

PRESCHOOL PREVIEW

Troy-Somerset Gazette



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July 22, 2019
Vol. 39, No. 44

Troy Restaurant Week Returns with a Delicious Summer Lineup, August 18-23

Troy Restaurant Week returns on Sunday, August 18 through Friday, August 23. People can enjoy vibrant, savory, and seasonal menus crafted by local restaurants just for the event. The week-long celebration of Troy restaurants features 22 local fine dining and family restaurant locations. Most menus include three courses and range from \$15-\$45 for lunch and dinner. People can make reservations and view menus online at troyrestaurantweek.com/. Not all participating locations are offering deals for both lunch and dinner.

The Chamber of Commerce will once again be running the "Oh Snap!" photo contest to engage patrons during Troy Restaurant Week. People are encouraged to share a snapshot of their experience on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with the hashtag #OhSnapTRW19. Every day, one winner will be randomly selected to win a \$50 gift card at one of the participating restaurants.

To learn more about Troy Restaurant Week, the Oh Snap! Contest, or see the participating restaurants, visit troyrestaurantweek.com or contact the Troy Chamber of Commerce at 248-641-8151 or theteam@troychamber.com/.



TROY HIGH THEATRE Ensemble has been recognized by National Youth Art for its production of Beauty and the Beast. TTE received eight awards and 19 additional nominations this year. Their play Clue On Stage also received recognition. Read the full story on page 7. Photo courtesy of Troy Schools and Cristian Teodoridis

Troy Family Daze Plans 50th Annual Celebration

When people gather at the Troy Civic Center for Troy Family Daze this September, the event will be celebrating 50 years of family-friendly memories.

Troy Family Daze was originally christened Troy Daze back in 1969 when the Troy Lions Club wanted an event for folks who hadn't headed up north or back to a family farm for Labor Day. Realizing this would be a big effort, the Lions rounded up members of other civic groups to plan the first event, including the Clawson-Troy Elks, Troy Rotary,

and the Metropolitan Club, whose members back then included the police, firefighters, and postal workers.

The new committee wanted to hold their event at Boulan Park on Crooks Road, so they knew they needed the city's cooperation. Perhaps luckily, outgoing Lions President Glen Houghten was also a member of Troy City Council and guided the Troy Daze idea to approval. He not only won their approval, he convinced Mayor Jule Famularo and other council members to sink in the dunk tank

that first year.

The name and spelling of Troy Daze was originally suggested by the Elks. Lawson Lockhart chaired the first committee. Lockhart would later become Troy's City Clerk. The first event had a parade, headed up by Jim Halsey, who would later become Troy's Fire Chief. The parade lined up in the parking lot of Saks Fifth Avenue at Somerset. It had many participants, including the city's scouts and several residents with horses. The Troy High Band also

See TROY FAMILY DAZE, page 2

Forensic Audit Shows Lack Of Receipts & Loopholes

by CYNTHIA KMETT

If there was any good news from the Forensic Audit report presented last Wednesday by Plante Moran in the wake of former city manager Brian Kischnick's bribery conviction in federal court, it was that he didn't steal any great amounts of money from the City of Troy.

It appears that Kischnick was willing to "nickel and dime" the city treasury with meals and undocumented purchases that were not of any great value.

The report appears to have confirmed the findings of the report done for council by Attorney Greg Lange back in 2016.

Kischnick was actually very bad at doing any paperwork when it came to accounting for purchases. Some of those purchases, when examined, actually turned out to be legitimate, but lacked a proper paper trail. Meals at upscale restaurants were seen on Kischnick's credit card receipts, but did he take a New York developer who was considering building the Civic Center to lunch, or was he on a date? No way to know from his paperwork. City Manager Mark Miller said such meals were not necessary; they

See FORENSIC AUDIT, page 3

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Home & Garden



TROY SUMMER CONCERTS & MOVIES ARE BACK!

THURSDAYS 6:30-8:30pm | Food Truck 5:30pm | Movie at Dusk

Event takes place at Boulan Park, Crooks Road, between Big Beaver & Wattles

July 25: Mainstream Drive & Incredibles 2

August 8: Tom Butwin: Brushes with Broadway

August 22: Thornetta Davis



Sponsored by: **Beaumont**

Go Exploring with Stage Nature Center

Parents and kids can sign up for Family Nature Explorers at the Stage Nature Center. Families can enjoy quality time in a screen-free environment exploring the natural world on Saturday, August 3, from 1:30 p.m.- 3 p.m.

Attendees will engage in hands-on, outdoor experiences that will inspire curiosity and a connection to nature. The topic is different every month, so even if you've already been to a Family Nature Explorers event, it's worth a return trip. This month,

explorers will investigate daytime astronomy.

The cost for Troy Nature Society members is \$15 for a family of up to four, and \$2 for each additional person. Non-members pay \$18 for a family of up to four, and \$3 for each additional person.

To register, visit troynaturesociety.org, or call the Stage Nature Center at 248-688-9703 to learn more.



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Troy Daze Hits Historic Milestone This Year

TROY FAMILY DAZE, From page 1

participated.

Tammy Renshaw, Lockhart's daughter, was another important member of the Troy Daze team. She went on to become the Troy Daze chairman in 1971 and 1972. Renshaw said her favorite parade entry for Troy Daze was a pipe and drum band that she found.

There were rides for the kiddies but nothing like you'll see today. The VFW was selling ice cream, and the Kiwanis Club was selling peanuts. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

Event workers were all volunteers; no one was paid. Groups that wanted a booth or a game had to be a Troy non-profit.

It was quite a success, and the committee voted to continue the next year. In fact, it was so popular they decided to make Troy Daze a two-day event. It wasn't long before residents who went away on Labor Day wanted to be part of Troy Daze, so the date was moved to the second weekend of September.



THE FIRST TROY DAZE parade was on Labor Day, 1969. It started at the Somerset Collection, went down Big Beaver, and then north on Crooks. It had about 40 units that first year. Acting as the Grand Marshall was fire chief Jim Halsey. That building with the steeple is Poppleton School on Big Beaver. It's now on the Historic Village Green.

Renshaw praised the people who stepped up to help committee members, including her husband Robert, who worked on a lot of the preparations. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Troy Police all stepped up to volunteer, too, and made the first Troy Daze a success. No one complained, according to Renshaw.

"You don't find that kind of community spirit in every community," she said.

