



Novi survives scoreboard issue, forces tie with Livonia Stevenson

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Plymouth's historic Penn Theatre battles city over property taxes

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — Leaders for the iconic Penn Theatre nonprofit group are asking for community support as a battle over property taxes heats up, leaving the theater's future in the balance.

The group will host an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the Penn Theater, 760 Peniman Ave.

"We want to provide a forum where we can present the facts so people can listen, absorb the information and ask questions so we have a factual message out there," Friends of the Penn Executive Director Ellen Elliot said. "This is a way for us to say, 'This is what's happening. This is your community. Your theater is in jeopardy of long-term survival if we don't get this.'"

The theater has been paying property taxes — currently about \$25,000 annually — since the nonprofit Friends of the Penn group leased the building and took over care of the theater, saving it from demolition, in the early 2000s.

After many years as the lease holder, Friends of the Penn took full ownership of the theater in December 2021. And full ownership by a nonprofit charitable organization, Elliot said, makes the theater eligible for

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The historic Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth is the subject of debate over property tax exemption. COURTESY PETE MUNDT



A mural on the Civic Theater in downtown Farmington pays tribute to Hollywood icons. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

A reporter's guide to the best public art installations in the area

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Need a little culture in your life? You're in luck.

Metro Detroiters don't have to venture far from home to find a place to enjoy the arts.

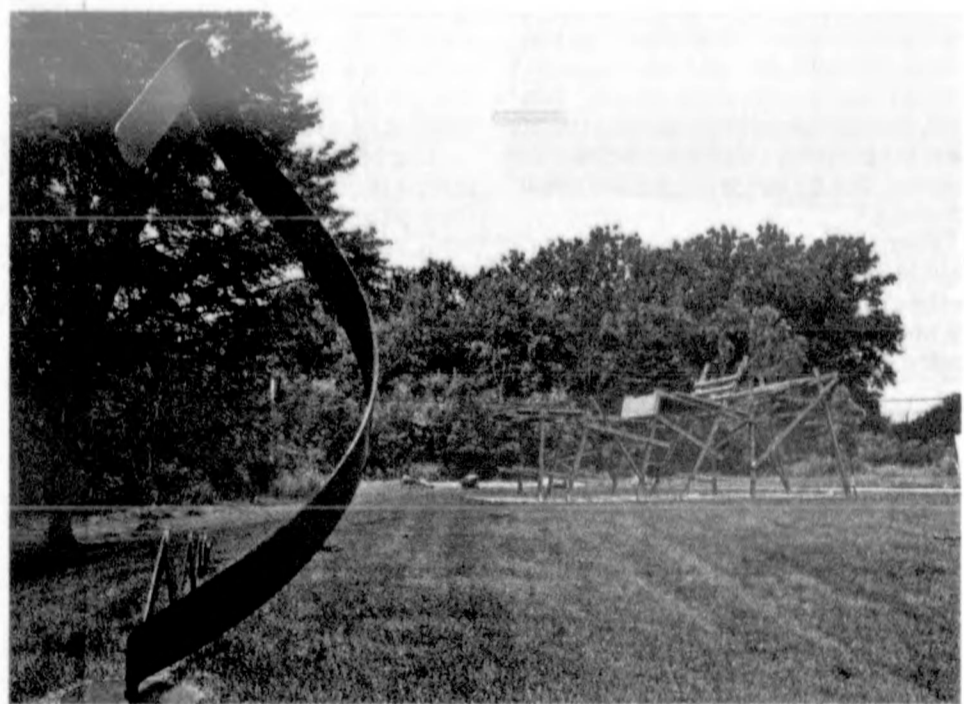
Public art installations dot the Hometown Life footprint, which includes western Oakland and Wayne counties. If you're looking to spend a summer day experiencing the arts for free, here's a few of my favorite options in the region.

Check out the murals in downtown Farmington

Farmington has a few murals perfect for selfie snapping. My personal favorite is on the side of the Farmington Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Ave., featuring old Hollywood stars Sidney Poitier, Jimmy Stewart, James Dean and a few others.

The mural is by Midwest artists Adrienne Pickett, Kellie Bambach and Peter Chavez.

Other murals in town include "The Vines," "The Sunflower Bakehaus Mural" and "Koi Pond at Wina's." People can



Sculptures at the Villa Barr Art Park in Novi

also enjoy art from Michigan sculptor Ken Thompson at Riley Park, which is in the center of downtown.

While you're in Farmington, there's plenty of shopping, sipping and snack-

ing to do. Some of my favorite spots are Ground Control Coffee, 33319 Grand River Ave., and Dagwood's Deli, 33179

See ART, Page 2A

Stolen Ford Broncos recovered in Canton, elsewhere; seven charged in \$1.7 million thefts

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — Seven young adults, ages 19 to 21, are facing felony charges in connection with the theft of 16 2023 Ford Bronco Raptors valued at \$1.76 million, police said.

The seven suspects were charged in Plymouth's 35th District Court Aug. 16 af-

ter being arrested the day before by police officers from Canton, Northville Township, Novi, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Their next court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 25.

The Canton Police Department, in a press release, said that in October 2022 it began investigating the theft of multiple Raptors from a Ford Motor Company fac-

tory lot in Canton Township. Related Bronco thefts were also discovered in Dearborn and Woodhaven, the release said.

