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# Troy-Somerset Gazette

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May 27, 2019

Vol. 39, No. 36

## Big Surprise: More Road Work Ahead

Beginning May 28, the Road Commission for Oakland County will close Quarton Road (Big Beaver) from Lahser Road to Cranbrook Road to extend the westbound Quarton Road left-turn lane to southbound Lahser Road.

**Quarton will be closed** in both directions from just west of Merrimac Court to Lahser Road. Access to homes on Merrimac Court will be maintained, but motorists will only be able to travel to and from the east on Quarton throughout the project.

The road is expected to reopen on Monday, June 3.

## Granite City Trivia &

### Brews: Parks & Recreation

Show off your Pawnee knowledge at Parks & Rec Trivia Night on Tuesday, June 11, hosted by the Troy Public Library. Meet at Granite City Food & Brewery by 7 p.m. to participate in the game.

**Prizes will be awarded**, and bonus points for every library card holder on the team. Registration is required and can be done at [Troypl.org/](http://Troypl.org/). Granite City Food & Brewery is located at 699 W. Big Beaver Road.

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

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**BEAUMONT URGENT CARE is now open on Big Beaver, just east of John R. Before they officially cut the ribbon, Mayor Dane Slater presented center officials with a proclamation of appreciation for coming to Troy. Pictured left to right are Councilwoman Ellen Hodorek, Councilman Ethan Baker, Beaumont Health Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Wilson, Mayor Slater, Beaumont Troy President Dr. James Lynch, and Councilman Dave Henderson.**

## New Beaumont Urgent Care Opens in Troy

Beaumont Urgent Care has opened a new center in Troy, located at 2078 E. Big Beaver Road, just east of John R. This year, the Beaumont Network is growing to include 30 urgent care centers throughout Southeast Michigan.

**The new** Beaumont Urgent Care centers allow patients to access providers and facilities in the Beaumont Network quickly for minor injuries and illnesses at a reduced cost compared to a more

expensive emergency room visit. Expanded services like an in-house lab, X-ray, and fiberglass splinting are also available.

Troy Mayor Dane Slater and city council members were on hand to help with cutting the ribbon, and noted the important role Beaumont Troy has played over the past years as the city grew. Council also issued a welcoming proclamation to the Beaumont Urgent Care Center. In fact, Troy will be getting a second

Beaumont Urgent Care Center, which is already under construction at the corner of Square Lake and Dequindre. This means you can skip that more expensive – and often long – wait at the emergency room up the street if you have a cold or your young student-athlete has a sprained ankle. And, if you need an X-ray, it will be sent to Beaumont Troy Radiology to be read by an expert, with results

See URGENT CARE, page 3

## Buddy Benches Find New Home At Troy Schools

It's not easy to be the new kid at school, or to have a disability that makes it hard to make friends.

**But back in 2013**, 9-year-old Christian thought his family was moving to Germany. While exploring the schools he might attend, Christian noted a "Buddy Bench" in the playground at one school. He read that it was a friendship bench to help kids make friends and join in playground activities.

The benches aren't always occupied by the child who needs a friend, but by a child who wants to invite someone who is lonely to become part of a team. It seems from research that our elementary school children are more willing to extend kindness than some older kids.

**Christian approached** the principal at his elementary school with the idea. The principal said he would explore the idea, and he did. The next fall, a Buddy Bench made its debut on the Roundtree Elementary School playground, and everyone wanted to be part of the action. That made news and soon the idea was on NBC and in the HuffPost. Then others started inquiring about how to get a bench for their school.

Among those inquiring was the Troy Rotary Club. They didn't want a bench for just one school, they wanted a Buddy Bench for every elementary school in Troy,

See BUDDY BENCHES, page 2

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## Legislative Democrats Introduce Bill Package to Address Pay Gap

A coalition of Michigan House and Senate legislators led by State Rep. Padma Kuppa (D-Troy) and State Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) introduced a plan last week to address the pay gap between men and women.

**Women in Michigan make 78 cents for every dollar made by a man**, according to Census Bureau data on median earnings for full-time workers. For women of color, the pay gap is even wider. African American women and Latinas earn 64 cents and 56 cents for every dollar earned by a man, respectively. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, policy interventions to ensure equal status for women are necessary to eliminate the disparity in wages between men and women, which are not set to close in Michigan until 2059.

"Pay disparity doesn't just affect individuals, it affects entire families," Kuppa said in a press release. "I experienced the ways unequal pay impacted my mother, a leading research scientist, and our family. When I became an engineer myself, I experienced similar challenges. Our experience echoes that of thousands of women in our state and I will not rest until my daughter's generation actually receives equal pay for equal work."

**House Bills 4629-4640** and **Senate Bills 328-329** were introduced to close the gap. Included within the bill package are requirements for employers to provide employees with wage

information for similarly situated employees at their request and introduces fines for violations. The bill would also require employers to provide information about the duties, responsibilities, skill, training and effort required for each position, along with the working conditions, schedule, salary information, and pay scale. That information would have to be made available during job recruitment, hiring, promotions, or at the request of employees.

**The bills would also** prevent employers from asking or seeking information related to past compensation.

The bill package would also create a commission dedicated to working toward equal pay and increase the amount of reporting at the state level on pay differential with the intent of decreasing wage disparity between men and women who perform the same work.

**"The pay gap is real** - across job sectors, classifications, industries and education levels, with one notable exception within union jobs," Geiss said in a press release.

The 12-bill package was introduced on May 22, which was the 47th anniversary of Michigan ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. The 1972 amendment was designed to affirm and protect the rights of all Americans regardless of sex, but it is still awaiting ratification from more than 10 states.

## Buddy Benches Foster Friendships, End Loneliness

BUDDY BENCHES, From page 1

as well as the Troy Boys & Girls Club. And they wanted good, sturdy benches that would last and that meant fundraising. The going price for a sturdy bench was \$1,600.