That first event had food booths and entertainment, too.

In the '70s, tents filled with homemaking displays were popular. There were ribbons for the best pies, jellies, and cakes, as well as canning and needlework. It was quite a collection. There was even a young homemaker contest.

Renshaw remembers everyone having a good time that first year. People stayed until the end, despite the rainy weather.

The Troy Daze Committee was incorporated in 1970 in order to buy insurance to cover any incident that might happen at the event.

Along the way, a ride vendor with adult rides was added, and the Miss Troy event became quite popular, too. Lots of groups wanted to participate to raise money, including churches and politicians. The parade outgrew Somerset's parking lot, so it moved down Coolidge to Troy Center Drive to line up.

This year, Troy Daze will be held Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September 15. Learn more about this year's Troy Family Daze at their website, troynaturedaze.org/.

Give Blood – Save a Life: Local Blood Donation Opportunities

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, but according to the American Red Cross, supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Next week, The City of Troy is hosting blood drives at the following times and locations:

Monday, July 22, Fire-Police Training Center, 4850 John R, 9 am-6 pm; Tuesday, July 23, Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Wednesday, July 24, Troy Community Center, 3179

Livernois, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thursday, July 25, First Presbyterian Church, 4328 Livernois, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Friday, July 26, Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Donors can schedule appointments by calling 313-300-9617 or 248-524-1147. People can also schedule online at RedCrossBlood.org, or use the free Blood Donor App. Walk-ins are welcome, but a photo ID or Red Cross Donor Card will be required at the time of donation. Donors must be at least 17 years

old, weigh more than 110 pounds, and be in good general health.

"The blood needs of our community can only be met by support from volunteer blood donors," City of Troy Community Affairs Director Cindy Stewart said. "Donations are critical for burn victims, open-heart surgeries, some chemotherapy and leukemia patients, and disaster relief. One donation can help save the lives of up to three people."

Learn more about blood drives and how to help at redcross.org/.

Forensic Audit Uncovers Former City Manager's Shoddy Paper Trail

FORENSIC AUDIT, From page 1

could just meet at city hall to discuss projects.

The forensic audit presentation was made by Michelle McHale, who heads Plante Moran's Forensic Team, and Eric Conforti. They interviewed 16 city employees, a number of them several times. They seemed to agree it was difficult to stand up to Kischnick, who could be quite an intimidating person in his role as their boss. They also noted that if someone tried to complain, nothing ever happened. He was often heard between offices screaming at an employee.

Part of the problem, Conforti told council was that if they had any idea of blowing the whistle on an offender of city policy, the only person they were supposed to tell was the city manager. Now an employee can go to the new City Manager Mark Miller, City Attorney Lori Grigg Bluhm, or any city council member.

The city already had policies regarding the need for proof of purchases, but when they weren't forthcoming, no one reported them in a timely manner, or had anyone to tell.

The Plante Moran report stresses there have to be consequences for not following the rules. For example, if no receipt can be presented, perhaps you lose your credit card privilege, or you have to pay for the item with your own money. They did suggest that the city should consult with their legal advisors before setting any new penalties.

To see what kinds of infractions were taking place, Plante Moran sampled 70 transactions and reported that 42 percent of them had a question about them. Conforti noted that whenever they found an item of question, they immediately sent it to Attorney Bluhm for examination.

When asked why this report took so long to conclude, McHale pointed out the city's Request for Proposal (RFP) asked that in addition to big contracts, credit card purchases and petty cash spending be examined as well.

When it came to looking at petty cash, it was discovered that many of them lacked an itemized receipt, or has some other questionable finding. There were, for example, three receipts for phone accessories. Who got them, and what were they?

The report examined the city's current internal controls. In its report, Plante Moran noted: "The

City currently has multiple methods to reimburse employee expenses. Employees can seek reimbursement through the accounts payable ("AP") process (Finance Department), through the petty cash process (Treasurers' office) and payroll."

They pointed out that "a scheming employee could submit copies of the same receipt multiple times, through the different processes and receive multiple reimbursements without detection. Alternatively, an employee could make a purchase using a City purchasing card (i.e., without spending any of their personal funds). They could provide the receipt to AP to support their charge (per policy) and provide a copy of the receipt to the Treasurer's office for reimbursement through the petty cash process. It is unlikely either scheme would be detected, as different individuals are responsible for approving transactions occurring through the different processes and no reconciliations are performed."

Another problem here was that the treasurer's office requires an approval for a petty cash payment. In the city manager's case, that approval usually came from the office manager, over whom he was the supervisor. If they keep the petty cash system, someone outside the manager's office should have to approve it, the report recommended.

Plante Moran suggested they might want to do away with petty cash and if they wanted to keep it, then payment should only be made through the expense reimbursement process so it could not be submitted for payment multiple times.

They also found problems with the hiring process and its records. The city now has a checklist in place to see that items like a background check have been done and given to the human resources department for safekeeping.

Plante Moran did warn the city that the hardest crime to uncover is someone taking kickbacks, as there is no paper trail to follow. This appears to be what the former manager wanted to do. And we know how that worked out, as Kischnick is now in prison.



Winnie the Pooh and "A Honey Pot of Stories" at the Library

Introduce your little one to everyone's favorite silly, old bear, Winnie the Pooh. Wild Swan Theater will present "A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories" on Monday, July 22, at the Troy Public Library. Performances are at 11 a.m. and 1

p.m. in the library's meeting room. **This show** is a perfect introduction to live theater for young children, featuring a storybook setting, lively action, and music. Kids will be captivated by the enchanted world of the

100-Acre Wood.

The show is intended for kids between the ages of 3-8.

To learn more or to register, visit troypl.org/youth/.

Kirsten Gillibrand Looks for Support in Oakland County with Campaign Stop

by JUSTIN COOPER

“He broke it. We’ll fix it.” That was the slogan emblazoned on the side of the bus which carried New York senator and presidential candidate Kirsten Gillibrand through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, with a stop at Birmingham Unitarian Church on Friday, July 12.

Gillibrand’s “Trump Broken Promises Tour” was conceived as a trip through three states which twice elected Barack Obama, but flipped in favor of Donald Trump. Gillibrand hoped to highlight Trump’s “abject failure to keep his word to the American people” on issues such as drug prices, jobs, and gun violence.