Canton's Special Operations Group conducted an investigation into the thefts, police said, resulting in the recovery of stolen Ford Bronco Raptors in

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Volume 154 | No. 4
Home delivery pricing inside
©2023 \$1.50



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MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48859-2001

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830, Augusta, GA 30916

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$65 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon
Afterhours, leave voicemail
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Art

Continued from Page 1A

Grand River Ave.

Peruse the Downtown Plymouth ArtWalk

The Downtown Plymouth ArtWalk adds a little color to the alleyways between Fleet Street and Penniman Avenue. The installation is sponsored by the Art Foundation, run by renowned artist and Plymouth resident Tony Ro-

ko. Plymouth is also one of the 2023 locations for the Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside Out program, which runs through

Thefts

Continued from Page 1A

Northville, Detroit, Flint and Grand Rapids, as well as Texas, Arizona and Alaska.

Five additional stolen vehicles, an AR pistol and \$28,426 in suspected cash proceeds from the sale of stolen vehicles also were recovered during the investigation.

"We applaud the outstanding efforts of our police officers and partners in ensuring community safety," Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh said. "Their dedication and collaborative investigations underscore our commitment to our citizens. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office and our policing partners for their unwavering commitment to service."

According to the police department, Judge James Plakas conducted the arraignment and set bond on the following charges/suspects:

Janisse Moss, 19, of Lincoln Park, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal

enterprise, a 20-year felony

- Ten counts of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond set at \$1 million, with GPS tether

Migel Santiago, 19, of Troy, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony
- Nine counts of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond was set at \$100,000 (10%) with home confinement tether

Oliaran Pernell, 20, of Detroit, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony
- Ten counts of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond set at \$100,000 (10%) with home confinement tether

Samir Rashed, 21, of Northville, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony
- Nine counts of receiving and con-

cealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony

- Bond set at \$100,000 (10%) with home confinement tether

Julian Lyles, 19, of Detroit, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony
- Eight counts of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond set at \$100,000 (10%) with home confinement tether

Dominick Dumont, 19, of Northville, is charged with:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony
- One count of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond set at \$50,000 with home confinement tether

Abdulfattah Hamed, 21, of Van Buren, is charged with:

- One count of receiving and concealing stolen property \$20,000 or more, a 10-year felony
- Bond set at \$10,000 (10%) with GPS tether

October. People can take a self-guided tour to see nine outdoor reproductions of paintings in the DIA. One of my favorite paintings in the DIA, "Portrait of Postman Roulin" by Vincent Van Gogh, is at the Plymouth Community Arts Council building at 774 Sheldon Road.

While you're in Plymouth, I'd recommend checking out the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman Ave., or the Arbor Brewing Company, 777 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Relax at the Villa Barr Art Park in Novi

The Villa Barr park, 22600 Napier Road, is the most unique place on this list. The park includes a house, studio and sculpture park over four acres. Villa Barr is super peaceful — a great spot for

a walk or some reading — and it's home to some cool sculptures.

David Barr, an author and artist, and his wife Beth Dwaihy-Barr, a dancer, sold the property to Novi in 2012, stating the city could use it after they died. Michiganders may know David Barr from the "Transcending" arch in downtown Detroit.

My favorite food in Novi is my grandmother's French toast. But I'll recommend you go to Burrito King, 30950 Beck Road, for the best tacos of your life or Stuart's Ice Cream, 41390 W. 10 Mile Road.

Take a walking tour of Birmingham's public art displays

Birmingham has a plethora of public art in the downtown area. Folks can use

a city-created map to navigate their way to every piece the city has to offer.

Birmingham has a lot of cool architecture, greenery and homes to check out, too. My favorite sculpture in town is "Dancing Fish" by James Clover in Quarton Lake Park, 499 Lakeside Drive. Quarton Lake is also a great place to bring a blanket and a book.

If you're looking for somewhere to recharge after walking all over downtown, Commonwealth Café, 300 Hamilton Row, is great.

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Theatre

Continued from Page 1A

the same property tax exemption held by 16 other nonprofit movie theaters in Michigan.

But so far, the City of Plymouth disagrees. The Penn's application for property tax exemption was denied by the Plymouth assessor's office and an appeal filed with the city board of review went without a decision. The case is now at the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

"We've been really quiet about this up until now because it's important to us to do things the right way and let the correct process play out to solve issues," Elliot said, noting attorneys representing the city have not provided a reason for denial of the request. "But it's just to the point of ridiculousness."

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok said he could not comment on specifics of the case since litigation is pending, but he noted that all property taxes are regulated by the Michigan General Property

Tax Law.

"We can't give tax-exempt status unless it's allowed under the Michigan tax code," Sincok said. "Interpretations of that are handled by the Michigan Tax Tribunal. It's a process. There's never a case when exemption is automatic; only if it is specifically, through legislation, exempted. If there's any question, it goes to the tax tribunal for interpretation."

If the tax exemption is not granted, Elliot said, the Friends of the Penn group will need to use fundraising dollars every year to pay taxes.

"That takes money away from our programming and our building maintenance," she said. "It's an old building, built in 1941, and needs a lot of attention. Anything that detracts from what we need to do with the building puts it in jeopardy."

