiday Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the San Marino Club.

They are excited to announce the return of the "Homemade for

attendee will enjoy an elegant catered lunch and leave with a gift bag. This year's signature event will be moderated by Fox 2 News Anchor, Roop Raj. The cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for future members. Sign up at Troychamber.com under events.

women returning to school/college. With donations received during the Chamber luncheon, they will provide an additional scholarship to a local Troy senior for the 2020 graduating year in remembrance of the Troy Chamber.

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A VIEW OF THE CROWD at last year's Holiday Luncheon with the Troy Chamber of Commerce. Photo courtesy of the Troy Chamber

the Holidays" theme with an exciting new panel of CEOs from Michigan brands. In addition to the networking opportunity, each

The 2019 panel for Holiday Luncheon will feature John Braganini, President of St. Julian Winery; Paul Saginaw, Co-Founding Partner & Chief Spiritual Officer of Zingerman's; and Joe Renkiewicz, General Manager & Future Owner of Henry The Hatter.

Funds will be raised for a scholarship project where the Troy Women's Association provides scholarships to local Troy graduating seniors and

The scholarships focus on community service and financial need. Learn more at Troywomensassociation.org/.



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RSO Hosts Winter Wonderland

The Rochester Symphony Orchestra (RSO) is pleased to announce its annual Winter Wonderland concert, Friday, December 13 from 8-10 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, located at 620 Romeo Rd in Rochester.

The orchestra will entertain concertgoers with a variety of nostalgic seasonal favorites. As a special holiday treat, the RSO will welcome the award-winning Stoney Creek High School choirs who will sing many popular holiday selections.

Dr. Brandon Ulrich, director of Choral Activities at Stoney Creek High School, has been teaching at the high school since it opened in 2002. He directs the men's choir, treble choir, concert choir, chorale, and the chamber singers. He is an advocate for new music, having established the Stoney Creek Commissioning Project that annually premieres several new works. He also is an active, sought-out composer.

Attendees also can look forward to sing-a-longs with the RSO and the high school choirs.

Order your tickets early. They will sell out. You can order them at Rochestersymphony.com/. The

cost is \$5 for students and \$25 for adults.

If you would like to support Toys for Tots, consider bringing an unwrapped toy to the concert.

In addition, mark your calendars for the final two RSO concerts of the 2019/2020 season.

A Chamber Orchestra Concert will take place Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, featuring violinists Lorrie Gunn and Maestro Milicevic.

And RSO will host their Spring Concert on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The season finale offers music for everyone including classic songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein with local soloists Alta and Drake Dantzer, as well as the annual performance of the Young Artist Competition winner

The mission of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra is to enrich the cultural experiences available in the Greater Rochester area.

For more information on the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, visit Rochestersymphony.com, or send an email to info@rochestersymphony.com.

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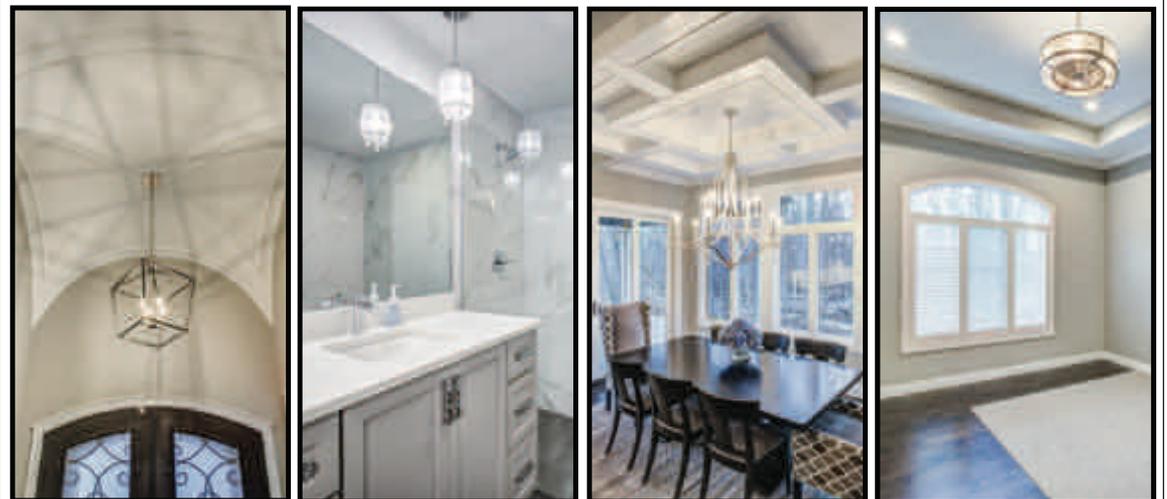