“This is where the change voters are,” Gillibrand said. “If you expect to beat President Trump, you need to win this community and communities like it across America.”

Gillibrand concentrated on gun control for a portion of her opening remarks, and a series of questions from activists affiliated with Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America kept the candidate’s sights on gun law reform.

During the ten minutes she spent addressing the topic, she advocated for federal data collection on gun violence, increased investment in mental health, manufacturing guns with

allow for the temporary confiscation of firearms when their owners present a danger to themselves or others.

“[Gun violence] tears apart the fabric of a whole community. It

leaning independent, said Gillibrand is one of her personal frontrunners because her stance on gun control is not only strong but “realistic.”

“**Compromise** is probably not the right word, but [she has an] understanding what will be successful to create progress,” Steinberger said.

“My particular superpower is that I can talk about any issue in any place and find common ground,” Gillibrand said. “In the last Congress, I passed 18 bills with a Republican House, Senate and President.”

Nevertheless, Gillibrand emphasized that most of her gun control measures would be nearly impossible to pass without getting money out of politics. She repeatedly echoed the notion Trump that popularized with his catchphrase “Drain the swamp”, saying that politicians are paralyzed by lobbyist organizations that subvert the true will of the people with large sums of cash.

Her proposed solution? “Democracy dollars.”

Under her proposed system, candidates who wish to declare

themselves “publicly funded” would refuse donations above \$200. That’s because their donations aren’t coming from companies or organizations, but from individuals who have been allotted money by the state to spend on political campaigns. Each citizen would receive \$200 to spend on candidates for the House of Representatives, another \$200 for Senate candidates, and another \$200 for presidential candidates.

She believes this system of “democracy dollars” would force candidates out of the “ballrooms and fancy living rooms and boardrooms” they burrow into and push them into the presence of their actual constituents, to town halls, not unlike the one she was holding, Gillibrand made sure to note.

According to opensecrets.org, a non-partisan and non-profit research group, 11% of Gillibrand’s campaign financing so far has come from PAC contributions, and the remainder has come from individual contributions and herself.

Gillibrand is one of many Democratic candidates hoping to distinguish themselves in the weeks leading up to the third Democratic Party debate in September. She has not yet qualified to appear in the debate, which requires candidates to exceed thresholds of polling results and donor counts. FiveThirtyEight.com labeled her “2020’s misfit,” and polls generally have her winning over 1% of their respondents.

“To be honest with you, I didn’t even know who she was,” said Marvin Surowitz, a marijuana activist and political science professor at Wayne County Community College. However, Surowitz said that Gillibrand did “an amazingly great job.” He was impressed in particular by her stance on marijuana: legalize it on a federal level.

“I was impressed by the professionalism of it all. She seemed to be prepared for every and any question, and there was no hesitation. She was very fluent and very impressive,” said Maurice Leffor, who also said her positions were “right where Democrats in general are.” Outside the church, one attendant commended on Gillibrand’s “poise” as she fielded questions from reporters in front of her bus.

Gillibrand will be returning to Michigan at the end of the month for the second round of Democratic Party debates, to be hosted by CNN at the Fox Theatre in Detroit July 30-31.



hand ID technology, and the implementation of “red flag” laws on a federal level. Red flag laws, currently passed in 17 states,

tears apart a family’s sense of safety, of trust that they can survive,” she said.

Jamie Steinberger, a left-

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Troy Rotary Welcomes Parks for Foster Care Talk

by CLAIRE WEBER

Melissa Parks spoke to the Troy Rotary Club last week about the importance of advocating for children in Michigan's foster care network. Parks, a wife, a mother, and an artist, founded Art&Soul Dreams a 501(c)3 dedicated to bringing awareness to foster children by utilizing photos taken by an extensive collective of award-winning photographers in a traveling photo exhibit.

the Art&Soul Dreams mission is to educate. There are many opportunities to help. You don't have to adopt or even foster a child to aid these kids.

As a foster parent you provide a temporary loving home for a child in foster care. Many adoptions through foster care are by foster parents.

You can become a mentor—a caring stable adult who meets monthly to build and strengthen a



The exhibit's accompanying booklet, which is free to the public, includes the photographs and relates the moving stories of these kids.

These very personal portraits touch your soul by featuring the children as exceptional individuals with hopes and dreams, often despite a hard-knocks past.

"We partner with the state and Leadership Oakland finding these kids," Parks said.

Art&Soul Dreams is motivated to help educate, inspire individuals and communities in the conversation we call "Forever Families."

Parks emotionally emphasized that what these kids need most is "human to human contact."

"They are amazingly resilient. We strive to create experiences—a memory to hold on to, to take them to the next step of the journey," she said.

In her presentation, the artist cited some daunting facts:

- 80% of death row inmates have been foster children.
- 70% of Michigan inmates have been in the foster system.

The other important aspect of

strong meaningful relationship with a child. These are the positive experiences that give these kids a memory, an adult image, to hold on to.

The exhibit is currently on display in several Lake Orion locations in conjunction with the Orion Art Center. On August 10, there will be an opening reception at the Pontiac Creative Arts Center. After that, the exhibit will go on display in 46th District Court Judge Debra Nance's courtroom for a year. Sinai Grace Hospital in Detroit will feature the portraits in September.

There are many ways to contribute to benefit the foster care system. Volunteer help and donations of resources or services are always welcome.

"Every child is a work of art," Parks said. "They've been put on this earth for a reason...They are our future."

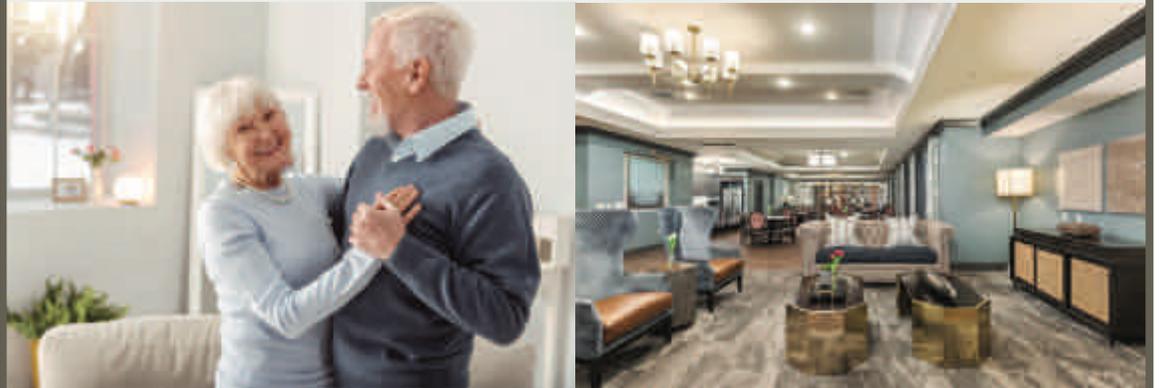
To learn more about scheduling for the Art&Soul Dreams exhibit, call 248-227-4643. To contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, call 800-586-6273 or visit mare.org.