"Our hope is that the city will continue to work with us on this journey to make the Penn an asset that is irreplaceable in our town," she added. "We want to work with them, we want this to be positive. We need some help. We want the community to come forward and let them know how important this is."

Elliot said she is also concerned about the cost of the city's legal fees as the dispute continues. A Freedom of Information Act request for that information was filed with the city July 6 but has thus far gone unfulfilled, she said.

State law generally provides five business days and a potential 10-day extension to respond.

Both Sincok and Elliot referenced Wexford Medical Group v. Cadillac, a 2006 Michigan Supreme Court decision ruling that said a taxpayer must be a nonprofit institution to qualify as a charitable institution for the property tax exemption. The ruling lays out six criteria to be considered when evaluating exemption status.

These include, in part:

- A charitable institution must be a nonprofit institution.
- A charitable institution is one that is organized chiefly, if not solely, for charity.
- A charitable institution does not offer its charity on a discriminatory basis by choosing who, among the group it purports to serve, deserves the services.
- A charitable institution brings

people's minds or hearts under the influence of education or religion; relieves people's bodies from disease, suffering, or constraint; assists people to establish themselves for life; erects or maintains public buildings or works; or otherwise lessens the burdens of government.

● A charitable institution can charge for its services as long as the charges are not more than what is needed for its successful maintenance.

● A charitable institution need not meet any monetary threshold of charity to merit the charitable institution exemption.

Elliot said she believes the Penn Theatre "checks every box."

The art deco-style Penn Theatre was built in 1941 and went through a series of ownership changes over the years. It closed in 2003, but was ultimately saved by volunteer efforts that ran deep into the community. It's been operating as a nonprofit since 2006, with almost \$1 million in improvements into the building since then, all through donated funds.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8243.

INVITATION TO BID NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STADIUM BLEACHER REPLACEMENT - LANDSCAPE RE-BID

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor trade specific bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the stadium bleacher replacement — landscape re-bid at the Northville Public Schools.

Plans and specifications may be obtained electronically and are available for review at the office of AUCH Construction, 65 University Dr., Pontiac, MI 48342 on or after August 17th, 2023. The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by ForeSite Design. Complete sets of printed documents may be purchased from ARC Document Solutions, 1009 W. Maple St., Clawson, MI (248-288-5600) or email Michigan.troy@e-arc.com. Contact Jasmine Jefferson or Kirsten Vincent for download instructions at 248-334-2000.

A virtual pre-bid meeting will be held on August 22nd, 2023 at 8:30am. This meeting is not mandatory, but highly recommended to all bidders.

Bids will be accepted via Building Connected (electronic bid submission). Hard copy sealed bids will be accepted, however, we strongly encourage using Building Connected submission process. Please upload the appropriate proposal forms provide by the construction manager in the submission. If hard copy bids are delivered they must be sealed bid on the forms provided. An envelope must show your company name, project name and category of work. Hard copies can be delivered to Northville Public Schools at 405 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. **Bids are due no later than August 31st, 2023 at 12:00pm NOON.** Any late bids will not be considered.

Bids over the State threshold of \$28,048 must be accompanied with either a certified cashier's check or a U.S. treasury listed security bond in the amount of 5% of the bid amount. Include this in the submission. Bids received without this guaranty will not be read or considered. Electronic scans of the cashier's checks are not accepted. All cashier's checks must be delivered prior to the due date and time. Cashier's Checks will be returned to the bidder upon execution of the contract. All proposals shall be firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this form.

Bids will be opened and read at a public meeting convened on August 31st, 2023 at 1:00pm via Zoom.

Successful bidders whose proposal of \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of this bond shall be included in each proposal.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Kimberly Campbell-Voytal, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

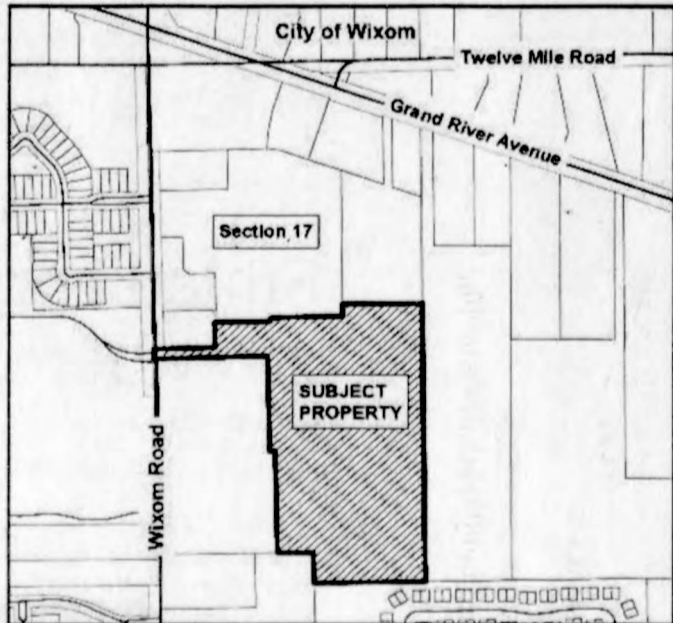
Publish: August 24, 2023

LO-0008791300 3x7

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **STATION FLATS JSP23-02 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A REQUEST TO AMEND A CONSENT JUDGMENT TO ALLOW FOR A HIGH-DENSITY, MID-RISE, MULTIPLE-FAMILY USE (RM-2 DISTRICT).** The subject property totals approximately 24.77 acres and is located east of Wixom Road and south of Grand River Avenue (Section 17). The site is currently zoned I-1, Light Industrial, with a Consent Judgment that permits B-2 uses as listed in the judgment. The site is proposed to be developed with a 157-unit multi-family development that includes a co-working space/café, pool, putting green, and a clubhouse. The site has direct access from Wixom Road.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)



Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-17-101-032

All interested persons are invited to attend this in-person meeting. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., **Wednesday, September 13, 2023.**

Published on August 24, 2023
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: August 24, 2023

LO-0008791301 3x7

Farmington Hills family remembers late son by raising money for others

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — Robin Cash remembers her late son by trying to help others live the kind of life he wanted to lead.

Her son, John Evan Cash, died in 2019 at the age of 25. At the time, he'd been just days away from graduating with a psychology degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

"We were planning his open house and people had come into town," Robin Cash recalls. "We changed his open house to a funeral."

She says her son, one of three children, was passionate about helping others and was known for being "a real joker and prankster."

John Evan Cash, who grew up in Farmington Hills and graduated from North Farmington High School, had already received monetary gifts from people wanting to celebrate his accomplishment. His

family decided they wanted to give those gifts away to someone who wanted to live out the same dreams he did.

"He recognized the social injustice with people who look like him," Robin Cash said. "He wanted to be a change agent in that space by helping young Black kids and disenfranchised people. He wanted to help them find their purpose and find themselves."

So the Cash family started the John Evan Cash Foundation shortly after John Evan Cash's death. The foundation offers scholarships at Old Dominion University and works with two churches, plus financially supports community initiatives like the Covenant House in Detroit. According to Robin Cash, the foundation has helped over 50 young people since starting in 2019.

"To be honest, it's cathartic for us," she said. "We were able to give away his college graduation gifts. We do this in honor and in memory of him. For me, it's cathartic because it gives me an oppor-

tunity to remember him and not worry about why his life was cut so short."

One of the foundation's upcoming events is a 5K run and walk at Kensington Metropark in Milford, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Saturday, Oct. 7. The event combines some of John Evan Cash's favorite things — walking outdoors, autumn and Kensington Metropark. People can sign up for the event, called "A Walk For M.E." at runsignup.com.

"He walked every day," Robin Cash said. "He loved being outside and he loved the apple orchard. We walked at Kensington every day when he was home."

The foundation is hoping to raise \$100,000 at this year's event. Robin Cash said the event is also meant to raise awareness around the importance of mental health.

"We're trying to be a change agent for mental health awareness and advocacy," she said. "Most of us think about



John Evan Cash of Farmington Hills.
COURTESY OF ROBIN CASH

physical wellness. But mental wellness, especially in this age, needs to be advocated for."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Livonians on why they love summer block parties so much

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Kids are laughing while they ride bikes through the street. The smell of food cooking on the grill is in the air. Neighbors are getting to know the people they live by, some for the first time.

Must be summer in Livonia.

People who live in Livonia describe Michigan's tenth-largest city as a big little town. Its onslaught of block parties every summer plays a key role in making a city of more than 93,000 people feel like a place where everyone knows everyone.

"We have a really unique neighborhood," said Allison Adams, who lives on Flamingo Boulevard. "There's people who have lived here 30 plus years, and that's on the low end. It's really old school. You can send your kids out and everyone is looking out for them. If someone is sick, people are praying and bringing them food."

Adams has organized four block parties on her street since 2019. This year, other women in the neighborhood formed a committee to help her throw the July 22 event.

"I think it's just the community getting together and meeting people," said Andrea Miller, vice chair of the party committee. "You see people around the neighborhood, but you don't really know them. This helps make us a close community."

Creating a tight-knit community

Some of Livonia's block parties, like the one on Flamingo Boulevard, are big events. Adams invited people from the nearby Hillcrest and Milburn streets this year and expected over 100 people to attend.

"We hope every year it will get bigger," said Nadia Ideh, who is on the planning committee.

Adams said her neighbors are the kind of people she can count on. People take each other's kids to the park, make food for people who are sick and look out for each other. The party

creates the same feeling, she said.

Jessica Fesing, who moved to their neighborhood during the pandemic, said the party was a great way for her and her son to feel like true Livonians.

"We moved here a few years ago and we came last year," she said. "We moved here from Wisconsin, and it was a way to meet everyone. It was really nice to get to know everyone a little bit and just feel like part of the community."

Pitching in for a can't-miss event

Residents of Flamingo Boulevard pitch in to make their party fun for all. Teens volunteered to paint faces. One couple grilled all of the food. Some people bring desserts, and the planning committee spent more than two months organizing everything. Two nearby businesses, Acme Partyworks and Five Little Monkeys, also donated activities like miniature golf for all ages to enjoy.

Miller said a major reason for the event is to bring neighborhood children together.

"We just want to create a nice sense of community," she said.

In Livonia, the city lends a helping hand for block parties. The events are eligible for a \$500 Neighborhood Grant. The Flamingo Boulevard party was a recipient this year, and the money helped pay for things like an ice cream cart and cotton candy maker.