But undaunted, the Rotarians set out to ask just about everyone

they knew for support. Interestingly, the first people to donate for a bench were a group of teachers from Hill Elementary School.

**Soon others** were contributing, too. The club spent several Saturdays assembling the Buddy Benches. Last Thursday,

despite some drizzle and then a downpour, the Rotary Club, assisted by Troy Mayor Dane Slater and Troy Superintendent Dr. Richard Machesky, joined sponsors and Rotarians to host a ribbon cutting at every school.



**TROY UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** cuts the Buddy Bench ribbon sponsored by Rotarian Sharon Lewis and the Troy Board of Education. Pictured inside (and out of the rain) are, left to right: 5th Grader Vedanth Vallury and Mya Schaefer, Rotary President-Elect Lynda Ludy, Rotary President Rene Pothetes, School Board Trustee Dr. Nicole Wilson, School Board VP Dr. Nancy Philippart, Mayor Dane Slater, Troy Union Principal Mike Cottone, TSD Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky, School Board Member Paula Fleming, Rotarian Dave Donnellon, and 5th grader Amanda Seegars. Photo Courtesy of Cindy Stewart, City of Troy

## STILL STRUGGLING WITH CPAP?

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200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084

View Important Safety Information & Register at [InspireSleepEvents.com](http://InspireSleepEvents.com)

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## Native Plant Sale at Stage Nature Center

Visit the Stage Nature Center on Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., along with "Plants for Ecology: Native Plants to Heal Our Planet," for a native plant sale on the front lawn of the nature center.

**This plant sale** is designed to help visitors start their own native garden or build onto their existing gardens.

Planting a diverse collection of native flora in your yard will create a mini native habitat that creates a strong ecosystem that requires minimal maintenance once established. This is also a great way to attract a variety of birds, butterflies and beneficial insects to your garden.

**Cash is preferred** but Visa, Mastercard, and checks are also accepted for payment. Stage Nature Center is located at 6685 Coolidge Hwy in Troy.

# Center Expands Access to the Beaumont Network of Facilities and Providers

PLANNING, From page 1

back in about 15 minutes.

**Beaumont Troy** will still have the Pediatric After Hours facility open after 6 p.m. for more serious needs of your little ones.

“Beaumont is working with WellStreet, a company experienced with running patient-focused urgent care centers. We are eager to serve patients and families in Troy by providing quality care on their terms, with easy access at a lower cost,” Bernice Sessa, M.D., medical director of Beaumont Urgent Care, said.

While services are not limited to Beaumont patients, the medical team at Beaumont Urgent Care centers can access the Beaumont Network electronic medical record to help doctors and nurses provide coordinated care. Forty percent of patients who come to an urgent care center do not have a primary care doctor. So, patients

are also encouraged to find a primary care physician, and staff can assist with coordinating necessary care for patients and physicians.

WellStreet’s CEO, Ron Lavater added, “Beaumont Urgent Care Center’s talented providers and staff are very focused on our patient’s experience. It is our goal to have patients in and out of our centers within an hour or less. We are thrilled to serve the community of Troy.”

**WellStreet also has** added five Beaumont Urgent Care Centers Downriver, from Farmington Hills and Novi south.

The new location is open seven-days-a-week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. It has four patient rooms, two treatment rooms, and lots of storage room, too. The site is the former TCF Bank site and even the vault has been converted (which took eight weeks to complete) for urgent care needs.

**Weekend and** evening hours allow recently hospitalized patients an opportunity for earlier evaluation and intervention should problems arise after hours. This easy access can reduce hospital readmission rates and decrease health care costs for patients and employers.

Urgent care centers are most appropriate for a cold or sore throat, fever, skin irritations, minor lacerations, and mild intestinal illnesses

**Patients experiencing** signs of a heart attack, stroke, or other serious symptoms should go directly to an emergency room. Always call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are experiencing severe or life-threatening medical symptoms. Visit [Beaumont.org/where-to-go/](http://Beaumont.org/where-to-go/) for more information.

**To learn more about Beaumont Urgent Care, visit [BeaumontUrgentCare.com](http://BeaumontUrgentCare.com) to view a list of current and upcoming locations.**

“Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.”

— Mark Twain

## Grand Opening Celebration

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## Run for Nature Fundraiser at Troy Farm

The Troy Nature Society (TNS) will be holding its annual Run For Nature event on Sunday, June 9 from 9-11 a.m. at the Troy Farm located at Beach Road and South Blvd. This 5K Run for Nature also includes a 2.5K Walk along with a Little Sprout Sprint for children ages 10 years and under. Event t-shirts guaranteed for adults who pre-register by May 31. Awards will be given to top male/top female finishers and to the top three finishers in each age group. Refreshments provided at the finish line.

Bean as our Presenting Sponsor this year as well as returning sponsors, TCF Bank, and the Troy Sports Center. We welcome a new sponsor for 2019, GHD of Farmington Hills. We are expecting over 250 runners/walkers and their family members to attend this fun family event. Proceeds raised will help underwrite upcoming educational nature programs and activities at the Stage Nature Center.”

**Pre-Registration** by May 31 is strongly suggested by visiting [Troyaturesociety/5k/](http://Troyaturesociety/5k/).



Run For Nature Committee Members prepare for the June 9 event. Pictured left to right: Bill Watkins, Dan Glombowski, Carla Reeb, Kevin Chang, Laura Taitt, David Lambert, Ananya Menon, Deanna Skelcy and Mark Skelcy.

**Participants can** run or walk on this challenging trail course located at the west end of the 100-acre Stage Nature Center (SNC) preserve. The Society’s Executive Director, Carla Reeb commented, “We are delighted to have L.L.