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NR, Documentary/Series



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PG-13, Action/Adventure



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THE NICKEL BOYS
Colson Whitehead - Doubleday

Music

Tedeschi Trucks Band
Tuesday, July 23, 7 p.m. Meadow Brook Amphitheatre, Rochester Hills

Screaming Females
Wednesday, July 24, 7 p.m. The Loving Touch, Ferndale

Rochester Symphony Orchestra Thursday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. Rochester Municipal Park

RS Live Thursday, July 25, 8:30 p.m. Sedona Taphouse, Troy

The Temptations & The Righteous Brothers Saturday, July 27, 7:30 p.m. Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill, Sterling Heights

4th Element Saturday, July 27, 9 p.m. Norm's Field of Dreams, Troy

Moe. & Blues Traveler Tuesday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill, Sterling Heights

ON STAGE

Detroit to LA Comedy Challenge Tuesday, July 23, 7:30 p.m. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, Royal Oak

Evening on the Rooftop with Eisenhower Dance Detroit Tuesday, July 30, 6 p.m. 3Fifty Terrace, Detroit

FiveThirtyEight Politics Podcast Live Thursday, August 1, 7 p.m. Majestic Theatre, Detroit

Jeff Horste Thursday, August 1, 7:30 p.m. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, Royal Oak

Puppy Raiser Orientation Monday, July 22, 6 p.m. Leader Dogs for the Blind, Rochester Hills

The Story of Eastern Market Tuesday, July 23, 7 p.m. Troy Historic Village

Alaskan Ales for Tails Wednesday, July 24, 12 p.m. Clubhouse BFD, Rochester Hills

Hearth & Soul: Solomn Caswell House Wednesday, July 24, 6 p.m. Troy Historic Village

History of Corktown Thursday, July 25, 2 p.m. Troy Historic Village

Friends Trivia Thursday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. Bailey's, Troy

Troy Farmers Market Friday, July 26, 2 p.m. Troy Public Library Parking Lot

Customer Appreciation Event July 26-28, Premier Pet Supply, Rochester Hills - 20% off everything

Battle of the Brews Tuesday, July 30, 5 p.m. Sedona Taphouse, Troy

Bonsai Workshop Saturday, August 3, 1 p.m. Telly's Greenhouse, Troy

LIBRARY

All events take place at the Troy Public Library, 510 W Big Beaver Rd, unless stated otherwise. To register, visit Troypl.org

College Prep Panel Wednesday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.

What They Don't Teach Your Kids At School Saturday, July 27, 11 a.m.

The Story of the Blues Saturday, July 27, 1 p.m.

Flicks with the Family Tuesday, July 30, 10:30 a.m.

The Story of the DIA: (R)evolution Tuesday, July 30, 7 p.m.

Extreme Duct-Tape Workshop with Joel Tacey Thursday, August 1, 1 p.m.

KIDS & TEENS

All events take place at the Troy Public Library, unless stated otherwise.

Balloon Rockets Tuesday, July 23, 7 p.m. - For children 10-13

A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories Monday, July 22, 1 p.m.

Baby Play Saturday, July 27, 10:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

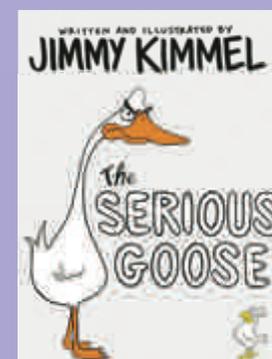
Joe Hertler Friday, September 6, The Loving Touch, Ferndale

Nick Kroll Friday, October 11, Royal Oak Music Theatre

Alex G Sunday, November 10, 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.

GAZETTE RECOMMENDS...



THE SERIOUS GOOSE

Late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is now an author. The book "The Serious Goose" was written, illustrated and hand-lettered by Kimmel, who said the story was inspired by his nickname for his kids. "The Serious Goose" is an interactive picture book with a mylar mirror that challenges kids to try to make the no-nonsense goose smile. All proceeds from the book sales will be donated to Children's Hospital Los Angeles and other children's hospitals around the country.

- Mark Nicholson, Publisher

Troy High Had a Winning Play in Beauty and the Beast

The National Youth Arts, a national organization that prepares, promotes and recognizes outstanding theatre productions from all angles, has announced Troy Theatre Ensemble's nominations and award winners for their 14th Annual National Youth Arts Awards recognition program.

TTE, Troy High School's acclaimed theatre ensemble, garnered eight awards and 19 additional nominations.

Beauty and the Beast was crowned with the Outstanding Production award. The awards for Lead Performance in a Musical went to Alexis Gearty as Belle and

Sean Hodges as Beast. Michael A. Gravame received the Costume Design award, and the Direction award went to Rick Bodick.

Beauty and the Beast wasn't the only award-winning play for TTE. Hannah Cheshire and Chloe Teodoridis received Supporting Performance in a Play awards for their work in *Clue On Stage*. The play also won an Ensemble award.

This year, more than 700 productions were considered for the awards, including shows from 240 different members spanning 17 states, Canada, and the UK. For more information about the Troy Theatre Ensemble, visit Ttensemble.weebly.com/

Detroit Playwrights Meet the Meadow Brook Stage

Meadow Brook Theatre will host an assortment of theatrical works penned by some of the area's most promising playwrights when the Detroit Playwrights' Lab takes the stage for one- and two-act readings. All events are free and open to the public.

After each reading, the audience is invited to remain for a "talk-back" session with the playwright and cast.

playwrights will be included in the series, including a new work by 2018 Kresge Artist Fellow, Emilio Rodriguez, whose play "Sex and Innocence" deals with a hypothetical confrontation between former lovers Marlon Brando and Rita Moreno.