"Whether that \$500 helps with a bounce house, yard games or buys food, it helps a block party get up and going," Livonia City Council President Jim Jolly said. "I think that's something well worth the tax dollars that go to it."

Jolly guesses council votes to approve 30 or more block parties every summer. He hopes the grants help keep the city tradition alive for years to come.

"It helps people feel at home in their neighborhoods and get to know their neighbors better," he said. "That sense of community creates the kind



Irma Denomme, left, and Allison Adams enjoy some friendly competition at the 2023 Flamingo Boulevard block party in Livonia.

of city that we want."

It's the kind of city Adams wants, too. She hopes the Flamingo Boulevard party inspires her own children to foster community in their own neighborhoods someday.

"You don't have to go anywhere, which is nice, and it's just relaxing," she said. "You get to know your neighbors better. People who have

never met each other get to meet. I've noticed more camaraderie on the street."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

INVITATION TO BID NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS 9471 – Cooke School & Northville High School HVAC Improvements 9520 – Moraine ES – Site Drainage Improvements

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor trade specific bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the HVAC improvements at Cooke School and Northville High School; as well as the Site Drainage Improvements at Moraine Elementary School.

Plans and specifications may be obtained electronically and are available for review at the office of AUCH Construction, 65 University Dr., Pontiac, MI 48342 on or after August 17, 2023. The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by Spalding DeDecker (Site) and PBA (Mechanical). Complete sets of printed documents may be purchased from ARC Document Solutions, 1009 W. Maple St., Clawson, MI (248-288-5600) or email Michigan.troy@arc.com. Contact Jasmine Jefferson or Kirsten Vincent for download instructions at 248-334-2000.

A virtual pre-bid meeting will be held for the site work projects at 8:30am on August 22nd, 2023. An in-person pre-bid meeting will be held on August 22nd, 2023 at 9:00am at Cooke School (21200 Taft Rd., Northville, MI 48167). This meeting is not mandatory, but highly recommended to all bidders.

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Kimberly Campbell-Voytal, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

Published: August 24, 2023

LD-0008791327 3/8



Neighborhood teens volunteered to do some face painting at the 2023 Flamingo Boulevard block party in Livonia. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Utility sharing transaction fee pain

333,000 Consumers Energy customers affected by automatic payment change

Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Consumers Energy customers who are signed up for auto pay got a startling email this month to warn them that they can no longer use their credit cards and debit cards for automatic monthly payments beginning Oct. 1.

If they want to continue with auto pay, the Jackson-based utility said, those customers will need to provide banking information to enable the utility to withdraw payments automatically from savings accounts or checking accounts.

Starting in October, the Consumers Energy email said, "bill payments will no longer be processed for auto-pay accounts connected to a credit or debit card."

Consumers Energy told the Free Press that about 330,000 customers currently use auto pay with a credit card or debit card.

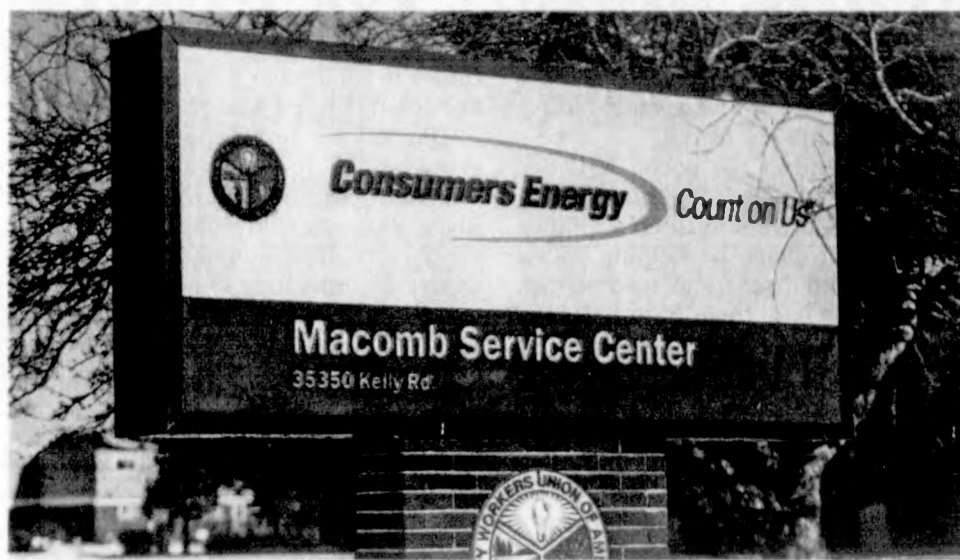
In addition, about 700,000 Consumers Energy customers have paid with a card at least once in 2023.

New \$2.99 fee will be charged for using credit or debit cards

And there's a brand new fee, too. It's going to cost you an extra \$2.99 per payment if you want to pay your electric or natural gas bill using a credit card or debit card via the Consumers Energy website, mobile app or by phone. It's a new processing fee that plenty of consumers aren't going to be thrilled about paying.

Consumers Energy claims to be sharing the pain of rising credit card and debit card transaction fees.

Yet some consumers expressed concerns via online forums, wondering what would happen if they're signed up for automatic payments but then overcharged by mistake. What happens, they worried, if they're suddenly out a lot of money temporarily from their checking accounts — triggering an issue when oth-



Consumers Energy customers who signed up for auto pay learned that beginning Oct. 1, they can no longer use credit or debit cards to make their automatic monthly payments. The utility will now require use of a savings or checking account. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DFP FILE

er bills don't get paid.