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THE OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE distributed approximately 5000 coats to 14 service groups on Friday. The groups will give the coats to individuals in need free of charge.

Oakland County and Pentastar Partner With Operation Good Cheer

Operation Good Cheer took to the skies this weekend to deliver more than 20,000 Christmas gifts to over 7,000 children in foster care throughout Michigan. Donated gifts arrived for sorting inside a Pentastar Aviation hangar at Oakland County International Airport (OCIA) on Friday, December 6. Volunteers then loaded the gifts into more than 200 airplanes for delivery to 29 airports around the state on Saturday, December 7.

"Oakland County loves supporting Operation Good Cheer because it has such a positive impact on thousands of children in foster care throughout Michigan," Oakland County Executive David Coulter said. "We're grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of these children."

Each year since 1971, thousands of foster children make out their holiday wish lists for Operation Good Cheer. Generous donors purchase the gifts, and trucking companies then pick up and deliver these gifts at no charge to OCIA where volunteers sort and wrap them. Pilots who have donated their time and aircraft then fly the gifts to airports around Michigan so they can get to their intended

recipients. To date, more than 100,000 individuals have had their holiday wishes come true.

"It's an honor for Oakland County International Airport and our friends at Pentastar Aviation to be the base of operations to deliver Christmas presents to thousands of foster children and adults with disabilities throughout Michigan every year," said J. David VanderVeen, director of central services for Oakland County, who oversees OCIA. "It's an impressive sight to see a hangar full of presents being wrapped by Operation Good Cheer volunteers to be loaded onto waiting aircraft."

"The generosity of the thousands that volunteer their time, donate gifts, and make their aircraft available so that these children receive something special for Christmas is amazing," said Greg Schmidt, president and CEO of Pentastar Aviation. "We are pleased to once again serve as the main collection point for this event. It allows us to help over 7,000 children celebrate Christmas and is a great way for us to kick off the holiday season."

To learn more about Operation Good Cheer, now in its 48th year, go to cfsm.org and click on Operation Good Cheer.

Free Concert: Community Band Presents Sounds of the Holidays

The Rochester Community Concert Band will present their "Sounds of the Holidays" concert on Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rochester High School Auditorium. The concert is open to the public and free to attend. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The concert will include, among others, "Christmas March" by Edwin F. Goldman, "Russian Christmas Music" by Alfred Reed, Percy Grainger's "Ye Banks and Braes O Bonnie Doon," and Beethoven's "Adagio Cantabile from the Sonata Pathetique."

In addition, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, the RCCB will perform three selections by two prominent women composers, "Christmas Toons" and "The Little Drummer Boy's Bolero" by Julie Giroux, and "Awakenings" by Kimberly Archer.

Dr. Robert Shaner, Superintendent of the Rochester Community Schools, will narrate "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," as set to music by Robert

W. Smith.

Santa himself will make a guest appearance performing in a special arrangement of "Hallelujah Chorus" for Trombone Quartet and Band and will also be available for pictures immediately following the concert.

The Rochester Community Concert Band also welcomes guest conductors Mr. David Uhrig, Director of Bands at Rochester High School, and Jaron Kirshenbaum.