Founded by King and Clark-Anderson, the Detroit Playwrights' Lab (The Lab) has become a premier forum for writers with a

Caswell House Offers a Look at Troy's Past

Plagued by ague, Massasauga rattlesnakes, and a condition that became known as "the Michigan hunger," 19th-century pioneers faced many challenges as they carved out new lives for themselves in the Michigan Territory. Solomon Caswell was one such hardy settler, who purchased a 40-acre parcel of land in Oakland County and completed his Greek Revival-style home there in 1832.

On July 24, people are invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of the 187-year-old Caswell home at the Troy Historic Village. The house was donated to the City of Troy in 1966. Rather than reconstructing the house's 1830s décor, museum

staff chose to furnish the home as it might have looked around the time of the U.S. Civil War. The tour includes a discussion of the sometimes controversial decision to relocate and restore historic buildings, as well as an up-close look at the primary sources that inform historic interpretation, including original maps, letters, photographs, and Caswell's diary.

The program also includes tips and tricks for restoring antique furniture by conservator Mark Gervasi, who worked with the Ford Estates and recently repaired one of the Caswell House bed frames. Longtime Troy Historical Society members and historians Kevin and Susan Lindsey will

share their extensive research into 19th-century pioneer survival strategies, settlement, and homemaking in southeast Michigan. Visitors will be able to explore parts of the Caswell House that are normally off-limits to the public, including the upstairs bedrooms and the basement, where the original beams can be seen.

The tour takes place at 6:00 pm. Those who are interested should register in advance, as space is limited. To sign up, call 248-524-3570, or stop by our Village Store to register in person. Tickets cost \$10 for Troy Historical Society Members and \$15 for non-members.

Park It for Family Fun with Troy Parks & Recreation

Enjoy an evening of family fun with Troy Parks and Recreation on Tuesday, August 13.

Park It is taking place in Boulan Park from 6-10 p.m. next month and will feature music, activities, and a movie.

At 6 p.m., get a chance to see emergency vehicles up close. Trucks will be on display from the

Troy Fire Department, Troy Police Department, Alliance Mobile Health, and the Department of Public Works.

The local band Momford and Sons will take to the stage at 6:30 p.m. Following the concert, families can kick back and watch *Wreck it Ralph: Ralph Breaks the Internet*, starting at 8:20 p.m.

People interested in attending should bring their own seating. The event is weather dependent, and there will be no make-up date if the event is cancelled.

To learn more about Park It, visit parkit4fun.com

Boulan Park is at 3671 Crooks Rd. in Troy.



"We couldn't be more pleased to play a role in helping these authors craft their stories," said Travis Walter, MBT artistic director. "We're happy to support new voices in theatre and introduce them to a broader audience."

The readings will take place on Sundays at 3 p.m. The next reading will be July 28 featuring "The Whore of Shomron: A Love Story" by Angela G. King. Then on August 11, "The Incident" by Sean Paraventi will be read. And on August 25, "Game Play" by Charity-Clark Anderson and "Shedding Skin" by Collette Cullen will be featured.

Works by three additional

variety of experience to come together and hear their theatrical works read and critiqued regularly. In addition, playwrights can take advantage of writing exercises, group theater outings and other undertakings offered to help cultivate their development. For the past two summers, The Lab has hosted a showcase of works written by its members and performed before packed audiences at the Detroit Repertory Theatre.

Meadow Brook Theatre is located on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. For additional information, call 248-377-3300.

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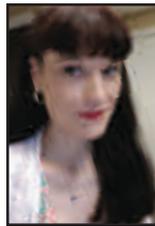
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Five Space-Saving Tips to Make the Most of Your Garage



by
AMY FORTUNE

If you are like most homeowners, your garage is more than just a home for your vehicle. Most garages also serve as convenient storage spaces for various and sundry items. You may stow seasonal items such as holiday decorations or pool toys in your garage, use your garage as an extension of your pantry, or store your beloved tool collection in there. No matter how you want to utilize your garage space, you can make the most of it with some strategic and creative organization.

How to Create a More Functional and Attractive Garage Space

You can get more into your garage while maintaining a clean and well-kept appearance by following a few simple tips. So, the next time you feel the need to organize your garage, consider taking some inspiration from these ideas.

Build or purchase a few cabinets.

Storage cabinets can help you keep items organized and

concealed. Depending on the size of your garage and the space available there, you may want to install two, three, or more

the unused space near the ceiling. How? Mount overhead racks to keep seldom-needed items out of the way but safely stowed for



cabinets to house different types of items. This way, when you are searching for holiday ornaments or gardening supplies, you can save time by knowing exactly where to look. For extra fun, consider allowing your children or grandchildren to paint your handmade garage cabinets.

Do not allow overhead storage options go to waste.

If you need more space in your garage, look up. Chances are, you will find storage opportunities in

when you need them. You can also suspend herbs and flowers from your garage ceiling if you wish to dry them.

Install some magnetic boards.

Magnetic boards work wonders when it comes to storing tools – especially small parts that may get lost in bins or on shelves. Of course, these wall-mounted organizers can provide convenient homes for all small to medium-sized metal items such as gardening implements, certain craft supplies, and toys.

Use clear bins and label everything.

You can create a wall of carefully stacked bins that work well for storage, but only if you know the contents of these bins. Otherwise, you could waste a lot of time digging for a desired object. Avoid this hassle by opting for see-through bins. Then, label bins with color-coded stickers according to their contents for quick and easy access to stored items.

Tie up and contain loose wires and cords.

A garage is a great place to stash electronic devices such as power tools, extra computer equipment, and kitchen gadgets. But the cords attached to these items can get tangled if allowed to dangle on the floor. They can also present tripping hazards if they are left in walkways. So, make sure that all wires and cords are safely bundled and tied up. This helps you to minimize safety risks and maintain a neater, more organized garage environment.

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Annual Classic & Muscle Car Show

Roll up in style at the Annual Classic and Muscle Car Show at the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester. On Saturday, July 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., see under the hood of classic cars from every decade in OPC's upper lot located at 650 Letica Drive in Rochester.

This free event is open to the public. Attendees can tour the cars and enjoy breakfast and lunch, music, games, and more. Prizes will be awarded to cars based on style and vintage. Participants are encouraged to register cars in advance by calling Jeremy Ridky at 248-608-0295.