Some people connect their auto payments to credit cards to build more rewards points. Others use credit cards because they want more control over the money that automatically flows in and out of their checking accounts since the size of gas and electric bills can vary significantly during the year.

Why Consumers Energy is changing its auto payment rules

In a statement sent to the Free Press on Wednesday morning, Consumers Energy said the utility "always works to keep bills fair for the Michigan homes and businesses we serve."

"Like many companies, we are encouraging customers to use payment methods that don't incur fees — those fees ultimately are passed on to all customers," according to the statement.

"This step is one more we're taking to help reduce the cost of energy for all customers. More than two-thirds of all energy providers take this approach, as do businesses of all types. Ultimately, this is good for all customers as we strive to keep bills low."

Brian Wheeler, a spokesperson for Consumers Energy, said card fees ultimately

are absorbed and passed along to all customers.

"Customer card payments, along with related transaction costs, have increased from 15% of total transactions in 2017 to 35% today," Wheeler told the Free Press.

About 70% of energy companies currently charge fees for using cards, he said. Consumers Energy customers do not receive a discount for using auto pay.

DTE Energy is not making a similar change. The Detroit-based utility said it "continues to allow credit and debit card payments through our popular AutoPay program for residential and small business customers."

No additional processing charge exists for paying DTE Energy bills by credit card or debit card online through the DTE website or mobile app, said Katie Susko, a DTE Energy spokesperson. It's also possible to pay with a credit card or debit card by phone with no additional processing fee.

Susko noted that no changes to DTE Energy payment policies are currently planned.

Many complain about high credit card transaction fees

Ted Rossman, senior industry analyst for CreditCards.com and Bankrate.com,

said his take is that Consumers Energy is trying to avoid "footing the bill for processing credit and debit card transactions."

"It's cheaper for them to take money out of customers' bank accounts," Rossman said.

By no longer allowing credit cards or debit cards to be used via auto pay, he said, the utility has found a way to "mandate that customers opt into the new surcharge if they wish to continue using a credit card."

Transaction fees are a major point of contention, Rossman said, among many retailers who lament that credit cards charge merchants an average of 2.2% per transaction. "We're seeing efforts to fight this in Congress via the Credit Card Competition Act and also through various lawsuits," Rossman said.

Sometimes, a few restaurants will even charge a 3% or 4% surcharge on a meal if you use a credit card instead of cash.

"Like most customers," Rossman said, "I don't like these surcharges, since they cut into customers' credit card rewards, but with a utility, it's not as easy to avoid as it might be if this were, say, a restaurant or clothing store. In those cases, it would be easier to take your business elsewhere."

Rossman noted that Consumers Energy is part of an ongoing trend, noting that his internet, cable and phone provider makes sure that he uses a bank account, not a credit card, to qualify for a monthly auto pay discount. The same's true with his wife's cellphone provider.

T-Mobile, for example, alerted its customers beginning in May that it is changing the "payment methods that qualify for AutoPay discounts."

If customers want to continue receiving an AutoPay discount, T-Mobile says, they must update their payment method to a debit card or a bank account. T-Mobile now states online: "By enrolling in AutoPay, you can receive a \$5 credit per eligible line every month. Payment method must be a debit card or linked bank account. Credit cards and digital wallets (Apply Pay/Google Pay) are not eligible."

Contact personal finance columnist Susan Tompor: stompor@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @tompor.