\$25/Adults, \$15 for Youth ages 11 to 15, \$15 for children ages 10 and under who register for the Little Spout Sprint (includes nature cape and participation medal). For more information contact 248-688-9703.



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- Main pool with zero-depth edge
- Tube and body slides
- Kiddie area with waterfall
- 3 25-meter lap lanes
- Kiddie slide with splash pad
- Sand volleyball and play area
- Harvey’s Hut concessions

# Can't Get Points On Your License If You Don't Have One. Think About It.

## POLICE PATROL



by  
CYNTHIA KMETT

### ■ WHY ARE YOU DRUNK ON A MONDAY AT 5:35

**P.M.?** Officers responded to the area on a report of a roll-over injury accident on Red Fox Trail. The officers located the vehicle, a tan 2017 Chrysler Pacifica, and confirmed that it did in-fact, roll-over, and the driver was able to exit it but was injured. The officers spoke with the driver, a 45-year-old female, who admitted that she was texting and driving prior to the accident. While speaking with the driver, the officers noted an odor of alcohol emanating from her. When asked, she admitted to having consumed two drinks that contained alcohol. She was asked to perform several sobriety evaluations to which she did but the officers noted that she performed poorly. She submitted to a Preliminary Breath Test with a result of .28% BAC. She was

arrested and charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol.

■ **THIS CERTAINLY GOT THE OFFICER'S ATTENTION** – It was 6:30 on Friday night when a witness spotted the subject walking down Elliott Street west of Dequindre. He was carrying a large yellow pole in one hand and a gun in the other. The witness observed him to also be arguing with someone who wasn't there. Officers arrived and made contact with the 28-year-old male from Sterling Heights and told him to lay on the ground to which he complied. Found in his left jacket pocket was a black Glock 19 CO2 Gun without an orange tip and a razor blade with a makeshift tape handle in his right jacket pocket. The officer determined that the intoxicated subject had stolen the weapon from the Field and Streams store located at the Oakland Mall. The subject had also been arrested two years prior for stealing a bb gun with the reported intention of initiating a confrontation with a police officer. It is unclear at this time if that was the intention in this incident but the officers noted all the similar CO2 guns at the business where the weapon was stolen contained

orange tips. The subject was arrested and charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Retail Fraud – 2nd Degree, and Possession of an Anti-Theft Detection Device.

■ **HERE'S A DRIVER WE DON'T NEED ON OUR ROADS** – Was this driver lost as she was headed north on Crooks, or maybe she was just looking for the freeway entrances? An Officer initiated a traffic stop on the driver of a white 2011 Toyota Scion who was driving erratically on Crooks at 2:45 a.m. The officer spoke with the driver, a 43-year-old female from Dearborn Heights, and noted an odor of alcohol emanating from inside the vehicle. When asked, the driver denied consuming any alcohol. She was asked to perform several sobriety evaluations to which she did but the officer noted that she performed poorly. She then admitted that she had consumed two drinks that contained alcohol while at a restaurant in the City of Rochester. She submitted to a Preliminary Breath Test with a result of .175%. She was arrested and while searching her vehicle, a plastic cup in the driver's cup holder was found to contain alcohol. She was charged with

Transporting an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle and Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol – 3rd Offense.

■ **SORRY, THIS IS AGAINST THE LAW IN MICHIGAN** – A Beach Road resident was walking his dog in the Beach Road Park when the dog stepped on a trap and got his leg caught. The resident located several other traps set in the area. A homeowner came out and claimed ownership of the traps, reportedly indicating that they were set to kill fox and coyotes that were in the neighborhood. The canine owner was able to open the trap and "set-off" the remaining traps so that other dogs or people would not get caught. The responding officers spoke to one of the homeowners who set the traps. He indicated he had hired a company to set the traps to protect his dog and children from the foxes and coyotes in the area. The Department of Natural Resources was contacted and an investigation was initiated. The trapping company advised that they did not realize that the traps had been set on city property. It is believed that all the traps including buried ones have been removed. This is an open investigation.

■ **SCRAP METAL IS STILL VALUABLE** – Officers responded to the location on W. Maple on the report of suspects possibly stealing scrap metal. The witness stated the business is being demolished and no workers were currently present. Officers observed a gray 2002 Pontiac Montana on the property and upon seeing officers arriving, quickly left the area headed through a parking lot next door toward W. Maple Road. Officers initiated a traffic stop and spoke to the driver, a 24-year-old man and the passenger, a 39-year-old woman. The officers noted the

vehicle was full of scrap metal. The driver indicated he spoke to a foreman at the site the day prior who gave him permission to take the scrap metal but was unable to provide the employee's name. The driver had previously been arrested eight days prior after entering a home that was under construction. Officers were able to make contact with the building owner who verified that the suspect did not have permission to be on the property nor steal any scrap metal. Both suspects were arrested and charged with Trespassing and Larceny.

■ **THE POINTS AGAINST HIS LICENSE DON'T REALLY MATTER HERE** – Our Officer observed what he believed was a road rage incident when the driver of a white 2016 Chevrolet Malibu quickly changed lanes on Dequindre and suddenly applied the vehicle brakes in what appeared to be an attempt to have the driver of a black 2020 Nissan Frontier truck rear-end his vehicle. The driver of the Malibu exited his vehicle and began to yell at the driver of the truck. The officer initiated a traffic stop and spoke with the driver of the Malibu, a 20-year-old man from Sterling Heights who was extremely upset and uncooperative. The driver of the pickup truck indicated she had entered the left turn lane on 17 Mile Road legally when the Malibu nearly struck her vehicle. The 20-year-old driver was unable to produce his State of Michigan Operator's License and was arrested. It was determined that his Operator's License was not valid. The suspect was charged with Reckless Driving and Driving While License Not Valid.