The Annual Car Show began in 2015 as a way of celebrating what Michigan is famous for - automobiles. OPC members and community residents have lovingly restored classics, and the OPC said it is proud to offer an opportunity to show them off.

The OPC's mission is dedicated to the physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being of the residents 50+ from Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township.

To learn more about the OPC, visit opcseniorcenter.org or call 248-656-1403.

Coolidge Highway Closed for I-75 Construction Project

The south-bound lanes of Coolidge Highway between Square Lake Road and Long Lake Road closed on Friday, July 19, and is expected to remain closed until October 17.

South-bound traffic will be detoured via Adams Road, but north-bound traffic on Coolidge will be maintained. Coolidge Highway south of the bridge will remain open.

The work is being done by MDOT and is part of the I-75 construction.

To learn more about scheduled construction and road closures, visit michigan.gov/mdot/.

Social Media Crash Course

Social media has transformed the way people communicate with each other on a daily basis. Adults can get an introduction to Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat at the Troy Public Library on Thursday, July 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. See how these platforms can be used to keep in touch with the people you love and the world as a whole. To register, go to troypl.org/calendar or call 248-524-3534.



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College Prep Panel Meets at Library

Teens and parents are invited to get the inside scoop on applying for and starting college from a panel of experts from Oakland University Admissions team and graduates on the Teen

Advisory Board. The program is at the Troy Library on Wednesday, July 24, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. To register, go to troypl.org/calendar or call 248-524-3534.

Join Us to Learn More About a Treatment Option for Adults with Moderate to Severe Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease.

Register to attend a free program by calling **1-833-885-8571** or visiting www.crohnscolitisprograms.com

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Troy Firefighter Memorial Fundraising Efforts Underway

The Troy Fire Department is conducting a fundraising project to establish a permanent Firefighters Memorial at Firefighters Park on W. Square Lake Road, east of Coolidge Hwy. The memorial is being designed to honor the members of the Troy Fire Department who have served the community.

largest career/volunteer fire department in the State of Michigan. The department currently has 180 volunteer firefighters working out of 6 fire stations and 11 uniformed career staff members. All members meet the training & certification requirements of the Michigan Firefighters Training Council. To

If you would like to contribute to the memorial project, you can donate by check or online. The Troy Firefighters Community Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is greatly appreciated. Information can be found on line at troymi.gov/departments/fire_department/troy_firefighters_commu



The Troy Fire Department was established in January 1940. For over 79 years, the Troy Fire Department has relied primarily on volunteer members to provide the necessary staffing. Today, the Troy Fire Department staffs the largest municipal fire department in Oakland County and is the

learn more about the Troy Fire Department, go to the website at troymi.gov/fire.

The Firefighters Memorial is a tribute to past members who have committed their time and effort to providing a cost-effective and efficient model for community fire protection.

troymi.gov/fire.

All donations are tax deductible and cancelled checks will provide a receipt for donations.

Checks can be made payable to the Troy Firefighters Community Fund and sent to the Troy Fire Department Attn: TFCF – Memorial Project. The Troy Fire Department is at 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, MI 48084.

Learn the History of Eastern Market

Eastern Market has grown in popularity over the last few years with the revival of Detroit. Established in 1892, Detroit's Eastern Market is the largest historic market district in the United States, and it remains as the place for many metro Detroiters to shop, enjoy a great meal, and meet friends. The story of Eastern Market will be explored on Tuesday, July 23, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Troy Public Library. Lisa Rush, Eastern Market tour guide and co-author of "Detroit's Historic Eastern Market," will share pictures, stories, and fun facts about the market's growth and evolution during its 125-year history. To register, visit troypl.org/calendar, or call 248-524-3534.



Wednesday, July 24
Italian-American Heritage Night
2-for-1 Wednesdays
First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Thursday, July 25
Mardi Gras Night
Thirsty Thursday
Parade Company Big Heads
First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Friday, July 26
Fireworks Spectacular
First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Saturday, July 27
German-American Heritage Night
Enzian Band
First Pitch 7:05PM, Gates Open 6:00PM

Sunday, July 28
Reptile Day presented by The Reptarium
Parent Appreciation/Family Photo Day
First Pitch 1:05PM, Gates Open NOON

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Preschool Preview

Fun Ways To Inspire Kids' Imaginations

(NAPSI) According to numerous studies, imaginative play in childhood can be critical to cognitive and social development. Research suggests that make-believe games can increase language usage, help with self-regulation, let children express a range of emotions, and teach them to think creatively. In addition,

foreign coins can all inspire kids to pretend.

You can also encourage games and imaginative play that incorporate intellectual challenges.

Some examples include designing the best paper airplane, coming up with new games using only a ball and basket, or creating



keeping kids' brains active and engaged can help prevent a decline in academic skills during school breaks.

So with all of these benefits, how can you encourage more imaginative play? Here are a few ideas.

Create a prop box filled with items to spark imagination. Objects such as stuffed animals, cardboard boxes, fun clothes, and

an imaginary place with building toys.

Get creative with your kids and join in on the fun. By engaging with your children in an imaginative way, you are allowing your kids to explore new ideas, and you can help keep them on a positive track if you notice behavior or language that needs adjustment.

Superhero Summer Camp



Summer camp isn't just for big kids. Rainbow Preschool is offering day camps this summer for children ages 3-5.

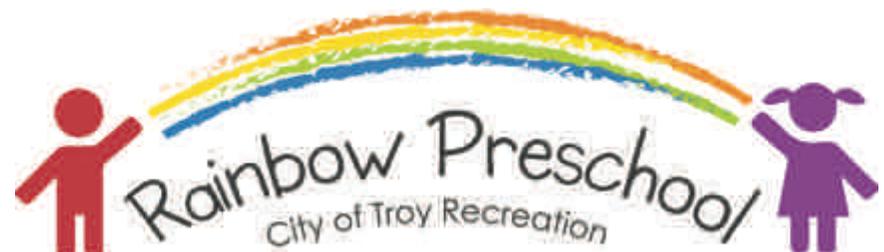
Monday, July 29, through Thursday, August 1, PreK kids can channel their inner hero at Superhero Camp. Through crafts and special superhero training, campers will be transformed into the ultimate superhero.

The camp runs 9:30-11:30 a.m., and will include a variety of activities including free play, circle time, outdoor play time, and art activities. A small snack will be provided at the end of each day. In order to participate in camp, children must be potty trained and able to take care of their bathroom needs.