The 70-member all-volunteer Rochester Community Concert Band is conducted by Paul F. DeRubeis and includes adult community members and advanced high school students.

Do you or someone you know want to get involved in the Rochester Community Concert Band? The band also has openings for new members in the clarinet, bassoon, tuba and euphonium sections.



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Photo courtesy of the Troy School District

Troy Colt Bands Combine Music and Charity at Concert

The 285 student members of the Troy Colt Bands inspired a standing-room-only audience with a holiday concert last week, encouraging them to donate non-perishable food to Gleaners Food Bank.

“This year’s theme, Sounds of the Season, expresses the bands’

desire to inspire audiences with high-quality musical entertainment while also extending thanks to our families, friends, and supporters,” said THS Director of Bands, Brian Nutting.

The concert was free of charge, but in the spirit of the

season, the bands asked patrons to bring non-perishables for their Gleaners food drive.

Over 300 pounds of food was collected, which will make a difference to many families in the area.

Athens Band Boosters Host Art & Craft Show

Athens High School Band Boosters will host the 29th annual juried Festival Art & Craft Show on Saturday, December 14 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Festival organizers say the Art and Craft Show will be bigger and better than ever with over 200 crafters.

General admission is \$3. Children 12 and under are free.

The 29th annual juried Festival Art & Craft Show will take place at Athens High School, 4333 John R Road, just north of Wattles.

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TROY FIREFIGHTERS FROM STATION 3 participated in night one of Moonbeams For Sweet Dreams 2019 at Beaumont Children's in Royal Oak. The event shows support for kids who have to spend time in the hospital during the holiday season. Visitors shine flashlights into their rooms, reminding them that they are not alone.

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Senior Living

These Behaviors Make You A Target for Scammers

(NAPSI) If you spend a lot of time on social media sites or looking for great online deals, you may wear a bullseye when it comes to scammers hunting for prey, according to groundbreaking fraud research from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust and the Stanford Center on Longevity.

Researchers surveyed more than 1,400 Americans and Canadians who were targeted by scammers and reported the fraud to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), which tracks scams. Nearly half of those surveyed did not engage with the fraudster. However, 30 percent engaged to some degree but ultimately did not lose money, while 23 percent

engaged with the fraudster or offer and lost money.

What separates victims from non-victims?

“The path to victimization begins with engagement,” said FINRA Foundation President Gerri Walsh. “Social media and website scams are flourishing. Every time you respond to a friend request from someone you don’t know or click through to an unfamiliar website, you run the risk of being exposed to a scam.”

Your chance of falling victim to a scam varies by type—for instance, online purchase scams, tech support ploys, fake check or sweepstakes frauds—and by the method in which you are exposed to the offer. For those exposed to a scam through social media or a website, the numbers are chilling. When exposed to a scam on social media, 91 percent engaged and 53 percent lost money. The odds of losing money to website scams were only slightly lower: 81 percent of consumers in the study who were exposed to a fraud via a website said they engaged—and 50 percent lost money.

Common factors include isolation

Other factors heighten the likelihood of falling for a fraud. Consumers were more likely to be victimized if they were isolated and didn’t have anyone to discuss the offer with, according to the study. Consequently, those who engaged scammers and lost money were less likely to be married and more likely to be widowed or divorced. “Sadly, loneliness and fraud victimization seem to go hand in hand,” noted Walsh.

You’re also more likely to engage and lose money if you’re feeling financial strain, or have low levels of financial literacy, the study found.

Protect yourself

Take these steps to protect yourself from fraud:

- **Ask for input from others.** Scammers try to isolate their victims. Don’t be afraid to contact a friend, or a company or organization you trust for advice. It also helps to do additional research before sending any money. One easy action: Do an

Internet search to see if the website or pitch has been flagged as fraudulent or potentially fraudulent by news organizations or members of the public.

- **Focus on your financial health and literacy.** Individuals under financial strain and those with lower levels of financial literacy may be more susceptible to scammers.