*Note: If you have any information on the crimes above, call the Troy Police Department at 248-524-3477. If you wish to remain anonymous, you may call 524-0777.*

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## Police Hosting a Slew of Events

Troy Police will host a Coffee with a Cop event on Thursday, May 30 from 2-4 p.m. at the Troy Public Library. Join Troy officers for coffee and casual conversation. Pawfficer Donut, Troy's designated police cat, is scheduled to attend.

**Through June 3**, the officers are accepting donations of boxes of cereal at the Troy Police Department front desk in support of the Children's Hospital Cereal Drive. The collection is aimed at fighting childhood hunger, a

problem that increases in the summer when kids don't have access to school lunch programs.

**On Friday, June 14** from 8-11 p.m., middle schoolers won't want to miss the End of School Bash at the Troy Family Aquatic Center. All Troy School District 2018-2019 middle schoolers are invited to this fun night out at the Family Aquatic Center pool. This is a free event, but a Troy School District 2018-2019 Middle School ID is required to enter.

# Troy Girl Scouts Earn Prestigious Gold Award for Community Projects

Gold Award Girl Scouts are change agents who show leadership and citizenship skills that help them stand out among their peers by making a sustainable impact in their communities. Troy residents Hannah Richard and Jaclyn Voyt are among 25 Girl Scouts honored by Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan with the Gold Award.



HANNAH RICHARD



JACLYN VOYT

The Gold Award is presented to Girl Scouts who dedicate a minimum of 80 hours to addressing a community issue or problem through a sustainable community change project.

While studying for her driver's license, Hannah Richard learned many driver's education courses did not teach students how to respond if pulled over by authorities. After contacting the local police departments, Richard developed "The 3 R's: Relax, Respect, Respond" as a step-by-step video for drivers to follow

during an officer-initiated traffic stop. The program has resulted in a generation of new drivers who know how to appropriately react in an officer-initiated traffic stop.

"Knowing how to properly respond during a traffic stop is important for us new drivers," said Richard. "I was happy to get the support from my teachers to share the video so that as many people as possible know the proper protocol. I'm proud that I was able to complete my project by helping others gain an important skill."

Jaclyn Voyt's Gold Award project raises awareness on the

negative impacts of too much screen time on children. After seeing many young children with their eyes glued to their screens, she took action to educate parents on the ill effects of too much screen time and offered strategies to reduce it. She developed a resource manual that included recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, a list of screen-free activities for kids, and other screen reduction strategies for parents. The manuals were distributed to physician's offices, schools, and the Troy Public Library. Additionally, she provided a brief

article that will be printed in parent newsletters prior to Screen-Free Week and created a YouTube video providing a summary of her research.

"I hope the manual is used by everyone in the community to reduce the amount of time that children spend looking at screens," said Voyt. "I'm proud that I was able to use my leadership skills to help make this project happen and even more proud that I won the Gold Award for my work."

"Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is truly a remarkable achievement, and these young

women exemplify leadership in all its forms," said Denise Dalrymple, chief executive officer of GSSEM. "They saw a need in their communities and took action. Their extraordinary dedication, perseverance, and leadership are making the world a better place."



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# Arts & Entertainment



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**TRIPLE THREAT**  
R, Action/Thriller



**IGOR**  
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Columbia



**VEGETABLES UNLEASHED**  
Jose Andres - Cooking,  
HarperCollins

## Music

**Live Music at Shield's**  
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and  
Fridays at 8:30 p.m. Shield's  
Pizza, 1476 W. Maple Rd.

**Thursday Night Jazz**  
Thursdays at 8 p.m. Goodnite  
Gracie, 224 S. Sherman Dr.,  
Royal Oak

**Open Mic** Thursdays at 8 p.m.  
Goldfish Tea, 117 W. 4th St.,  
Royal Oak

**Hozier** Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
The Fillmore, Detroit

**Open Mic & Karaoke**  
Saturday, June 1, 9 p.m. Eats and  
Crafts, Troy

**Saturday Night Blues &  
Jazz Jam** Saturday, June 1, 7  
p.m. Michigan By The Bottle  
Tasting Room, Royal Oak

## ON STAGE

**Head Over Heels: The Go-  
Go's Musical** Now thru June  
10, The Ringwald Theatre,  
Ferndale

**Comedy Open Mic**  
Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Mark  
Ridley's Comedy Castle, Royal  
Oak

**Fresh Sauce Improv** Sundays  
at 9 p.m. Go Comedy! Improv  
Theater, Ferndale

**Company** Now thru June 1,  
Avon Players, Rochester Hills

**Oklahoma!** Now thru June 9,  
Stagecrafters, Royal Oak

## AROUND TOWN

**Social Knit & Crochet**  
Wednesdays at 6 p.m. The Yarn  
Stop, 25 S. Main St., Clawson

**Cosmic Bowling** Fridays at 7  
p.m. at Escape, 1950 E. Square  
Lake Rd.

**Skateworld Adult Night**  
Sundays at 8 p.m. Skateworld of  
Troy, 2825 E. Maple Rd. - Event is  
18+

**Movement Detroit 2019** May  
25-27, Hart Plaza - The world-  
famous electronic music festival is  
this upcoming weekend in  
Downtown Detroit

**Native Plant Sale** Saturday,  
June 1, 9 a.m. Stage Nature  
Center - Native plants and  
grasses, trees, shrubs, and edible  
plants will be available for  
purchase.

**Ferndale Pride 2019** Saturday,  
June 1, 1 p.m. Downtown  
Ferndale

**Nature Invented it First!**  
Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m. Stage  
Nature Center - Learn about  
adaptations that help wildlife  
survive and how they led to  
human inventions.

## LIBRARY

All events take place at the Troy  
Public Library, 510 W Big Beaver  
Rd, unless stated otherwise. To  
register, visit [Troypl.org](http://Troypl.org)

**Coffee with a Cop** Thursday,  
May 30, 2 p.m. Residents are  
invited to join Troy officers for  
coffee and conversation.