Superhero Camp is led by Rainbow Preschool instructors. The cost is \$90 for Troy residents and \$100 for non-residents. The fee includes instruction, supplies, and a Rainbow Preschool t-shirt. To learn more or to register, go to rec.troymi.gov/registration, or call Troy Recreation at 248-524-3484 with questions.



THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TROY recently kicked off their Summer Program. Kids can participate in outdoor sports like soccer, baseball, and basketball. Arts & crafts are always a favorite, as are the ping pong and pool tables indoors. Field trips, customized classes, and more, the Boys & Girls Club Summer Program offers the children of Troy a chance to learn new things and make new friends. Learn more at bgctroy.org/summer/.



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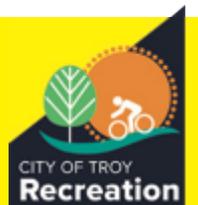


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Talk Early and Often with Your Kids About Finances

(NAPSI) Good news for parents: You can help your kids learn to do well. Studies suggest a clear correlation between early education in money and future financial success.



People who learned about money as children were three times as likely to have a personal annual income of \$75,000 or higher than those who didn't, according to a survey by Quicken.

But there's a problem: One-third of adults surveyed said no one taught them about money when they were children. Among that group, only 13 percent report a high level of confidence in their finances.

People who learned about money as children were 20 percent more likely to prioritize teaching their own kids about money. Those who said no one taught them about money as a child were twice as likely to delay talking to their own children about money until age 18 or older.

The top tools – allowance, savings accounts, piggy banks – may not have changed much, but the lessons have evolved. Today, parents are teaching their children about charitable donations, using credit cards, and teaching their kids about investing.

If you're an example of financial responsibility, your kiddos will be more likely to follow. And the right tools can make a big difference. The survey showed that 62 percent of the people who do not use any personal finance tools also reported a lack of confidence in their current financial situation.

An early start and frequent conversations about money can be key to setting your kids on the path to a healthy financial future.

New TSD Preschool Taking Shape, Inside and Out

Exciting things are happening for students in the Troy School District Preschool. The district is opening a brand new, state-of-the-art preschool in August, and its teachers are participating in an intensive and engaging TSD Preschool Institute this summer.

The Preschool Institute brings together teachers and experts in literacy, early learning, and child development to share ways to give young students the best start.



The Institute is an outgrowth of the TSD's partnership with Teachers College at Columbia University and offers preschool educators lessons and hands-on experience with best practices and strategies for building lifelong learners.

Teachers aren't just learning the mechanics of reading and writing instruction. By weaving concepts of empathy, kindness, friendship throughout their

student who attends preschool at the new facility will move seamlessly into kindergarten, with the skills and background to make an easy and successful transition. TSD Preschool teachers will have the opportunity to collaborate with and learn alongside kindergarten teachers throughout the school year as one team, which is a key element of the program.

"We have put a lot of careful thought into our preschool programs and really reimagined what high-quality early learning could be," Director of Early Childhood Erin Keyser said. "Our new facility will now reflect the excellence that our students experience every day in our classrooms. We are very excited to welcome our first group of students in August."

The new facility, which is nearly complete, is filled with natural light and large classrooms and common spaces for classes to come together. It is truly a world class preschool building, and leaders agree that it's a fitting place for a world class program for early learners.

"Investing in the learning of



lessons, teachers help students build social skills and increase confidence and social skills. Through active, developmentally appropriate play-based experiences, students become engaged, curious, and excited to learn about the world around them. Teachers who participated said this event will have a big impact on their classrooms and students.

"Learning so much at our TSD Preschool Summer Institute!" tweeted teacher Elizabeth Neville, "Looking forward to this school year!"

The school will have a new look physically, but one of the most important things parents will notice is that the curriculum is directly aligned with the district's K-12 curriculum. This means a

pre-kindergarten students is one of the four characteristics that makes the Troy School District a world class learning institution," Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky said. "This new facility, along with the investment we have made in our teachers and staff, means that more children than ever will have the benefit of a great early learning experience."

There are still some spaces left in the new TSD Preschool for the fall, including full-day and half-day sessions. Students do not have to reside in the Troy School District to enroll. For more information, call 248-823-3000. For photos, videos and facts about the new facility, visit tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us/.

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OaklandSchools

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.

FreePreOakland.org

Child must be three or four years old by December 1, 2019.

Head Lice Prevention is Key to Kids' Well-Being

Head lice love every season and anyone with a head of hair. They're not going anywhere. If you find lice, treat it with a product that kills both lice and eggs.

Fortunately, if you want to reduce your and your family's odds of getting head lice, you can be proactive.

Whether the family is heading off to school, spring break or to camp, have a lice prevention plan in place. You want your kids to make friends but not with lice. The most common way children spread head lice is from direct head-to-head contact at social gatherings or school. Not only are nits and lice so small that they can be easily missed, but it also takes four to six weeks for itching symptoms to start.

Here's how you can protect your children and keep them from being "The One" to bring lice home.

Perform head lice checks before and after your child is in head-to-head contact with other

children. Check your children for lice and nits before vacationing or sending them off to camp and conduct weekly head checks throughout the year. Many camps do head lice checks when your child arrives; you don't want that to be when you find out you have a problem.

Reduce risk by putting long hair in a braid, bun or ponytail. The longer the hair, the greater the risk for contracting lice from head-to-head contact.

Be proactive. Once a child returning from spring break or camp is diagnosed with a lice infestation, family and friends have already been exposed for weeks as the infestation was growing. That's how lice outbreaks multiply.

If you've been exposed, switch to a daily shampoo designed to kill undetected lice with each wash so any potentially contracted lice don't build into an infestation.

Arts And Crafts Can Help Children Learn Important Skills

Whether it is with finger paint, chalk, crayons or construction paper, children love crafting and creating their own special works of art. Not only are crafts an enjoyable activity for children, simple crafting can also help children learn important skills that affect their overall development and is a way through which parents can observe their children's developmental progress to make sure they are school ready.

It's important for parents to be in tune with their child's development during their early years because the first five years

of life lay the foundation for a child's long-term success.

There is a lot to think about when it comes to a child's development. Even the most attentive parents may struggle to find the information they need to be sure their young child's health, wellness and learning are on track.