- **Knowledge is power.** Knowing about scams and scammer tactics can be your best defense in successfully reducing the effect of scams. Keep up with the latest frauds by subscribing to consumer newsletters and seeking out information on current scams.

Know what to listen for before they call

One-third of consumers who were targeted by a scammer, but did not engage with the offer, already knew about the specific type of scam. In addition, consumers who understood the tactics and behaviors of scammers tended not to engage with fraudsters.

To learn more about how to protect your money, visit FINRA.org/LearnMore/.



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STUDENTS AT TROY COLLEGE AND CAREER HIGH SCHOOL are digital natives, so when they offered tech help to residents at Oakmont Senior Community, they knew they’d setting up cell phones and other devices. What they didn’t realize is that both groups would get so much more from connecting together. Photo courtesy of Troy School District

Simple Home Improvements for Senior Living Spaces

As we get further into our post-retirement years, it is important for our homes to accommodate our changing needs as seniors. Luckily, there are simple home improvements that can transform any house into a safe, comfortable, and convenient senior living space. So, if you have aging parents or grandparents whose homes need a few updates, here are some ideas to get you started. Or, if you are a DIY kind of senior, maybe you'll find some inspiration for your next project here.

Unfortunately, a lot of slips and falls happen right outside of the home. Fortunately, many of these accidents can be prevented by leveling out any uneven surfaces. So, if you notice cracks in the sidewalks, garage, or carport, have these filled in and smoothed over.

Moving on to the lawn or garden area, check for and remove large roots, branches, loose bricks, or anything that might cause a trip or stumble. If you notice holes in the lawn, fill these in to create a safe space for walks.

If possible, create a No Step front entryway by replacing steps with ramps. Just make sure that any ramps that you install have a gentle incline, and that the surfaces are not slick.

Create a Safe, but Functional Kitchen

Kitchen floors can get slick and hazardous when wet, so make sure that they are scuffed or feature non-slip strips throughout. Even if the kitchen is small, you don't want to take any chances with the sharp corners and devices that are likely around.

As for appliances, replace the current ones with models equipped with simple controls labeled with large, easy-to-read numbers and letters. Investing in a side swing wall oven is a good move because these types of ovens eliminate the need to bend down and grapple with a heavy door that often gets hot.

Finally, put Lazy Susans or rollout shelves in the cabinets to make items more accessible.

Reducing Risks Posed by Stairs

Stairs can be tough for anyone – Even people in their twenties frequently fall on them or stub their toes by missing a step. However, you can make stairs safer by making just a few, easy alterations.

These projects might be even more fun and rewarding if everyone pitches in and works together.



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Anthology Senior Living Boasts Accomadations and Service

As we age, we discover that the daily chores of life, from taking down the curtains to wash them in the spring, to shoveling snow, and even cooking healthy and delicious meals for one person, become more difficult to accomplish. As the population has aged over the years, more assisted living facilities have been built. The important thing to personally look for, or for your mom or dad, is one that will give the best in accommodations and care.

You might want to visit an Anthology Senior Living location where they combine the best in accommodations, care, culinary experiences and community to create a vibrant, engaging environment that empowers residents to lead a life they'll love.

Anthology in Troy was known as Stonecrest when it opened on Livernois, next to the dog park. It's a beautiful campus and the interior is stunning and expansive. A second Anthology Senior Living is just up Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. An Anthology just opened in Northville and another is under construction on Novi, if you live in that direction.

Stonecrest, a major construction firm, decided they wanted a different kind of portfolio and last spring Anthology bought the facilities and took over operations of the Stonecrest sites in the fall. The name is new, but the staff did not change and is still there to support you or you loved one in leading the life they've loved. Brooke Preston Director of Marketing and Sales at Troy notes that “our living style is like independent living.” Do you need an apartment-style studio, a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom suite? The maintenance of your suite, housekeeping and linen service is included.