**Wicked Detroit with Mickey  
Lyons** Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.  
Local historian and creator of the  
Prohibition Detroit blog Mickey  
Lyons presents the colorful  
characters of Detroit.

**TPL 24/7** Tuesday, June 4, 6:30  
p.m. Learn about TPL's great  
online services including  
OverDrive, eBooks, and RBdigital  
magazines.

## KIDS & TEENS

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

**Paws to Read with Buddy**  
Tuesday, May 28, 5 p.m. Practice  
your reading skills with Buddy, a  
Goldendoodle

**PAWS to Read with Bentley**  
Thursday, May 30, 4:30 p.m.  
Practice your reading skills with  
Bentley, a Lab/Bernese Mountain  
Dog

**ACT Practice Exam** Saturday,  
June 1, 12 p.m. This free event is  
in high demand, so register at  
[troypl.org](http://troypl.org). Follow-up info session  
on Wednesday, June 5, 6 p.m.

**PAWS to read with Reba**  
Monday, June 3, 5 p.m. Practice  
your reading skills with Reba, a  
Red Fox Labrador Retriever

## SAVE THE DATE

**Mary Poppins Jr.** June 20-23,  
Village Youth Theatre, Birmingham

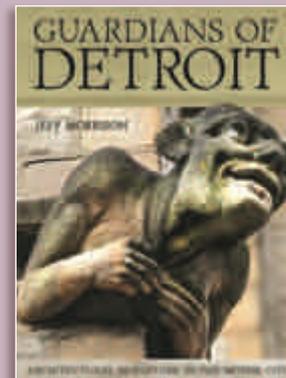
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- Elena Durnbaugh, Editor

## There's a Lot to Love in "Oklahoma!"

### PLAY REVIEW

by  
SUZANNE ANGIO (member, American Theatre Critics Association) and  
GREG ANGIO (Member Emeritus, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle)

If ever there was a crowd-pleaser, it's "Oklahoma!", the beloved musical classic that set the Broadway world ablaze when it premiered in March 1943. It ran for a record-breaking five years to critical and popular acclaim, and



Photo courtesy of Stagecrafters

even garnered a special Pulitzer Prize for Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein in 1944. The Tony Awards didn't exist in those days - the first were in 1947 - but if they did, "Oklahoma!" surely would have taken home many prizes, especially for its score, with some of the most beautiful songs in popular music, and innovative choreography by Agnes de Mille. Under the watchful eyes of Rodgers and Hammerstein, it made a glorious transition to film in 1955.

Even with such big theatrical shoes to fill, the cast and crew at Stagecrafters have done an admirable job of staging this juggernaut of a show. Set in 1906, just before the Oklahoma territory was granted statehood, the story is at turns sweet and whimsical, with romance, comedy and just a touch of magic. At the dawn of the Twentieth Century, in times marked by modern inventions and cultural change, two very different pairs of lovers must decide who to marry, and the farmer and the cowman must be friends.

The romantic leads, Laurey (Haley Rossi) and Curly (Geoff Wrobel), show some fine vocal talent and stage presence. Rossi's lovely soprano is spot-on, and she

moves gracefully onstage. She has some truly beautiful numbers ("Many a New Day") and duets with her leading man ("People Will Say We're in Love"). Wrobel has a soft, mellow baritone/low tenor voice and a pleasing, if uneven, interpretation of his character. Jud, Curly's would-be rival and the major source of dramatic tension, is played by Justin Digue in an understated yet menacing performance, with superb vocals.

The secondary couple is portrayed by Liz Schultz as Ado Annie, and Robert Zak Shugart as Will Parker. They generate a

Shugart. He is bright and engaging, with excellent tap-dancing (yes, tap-dancing in Royal Oak!) and a voice worthy of the Great White Way. It's easy to see that Ado Annie's flirtation with the slick Persian peddler Ali (a delightful Jude Purcell) poses no danger to Will, but it's fun to watch and offers some of the show's best musical numbers ("I Cain't Say No!", "All 'Er Nothin'").

At the end of it all, there's a rousing anthem to the brand-new state, "Oklahoma", in an ensemble performance that is nothing less than thrilling. Opening night did see some rough spots, though, especially with the orchestra, which was often flat, other times too loud (perhaps a mic problem?). But the lively spirit of the cast, with strong guidance by director and music director Randall Wrisinger, propels it over the top. The simple set makes scene changes as easy as changing the lighting, with excellent effects by Matt Weber. Also notable is the work of choreographer Valerie Mould and costume designer Teresa Lavallee, whose period clothing is evocative of the time.

Wrisinger's affection for classic musical theatre is evident. This is a breezy and likeable show, the perfect way to close out Stagecrafters' 63rd season.

**Oklahoma! is playing now through June 9 at Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak. Tickets start at \$21 and can be purchased at Stagecrafters.com/.**

sparkling chemistry when they're together, and separately they command the stage. Schultz is a genuine livewire, with great comic chops and a belter's voice. The real showstopper, however, is

## OU Presents "James and the Giant Peach"

Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre and Dance is bringing Roald Dahl's fantastical tale "James and the Giant Peach" to life on stage at Oakland University's Varner Recital Hall on June 7.

The play is directed by Lynnae Lehfeldt and based on Richard George's adaptation of the story.

"This show is an exciting and energetic take on the classic story of James and the Giant Peach," Mannon McIntosh, assistant director, stage manager and tour manager for the production, said in a press release. "We have an incredibly talented cast that is bringing the characters to life with such joy. You can't help but laugh along and fall in love with them."

Cast members also talked about the joy this show brings them. Emily Fishman, who plays the role of Centipede, said she especially enjoys performing for children.