It's important for parents to observe their child's progress and remember that each child develops at his or her own pace. Developmental screenings are an important tool in helping to identify the specific skills each child needs to succeed.

Pre-K Storytime at Troy Public Library

Get your preschooler excited about stories at the Troy Public Library this summer. Kids between the ages of 3-5 and their parents are invited to Storytime on Tuesday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m. and on Wednesday, August 7 at 7 p.m.

Children will enjoy 45 minutes of songs, rhymes, and stories in the library meeting room. To register visit troypl.org/calendar, or call the Troy Public Library at 248-524-3538. The library is at 510 W. Big Beaver.

Dino-sized Summer Fun at the Aquatic Center

The Troy Family Aquatic Center is hosting Dino Day at the pool on Friday, July 26.

Families can take a trip back in time for fun that's dino-mite. The Stage Nature Center will bring fossil samples and help lead other dinosaur themed activities.

Tickets for the event cost \$5

for residents and \$7 for non-residents. Dino Day is free for Troy Family Aquatic Center passholders.

The event begins at 11 a.m. and continues until the aquatic center closes at 8 p.m. To learn more, call 248-524-34848.

CLASSIFIEDS

July 22, 2019



Troy-Somerset Gazette

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Cemetery plot for two, including 16x24 bronze marker, at Christian Memorial Cultural Cemetery - 521 E Hamlin Rd, Rochester. Asking \$8,250 (worth over \$10,000). Contact Bard after 12 p.m. at 248-410-2334 1/1

Two cemetery plots at White Chapel in Garden of the Gospel next to Main Chapel. \$2900. Call 248-829-1958. 1/1

Two cemetery plots at White Chapel in Garden of the Last Supper. \$2800 - Call Anita at 248-770-3595. 3/3

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DONATE BLOOD

The American Red Cross encourages people to donate blood in order to meet supply needs in the Oakland and Macomb area. Donating blood is a simple way to make a lifesaving impact in your community. The American Red Cross regularly hosts blood drives.

To view the latest blood drives in your area, or to make an appointment to donate, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

VOLUNTEER

Forgotten Harvest is a non-profit organization that collects surplus food and redistributes it to local charities, providing families in the metro-Detroit area with fresh and nutritious food.

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.

ADOPT A PET

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.

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Oakland County Executive Says It's Time For A Salary Overhaul

Salaries for non-union Oakland County employees will be more competitive in the current labor market if the board of commissioners adopts the new salary administration plan County Executive L. Brooks Patterson proposed in his balanced budget recommendation for fiscal years 2020-2023. The county



implemented its current salary administration plan over 33 years ago, and Patterson said it's time for a significant revision.

"As one of the largest employers within the county's geographic boundary, it is critical for Oakland County as an organization to stay competitive in this tight labor market with unemployment so low," Patterson's budget message stated, which county executive administration presented to the board today.

In December 2017, Oakland County Human Resources retained a consultant to conduct an overall compensation study. This study included a review of the market competitiveness of all non-union county job classifications. The recommended amount of salary adjustments will vary by classification and step placement within the salary range for each employee. Five of the eight county unions will be negotiating wages for fiscal year 2020 and beyond, and at this time,

they are not included in the compensation study recommendations.

The preliminary cost to implement the new salary administration plan for non-union classifications is estimated to be \$6.1 million. The cost is partially offset with funding available in the prior adopted budget, which includes \$2.4 million appropriated as a contingency amount for the potential impact on general fund/general purpose annual operations, plus \$1.6 million budgeted for a general salary increase in fiscal 2020. Net additional funding of approximately \$2.1 million will be required in fiscal year 2020 for implementation, which increases base salaries on an ongoing basis.

There will be a 1% general salary increase for fiscal year 2020, with the implementation of the new salary administration plan targeted for January 1.

Patterson's budget recommendation continues to look over the horizon to determine factors and future needs that may impact the county's budget. Among these future needs is a new 105,000-square-foot building that will expand and improve the Oakland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office 911 dispatch call center. It also will include a new law enforcement training facility.

"An enhanced, high-security new building is considered a top priority for the county executive's administration," Patterson's budget message said.

The current sheriff's dispatch center shares a building with the county's homeland security division, which includes the EOC. There is no room to expand dispatch operations if the Sheriff's Office assumes responsibilities for additional local communities. Plus, it is critical that the EOC and

sheriff's dispatch center remain adjacent to each other so they can coordinate complex communications in emergency situations involving many communities and agencies. The preliminary cost estimate for the facility is \$60 million. No funding source has been identified.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office 911 dispatch call center supports the 15 cities, villages, and townships it patrols. The Sheriff's Office also supports Oakland County Parks and Recreation, the county's animal control operations, 10 other local police departments, 19 local fire departments, and provides emergency medical dispatch for the city of Pontiac. It also serves as the designated back-up 911 answering point for six dispatch centers. The sheriff's dispatch center handles over a half-million calls annually. Contracted dispatch services as well as road patrol services have benefitted

many local communities with significant cost savings.

The Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) has indicated that additional space is needed to support expanded operations. Increased responsibilities over the past decade include the acquisition of the city of Pontiac water and sewer systems and wastewater treatment plant, expansion of the WRC infrastructure asset management system, and technical support and regional collaboration associated with the Great Lakes Water Authority.

Currently, the WRC's primary operations are located in Oakland County's Public Works Building which is shared with Oakland County's Department of Facilities Maintenance and Operations. The project would include a new 12,000-square-foot, two-story office space addition with elevator and stairwell; a new 4,600-square-foot equipment building with

15,000-square-foot of new paved outdoor yard area vehicle parking; renovations to 29,100-square-foot of existing WRC office space; and resurfacing and repairing 187,000-square-foot of existing parking lot for vehicles and equipment. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$17.7 million. WRC says most of the costs would be charged back to ratepayers of the water and sewer systems.

The general fund/general purpose estimated revenue and appropriations are balanced at \$476,867,745 for fiscal 2020; \$486,399,474 for fiscal 2021; and \$492,490,972 for fiscal 2022. The total budget is \$924,103,085 for fiscal 2020; \$932,525,565 for fiscal 2021; and \$939,223,917 for fiscal 2022. To review Patterson's proposed balanced budget, go to OakGov.com/mgtbud/fiscal and click on the link "FY 2020 - FY 2022 County Executive Recommended Budget."



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