She points out that the unit comes with full-size refrigerators and stoves. And, all of the amenities offered by Anthology

Senior living are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There's a nice, large menu offered every day, with specials and options, too. All meals are prepared in-house by the excellent chefs. The menu even has appetizer and dessert options from which to choose. There are many places to enjoy your meals here. Whether you want a private

fitness and wellness programs for residents. If they want some fresh air, there are outdoor areas, including an outdoor courtyard with a grill. Indoors, there are large and small common areas in which to greet family or just make new friends.

Plus, Anthology allows pets. There are five dogs and a cat in Troy, and a cat and a parrot call



ANTHOLOGY SENIOR LIVING has plenty of accomadations for seniors when it's time to take that step. Jamie Smith (left), Director of Marketing and Sales at Rochester, and Brooke Preston (right), Director of Marketing and Sales at Troy, will be glad to take you on a tour of their facility.

dining space for a family birthday or special gathering, or perhaps a bistro setting, or the comfort of the community dining room, Anthology Senior Living has it all as part of their beautiful setting.

There's 24-hour staff available at Anthology facilities, including a licensed nurse on-site 24/7 to handle all your medical needs, adds Jamie Smith Director of Marketing and Sales at Rochester. If wanted, there is also help available for the needs of daily living.

To help residents keep up an active lifestyle in their golden years, Anthology Senior Living has coordinated with the Troy Community Center and the OPC in Rochester for events. And to keep up fitness, there are exercise,

Rochester home.

The goal for residents is always that they continue to have a purpose to their day, Smith relates. “The staff is nice and you'll find the residents are active and engaged.”

Anthology Senior Living also has a separate and safe building for memory care patients, with specially trained staff.

Brooke Preston Director of Marketing and Sales at Troy (248-528-8001) and Jamie Smith Director of Marketing and Sales at Rochester (248-266-7681) will be glad to take you on a tour of their facility, including lunch to see if Anthology Senior Living is the right place for a loved one's next home.

Upcoming Trips with Step On Bus Tours

December 11 - Christmas with the Amish - Visiting with the Amish in southwestern Michigan and Indiana. Experience an “old-fashioned” Christmas - Amish Style by invitation only by a private family. Enjoy a home-cooked Amish meal in a private, Amish home with oil lights, demonstrations and see horse and buggies on the road en-route to their various destinations. . \$85/pp

December 13 - Holiday Lights - This interesting trip includes one church, drive on Lakeshore in Grosse Pointes and other areas where houses are decorated. Lunch at Andiamo's on the Riverfront. \$70/pp

December 17 - Holiday Belles at the Ford House - Let's step back in time to the 1930s/40s with Edsel and Eleanor Clay Ford as they gifted their granddaughter for her debutante balls. View the

house during the holiday season as it was decked in their era with a docent-led holiday tour. Lunch at Mario's Italian restaurant - Elegant supper club offers old-school service. View of Holiday Lights in the Grosse Pointes. \$80/pp

For more information, contact Step on Bus Tours by calling 248-619-6692, visiting Steponbustours.com, or email steponbustours@gmail.com.

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December 9, 2019



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MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, St. Jude for prayers answered. R.H.

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Oakland County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center have some wonderful dogs and cats waiting for someone to come rescue them! All of their dogs are current on age appropriate shots, microchip, and heartworm tested, all of their cats are up to date as well! If interested, please contact the shelter at 248-858-1070 OCAC is located at 1200 N Telegraph Rd Bldg 42E, in Pontiac.