The cast will take the show on tour to the Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts in Pontiac and to local elementary schools.

"The tour is an opportunity for students in the show to learn how a touring production works, and a chance for local schools to see a live, fully produced

theatrical production," McIntosh said.

Schools interested in bringing the show to their students next year should email oaklandtour@gmail.com/.

The show will be at the Flagstar Strand Theatre on Saturday, June 1, at 11 a.m. To learn more about the Flagstar Strand Theatre performance, go to flagstartstrandtheatrepontiac.com/.

According to McIntosh, audiences are encouraged to "get comfy" and wear their pajamas for the 7 p.m. performance on June 7. That performance will also be shadow-signed for the deaf by Synergy on Stage. Unlike other methods of accommodating Deaf viewers, including the use of an off-stage interpreter or captions on a screen above the stage, shadow signing allows ASL performers to follow of shadow the actors on stage while interpreting, which means the audience can easily pay attention to both the sign language and the actors in the theatre.

**Tickets cost \$10 for the general public and \$6 for students, children, and matinee audiences. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at Startickets.com/.**

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## Eight Ways to Refresh Your Garden this Year



by  
AMY FORTUNE

If you are looking to breathe new life into your outdoor living space, look no further than your garden. As you plan and plant your garden space this year, dare to go beyond the ordinary and into uncharted territory with a few splashes of unexpected color, exciting elements, and some surprisingly useful additions. And you don't need an expansive budget to revamp your garden space. On the contrary, you can create a beautifully, refreshed space with just a few odds and ends, a little strategizing, and, of course, the right plants living in the best places.

### Easy Ways to Create Your Best Garden Ever

You can transform your outdoor environment without breaking the bank by following these easy tips. Then, once inspiration strikes, let your imagination run wild with the nearly endless possibilities.

#### 1 - Make your workspace work for you.

No rule states that you must store your favorite gardening tools and equipment in the garage, or an unassuming utility shed. Instead, you can easily craft a combination workbench and storage unit with a castoff china cabinet (easy to find at a local thrift store). Just paint the cabinet in a cheerful color and place it anywhere you like to enjoy your new piece's beauty and functionality.

#### 2 - Make the most of your mulch.

Mulch helps your garden grow, but it can also add beauty when you explore the various colors and textures available. You can even coordinate your mulch with your house, favorite flowers, or garden furniture/decorations.

#### 3 - Just add water.

Add a small pond, bird bath, or fountain to add to the overall serenity of your garden space. Water sources also attract helpful insects and beautiful birds to your yard or patio.



#### 4 - Break monotony with pops of color and texture.

Why would you plant fiery red cherry peppers in and among an otherwise mild-mannered shrub border? To provide that hint of the unexpected that makes your garden unique. Or, try planting a Wizard Coleus mix anywhere there is an area dominated by a large amount of green for instant visual intensity.

#### 5 - Plant a few flowering shrubs.

Shrubs can lend structure to your garden, but flowering shrubs

can add both that organizational element and color (even white flowers make spaces brighter and more interesting). Some flowering shrubs to consider include Flowering Quince, Rose of Sharon, and Hydrangea (a dwarf flowering shrub for smaller spaces).

#### 6 - Invite your feathered friends to the party.

Songbirds are wonderful additions to outdoor spaces. But, unfortunately, their natural habitats are shrinking and disappearing. Yet, you can do your part to help the birds by welcoming them into your garden with birdbaths, bird feeders, and by planting flowers that they find attractive. Think Daisies, Black-Eyed Susans, and Sunflowers, just to name a few.

#### 7 - Make room for company.

Make it easier to share the beauty of your garden with visiting friends and family members by providing comfortable gathering spaces. Carefully arranged chairs and benches work well. Or, if you plan to do more extensive entertaining in the garden area (and you have the space to spare), consider adding a gazebo.

#### 8 - Make a grand entrance.

Who says that gardens can only live in back and side yards (or decks and patios)? You can easily give the front of your home the garden treatment too - beyond a simple border around the house. Plant some flowers along the sidewalk or pathway leading up to your home. Or stake out a little extra space in your front yard to create a spectacular display to make visitors - and immediate family members - feel extra welcome.

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## Beat the Heat and the High Energy Bills

(NAPSI) Did you know that the average household spends \$2,000 a year on utility bills, with nearly half going to cooling and heating the home? The U.S. EPA's Energy Star Program offers resources to help you save energy, save money and protect the climate, all while beating the heat this summer.

**Biggest bang** for your buck - seal and insulate: You could save up to \$200 a year. Sealing air leaks around your house and adding

insulation can help make your home more comfortable and energy efficient.

**Level up your** energy savings with your HVAC: Check your system's air filters. A dirty air filter will make the system work harder to keep you cool, wasting energy. They should be inspected once a month during heavy-use periods.

**Get smart** about the thermostat that is controlling your HVAC: A smart thermostat is Wi-Fi

enabled and can automatically adjust temperature settings for optimal performance. Smart thermostats that earn the Energy Star label are independently certified, based on actual field data, to save energy. On average, an Energy Star certified room air conditioner will cost less than \$75 per year to run.

For more tips, visit [Energystar.gov/cooling/](http://energystar.gov/cooling/).

## Summer Solstice Soiree: An Evening Garden Affair to Celebrate Summer's Arrival

Starry nights, warm breezes, and fragrant garden blooms will create the perfect ambiance for the Older Persons' Commission's Annual Meals on Wheels Fundraising Soiree. On June 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. the community is invited to an evening in the curated gardens of OPC to support Meals on Wheels in northeastern Oakland County.

The Summer Solstice Soiree will begin with a cocktail hour strolling through the lower gardens and stone cottage of OPC. Live musicians will entertain guests as they view classic cars and silent auction items. The dinner hour invites guests to sit under a promenade of lights at farm tables embracing the best of Michigan summer and enjoying a 4-course plated meal provided by the Head Chef of Stonecrest.

Music, dancing, and more will complete the evening.

Since its inception, the OPC has provided Meals on Wheels to home-bound seniors allowing them to stay healthy and independent for as long as possible. Meal recipient Joyce has been receiving meals for a few years now. "I'm unable to leave my home and can't stand at the stove to cook anymore. The meals that are delivered to me are quite tasty like the ham and potatoes. Every volunteer is courteous and kind. They truly are a bright spot in my day."

The Soiree tickets are \$100 per person and support the Meals on Wheels program at OPC. They can be purchased at the Cashier's Office, online at [Opcseniorcenter.org](http://Opcseniorcenter.org), or by calling 248-608-0251.

## Garden Party at Meadow Brook Hall



Wine and dine with the beauty of Meadow Brook Hall and gardens as a backdrop.

Meadow Brook Hall will hold the 11th annual The Garden Party Southeast Michigan 2019 on Sunday, June 9, from 1-4 p.m.

The event will feature fine wine, food, and classic cars, will all proceeds benefiting charity. Thirty restaurants will display their signature dishes and 100 different wines will be served. Guests are invited to enjoy the afternoon and display their classic cars.

The Garden Party is hosted by The Garden Party Foundation, which provides trade school and culinary school scholarships to underprivileged young adults. This year, the money raised will benefit the Oakland Community College Culinary Studies Institute and other vocational programs.

Guests must be 18 or older to attend. Tickets start at \$150. To learn more and to purchase tickets, go to [thegardenpartymichigan.org/](http://thegardenpartymichigan.org/). Meadow Brook Hall is at 350 Estate Drive in Rochester.

## Keep Your Lawn and Garden Equipment in Top Shape

(NAPSI) For outdoor power equipment to work better for less cost and effort later in the year, you need to properly maintain and store it now.

"Equipment that is well maintained will last longer and save you money in the long run. Maintaining, winterizing and storing outdoor power equipment properly means that when spring arrives, your equipment will be ready," said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

**Set up a safe work zone.** Identify a safe location with plenty of work space that's out of the way of children and pets. Work only in a well-ventilated area away from heat sources, sparks or flames.

**Collect your outdoor power equipment.** This might include a lawn mower, generator, string trimmer, chain saw, edger, power washer, blower, chipper, splitter or any other tool that uses a small engine to do outdoor work.

**Make sure the equipment is turned off.** Before servicing or repairing any outdoor power equipment, disconnect the spark plug and battery cables.

**Protect yourself.** Wear safety glasses and gloves to protect against harmful chemicals and debris.

**Inspect the equipment.** Make sure safety guards are not disabled or missing. Check for loose belts or missing or damaged guards. Check and tighten all screws and nuts.

**Clean the equipment.** Remove

any accumulated grass, leaves and dirt. Use a soft rag or cloth to clean away grime and dirt.

**Drain the fuel.** Many fuels today contain ethanol, which absorbs water and may phase separate, causing operating problems later. If there is fuel in

protect equipment from the elements. Your storage area should be cool and dry, and equipment should be out of the reach of children and pets. Store equipment away from pool chemicals, cleaners or fertilizers – anything that could cause



the tank, remove what remains. Run the engine until it stops to use up all the fuel. Get more information on safe fueling at [LookBeforeYouPump.com/](http://LookBeforeYouPump.com/).

**Lubricate, sharpen and charge as needed.** Check the oil levels and blade conditions. Change the oil if necessary. Sharpen lawn mower blades. Inspect the spark plug, replace it and add clean engine oil. Check the air filter and clean or replace as needed. If equipment has a removable battery, take it out and store it in a warm spot. If you have a battery charger, charge the battery before storing it.

**Identify a safe storage space.** An indoor storage area will

corrosion from spills.

**Properly store supplies.** Using approved storage containers for lawn care or yard supplies will help avoid spills. Leftover materials should be stored in sealed containers, so pests are not drawn to them. Keep containers out of the reach of children and pets.

**Locate your cold weather power equipment.** Check your snow shovels, snowblowers or throwers, ice scrapers, ice melt or rock salt. If you are low on supplies, stock up. Keep this equipment and supplies in an accessible location so they'll be handy when the first snowflakes fall.

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— Jacque Fresco

## How to Help Bees and Butterflies Thrive

(NAPSI) Here's news that's created a buzz. Three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and food crops rely on pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies to help them reproduce.

Unfortunately, bee populations are being threatened by a range of issues such as colony collapse disorder, pesticides, mites, disease and climate change. Butterfly populations are also at risk.

The good news is that gardeners can help restore balance by creating habitats that encourage pollinators to thrive.

**Bees and butterflies** need places to live and breed in, and food to eat. The plants that provide this food also need pollinators to help them reproduce, so planting gardens that are friendly to bees and butterflies is a win-win situation.

Pollination occurs naturally as small creatures forage for food, carrying pollen from plant to plant

as they go. That is why it's important to offer them a "buffet" of attractive flowers throughout the seasons, and to have sufficient natural habitats so that they don't have to travel far to find what they need.

**Here are some easy ways to help:**

'Bee' friendly to bees! Honeybees are not aggressive; they sting only as a defense mechanism.

Plant trees, shrubs and flowering plants to increase food and shelter for bees and butterflies.

Create a seasonal buffet for pollinators by planting perennial flowers with a mix of colors, shapes and scents in containers, window boxes and plant beds.

Choose perennials with simple, single rather than double flowers to make nectar and pollen more accessible to bees and butterflies.

Cut and use garden flowers for bouquets to encourage re-

blooming and to prolong the foraging window for pollinators.

Use beautiful native plants such as echinacea, coreopsis, sunflowers and butterfly milkweed for at least 75 percent of your garden.