Urchin

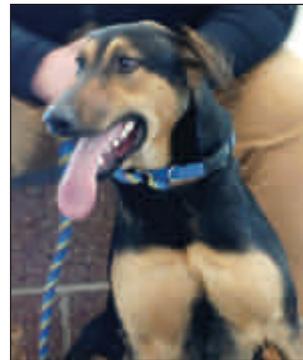
ADOPT A PET



Harley



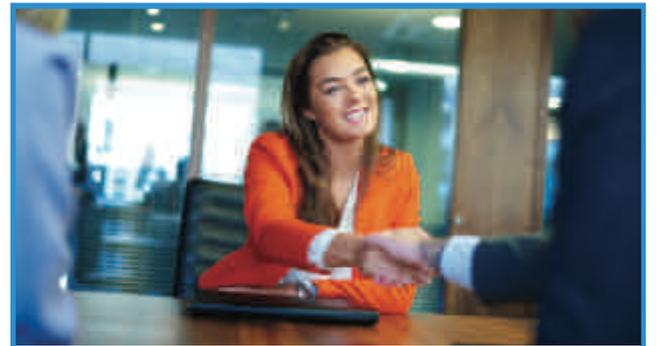
Francois



Rucka

GET YOUR GAZETTE

Gazette Media Group is a media and events company based in Troy, Michigan. Originally established in 1980 by Claire Weber as the Troy-Somerset Gazette, GMG now publishes two local newspapers and hosts a variety of events throughout the metro Detroit area. The Gazette creates and curates hyper-local content and distributes free weekly newspapers throughout businesses in the community. Go to GetYourGazette.com to read past issues and to find the nearest pick-up location. The Gazette is always looking for news, photos, and tips from around the community. Email News@GazetteMediaGroup.com or call 248-524-4868 for editorial submissions.



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Place your classified ad in both Gazette Newspapers and your message will reach readers in Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills, and surrounding communities.

Novenas Available for \$17 per week

	1 Paper	2 Papers
15 Words	\$12	\$20
Each Additional Word	25¢ 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

Sudoku

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

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.

Somerset SkyWalker Club Fosters Mall Walking Community

The SkyWalker Club at the Somerset Collection in Troy provides people with a convenient way to exercise. Many members of the club have also built a strong sense of community and think of the people there as part of their walking family.

According to Cliff Wagoner, Merchant Relations Manager at Somerset, the roots of the SkyWalker family tree date back to the 1950s, when the mall would put out bagels once a month for the walkers. Since then, the area, the mall, and the walking club have been through a lot of changes. Now, instead of walking by a table of bagels once a month, the group gathers inside a participating store once a week

SkyWalkers has nearly 1,000 registered members and every Wednesday, about 120 people come to the coffee hour. Those who attend are entered into the weekly drawing for one of four \$10 gift cards.

People of all ages participate in the walking club. Although many of them are retired, moms with strollers also come to walk. Joining the walking club is simple. Those who are interested should send an email to Wagoner at cwagoner@thesomersetcollection.com. Members receive the SkyWalkers' Newsletter and a membership badge that entitles them to discounts at certain stores. Doors open at 7 a.m. every day for walkers.



for a coffee hour where people can socialize.

The group takes its name from the moving-sidewalk that connects the northern and southern parts of the mall, which was constructed in 1996.

The SkyWalkers will be participating in the Early Bird Senior Expo next year at Somerset Collection on Thursday, April 23, from 7-9:45 a.m. The event is produced by Gazette Media Group.

Stagecrafters Youth Theatre: Haphazardly Ever After Auditions

Stagecrafters Youth Theatre will host auditions for Haphazardly Ever After on Saturday, December 14 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Auditions are open to youth ages 8-18 years old. Auditions are held at Baldwin Theatre, located at 415 S Lafayette Ave. in Royal Oak, on the Main Stage.

Tons of magical fun awaits in this fractured fairy tale farce. A kind king and queen want nothing more than to live happily ever after, but their four unhappy adult children are making that impossible. They try everything they can think of to bring happiness to their family, but

nothing works. Finally, they try a DIY solution, with supplies they purchase at The Enchanted Depot. Will the king and queen be able to conjure up their own happily ever after?

Audition information and a registration form can be found at Stagecrafters.org/.



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“There is no value in life except what you choose to place upon it and no happiness in any place except what you bring to it yourself.”

— Henry David Thoreau



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