Water, weed and fertilize soil appropriately to create a healthy garden that minimizes pests and diseases.

Provide clean water for insects in shallow bowls, birdbaths and ponds, or let fresh water drip over stones.

**Imperfection is OK!** Bees and butterflies may damage leaves and flowers while breeding and feeding. Create areas of natural habitat with old stumps, fallen branches and tall grass for nesting.

Help convert small parcels of land into community gardens and green spaces to create closely linked areas for bees and butterflies to visit.

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## Easy Ways to Get Your Yard and Patio Ready

It's finally getting warmer in Michigan. After what seemed like an extra-long winter, gentler weather has finally arrived, and it's time to shift your focus toward outdoor activities. And, if you're like a lot of Michigan residents, these activities include barbecues, gardening, or just enjoying your backyard or patio while reading a good book or newspaper.

**Well, now is the time** to make sure that your yard and patio are

ready for all that spring and summer have to offer. With just a little effort, you can make the outdoor portion of your home more functional, more beautiful, and clutter-free. Here are a few tips to get you started.

**Grab your rake.**

You may not have piles of fallen leaves to deal with right now, but it's easy for debris to collect in lawns during the winter months. So, give your yard a fresh start for spring with a good raking.

**Fix any bare patches in your lawn.**

Those bald spots can drive homeowners crazy, but, luckily, there's an easy fix. Just mix grass seed with fertilizer or compost and spread the mixture lightly over the bare patches in your lawn. Then, tamp it down gently with the back of a shovel, and water.

**Add fresh mulch.**

You may have mulch around your trees or shrubs from last year, but it may look a little worn out at this point. So, replace your old mulch with new mulch from your local gardening store. You may also want to sprinkle mulch around newly planted flower bulbs or vegetable plants to help them grow.

**Plant some new flowers to add color.**

Speaking of flowers, it's easy to give your lawn a "makeover" by planting a few new varieties in strategic locations. You can plant

flowers along walkways, around trees, or anywhere you want a burst of color. Or, if your gardening space is confined to a patio or deck, potted plants and hanging baskets make great additions.

**Get rid of unnecessary items on your patio.**

Unfortunately, during the months when you don't spend a lot of time on your deck or patio, you may use the space as a temporary storage area. So, now is the time to de-clutter by throwing out or putting away anything and everything that doesn't belong.

**Give your patio or deck and good scrubbing and seal the wood (if applicable).**

After clearing away unwanted items from your deck or patio, wash the area thoroughly with soap and water. This way, on warm and sunny days, shoes are entirely optional. Next, if you have a wooden deck, give the area a good coat of wood sealer to protect it from the elements and extend its life.

Once your yard and patio look amazing, don't be surprised if your home suddenly becomes very popular with friends and neighbors. But, if you're feeling generous, you can pass along your new tips so that those envious neighbors can get the most out of their outdoor spaces too!



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May 27, 2019



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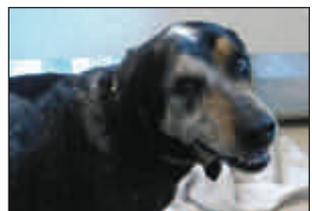
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Jughead

### ADOPT A PET



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

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## Troy Athens Students Win Scholarships for Art

Students from Troy Athens were awarded scholarships as part of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's 2019 Regional High School art competition.

**Junior Ashley Weinberg** won the \$100 Tina Parfitt Memorial Award and a \$2,000 scholarship for a self portrait done in colored pencil. Sophomore **Srishti Bagalkoti** also won a \$2,000 scholarship for a drawing of a 1958 Corvette done in colored pencil. Senior **Kayleigh Gabriel** won an \$8,000 scholarship for her still life in oil paint.

The works will be on display as part of a free exhibition until June 6. The exhibit includes 78 works in total, created across all mediums by Michigan student artists in grades 9-12. Of those

works, 41 were honored with scholarships and prizes totaling more than \$415,000.

"The **Regional High School Art Competition** is always so inspiring, seeing the unique viewpoints of young student artists each year," **Annie VanGelderens**, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center president and CEO said in a press release. "When you walk in the exhibit, it's easy to forget that some of the works are created by students as young as 14. It's exciting to think where they will go from here."

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All exhibits are free and open to the public. The center is at 1516 S. Cranbrook in Birmingham. To learn more, visit [bbartcenter.org/](http://bbartcenter.org/).



TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE welcomed middle schoolers last week for 8th Grade Civil War Days, where students – including those from Smith Middle Schools pictured here – were witness to historical reenactments and lessons. Photo courtesy of Troy School District

## Troy Seniors Have a Shot at Designing an Experiment for the ISS

A team of students from Troy High School were named finalists in the Genes in Space annual science competition, which challenges students in grades 7 through 12 to propose DNA analysis experiments that address real-life space exploration challenges.

**Five teams** were selected as finalists in the national competition. The winning experiment will be performed aboard the International Space Station. Troy seniors **Finsam Samson** and **Yujie Wang** designed an experiment to study neural physiology and plasticity in mammals during long-term spaceflight. **Vivian Yee**, a student at the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills, is also a finalist and designed an experiment on the influence of microgravity on cytoskeleton organization during gamete formation.

The teams will present their proposals to a panel of scientists and educators at the 2019 ISS Research and Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in July. The panel will select and announce a winning team at the conclusion of the conference. Scientist from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will mentor the finalists as they prepare their presentations, and will continue to work with the winning team as they ready their experiment for spaceflight.

**The winners** will prepare their experiment to be carried out on the ISS and will get to watch it launch into space.

This year, more than 1700 students working across 789 teams submitted proposals to the competition. To learn more about the Genes in Space Program, visit [Genesinspace.org/](http://Genesinspace.org/).

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