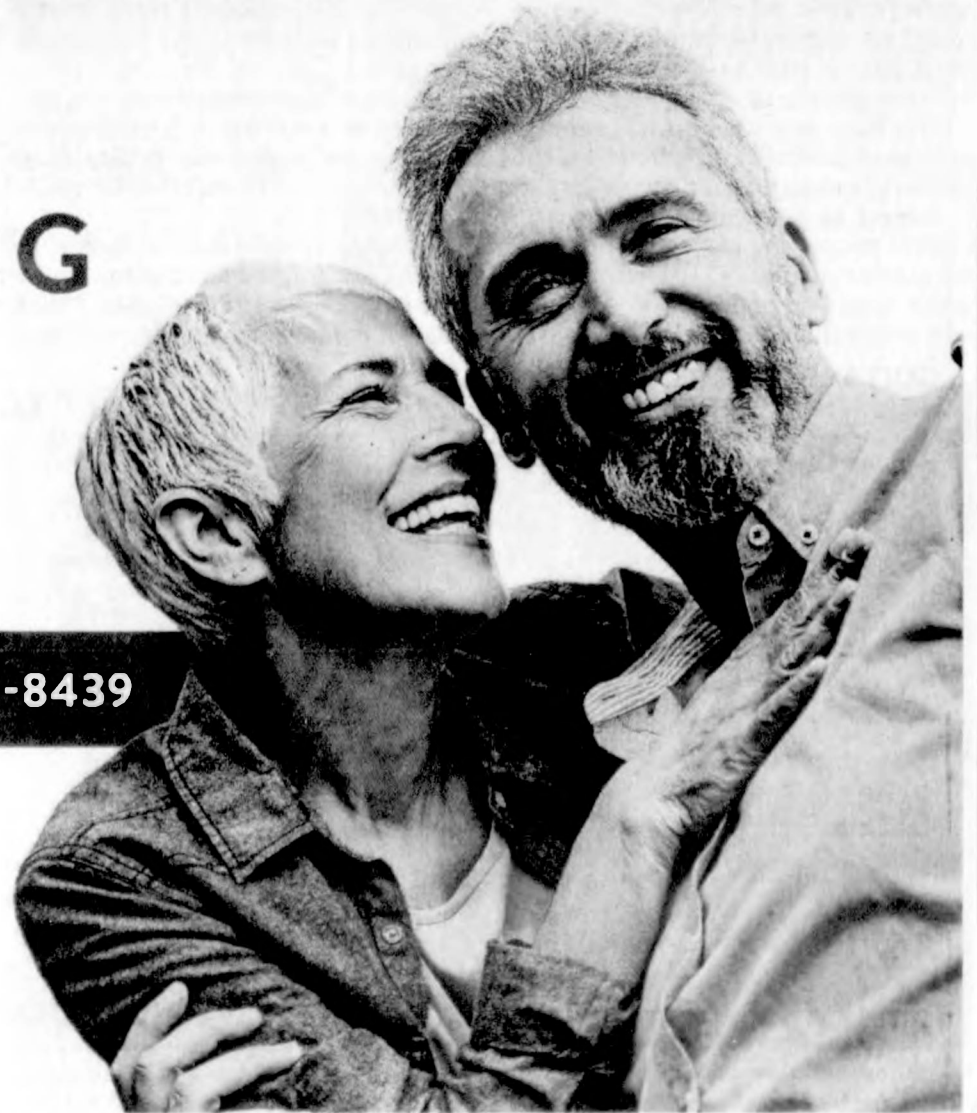


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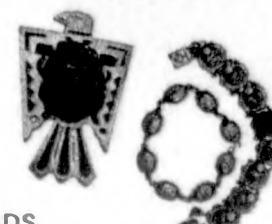
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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 13 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Alarm	Delay	News	Suit
Angry	Desk	Petrol	Taxis
Arrival	Detour	Phone calls	Tears
Beans	Dinner	Radio	Teeth
Bike	Eggs	Runs	Toast
Boss	Fares	Rush	Trucks
Buses	Mash	Schoolbag	Turn
Chair	Hold-up	Shortcut	Type
Concentrate	Interruptions	Sleep in	Wake
Crisis	Lunch	Slow	Walk
Crowded	Mobile	Soap	
Dark	Motor	Stop	

TODAY'S ANSWER

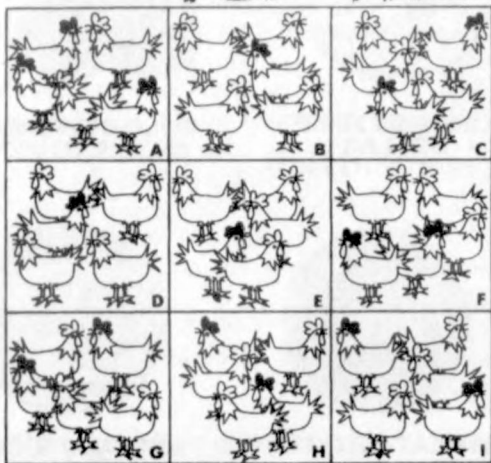
It can be hectic

Driving to work

T B U S E S T O P K R A D I I
C R C R I S I S S L E E P I N
P H U S H S U R A M O T O R T
H H A C S R I R U O T E D U E
O C N I K O E X L T T Y R K R
N N G S R S B N A O E N P S R
E U R C O N C E N T R A T E U
C L Y T E A C D E I A T R D P
A A N W B K P E E L D E E S T
L V S U I T L L K H I D E P I
L I N R U N S A A C W B U T O
S R A D I O I Y W O O D O C N
G R E S E R A F S A L A R M S
G A B L O O H C S O S B I K E
E T E E T H A S H O R T C U T

PUZZLES & POSERS

FLY THE COOP



A DISTURBANCE WILL INSPIRE A FEW CHICKENS IN COOPS C, E, G, AND I TO FLY THEIR COOPS AND LAND IN THE REMAINING COOPS. IT IS YOUR TASK TO DETERMINE HOW MANY CHICKENS WILL BE IN EACH COOP FROM THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
1. EACH COOP WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF CHICKENS.
2. EACH SQUARE GROUPING OF 4 COOPS (EX: ABDE) WILL CONTAIN ONE MORE CHICKEN THAN NOW SHOWN IN SUCH A GROUP.

SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: BRONZE

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

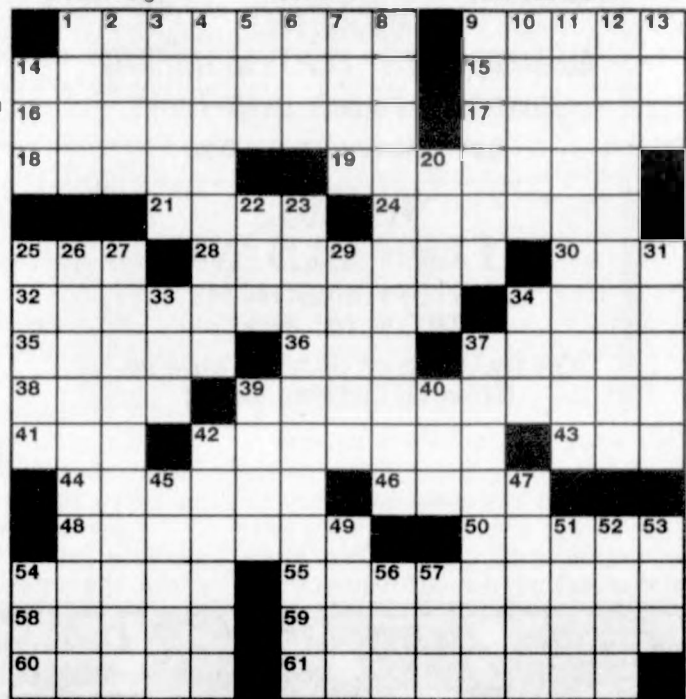
	5	2		9	7		6	
		6				7		2
		3	2				9	
9	2	1	5		8			4
		4				5		
3			6		9	2	8	1
	6				2	3		
2		8				4		
	4		3	1		9	2	

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Echoic acknowledgment
9 liver
14 Former America's Next Top Model sponsor
15 How artichokes are available
16 Makeup ritual
17 Logging site
18 Inspiration for Eliot's 61 Across
19 Starter on a platter
21 Try to take in
24 Bullheaded
25 Phrase from refusers
28 Scholarly association
30 Unvarnished
32 Short-term rental
34 Cutaneous condition
35 Be insistent
36 Oral assurance
37 Copy over
38 Impart
39 Put together
41 Hollow center
42 Not as wasteful
43 Mea culpa, new-style
44 Be fast
46 [More people should come here]
48 AFI's #2 funny film
50 Narrator of fantasy fiction
54 Very observant
55 Battle
58 What crop tops reveal

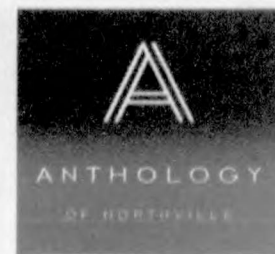
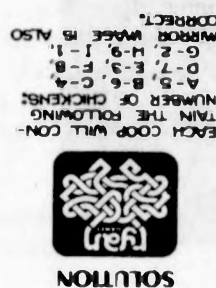
- 59 35-calorie treats
60 Launch
61 Eliot opus misnomer
DOWN
1 Test subject
2 California Perfume Company, today
3 Numbers past a certain point
4 Stymies, so to speak
5 Type of card reader
6 Driving need
7 Driving needs
8 Madame Bovary or Jane Eyre
9 New York's Angry Orchard, e.g.
10 Iodide or oxide
11 Short-term offerings
12 Wicked artist?
13 Not at all obvious
14 Needing a lift
20 Fuller shape
22 GM introduced them in 1953
23 Many a silents star
25 butter
26 Personality pair
27 Makes introductions, say
29 Ingenious expedient
31 Not growing great
33 One will cost you 100+ JPY
34 Is for everybody
37 Storage units
39 Goes off
40 Clear for keeping
42 Catches on
45 Boat's bow or stern?
47 Certain limited edition
49 Capital of Latvia
51 Kind of chop
52 Stopper
53 USAF
54 See reverse, shortly
56 Home Alone kid's nickname
57 HR ad letters



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Meijer files suit against Plymouth Township over denial of supercenter

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH TWP. — Meijer, the Grand Rapids-based retailer known for its supercenters across the Midwest, seems determined to build a new location in Plymouth Township.

In a lawsuit filed Aug. 9 in Wayne County Circuit Court, Meijer, Inc. and Southfield-based developer Redico Holdings LLC are asking the court to overturn a decision handed down by the Plymouth Township Planning Commission.

Township Supervisor Kurt Heise said he was not able to comment on specifics of the case.

"It's not our policy to comment on pending litigation," Heise said. "However, the Board of Trustees will be meeting in closed session in the days ahead to review the complaint and determine our next steps."

At its June 21 meeting, the commission denied a special land use request for a 159,000-square-foot Meijer supercenter, garden center, gas station and convenience store on a 21-acre parcel at Five Mile Road, west of Beck Road.

The parcel is part of the Michigan International Technology Center (MITC) corridor and is owned by Redico, which has a purchase agreement with Meijer for the property.

"Redico and Meijer are appealing the Plymouth Township Planning Commission's decision because we feel the Commission mistakenly denied a request that met all the stated requirements for approval," said Frank Guglielmi, Meijer's senior director of corporate communications, in an email. "An appeal is a common step in these situations, and we look forward to having the request reviewed by the Commission again in the near future."

Attorney Alan M. Greene filed the suit on behalf of the plaintiffs but said he could not comment on pending litigation.

Under the township's zoning ordinance, the planning commission is the final decision-maker with respect to special land uses.

Residents fear traffic, crime

At the June 21 meeting, a steady stream of residents from both Plymouth and Northville townships spoke in objection to the development, which is prop-

osed on the border of both communities.

Many voiced ire over already-heavy traffic conditions in the area. Some were concerned about the potential for increased crime. Others said they felt the store was unnecessary, given the proximity of other grocery options in the area. Many thought the development was disruptive to the peaceful nature of Plymouth Township.

The planning commission voted 5-1 to deny the request, with several commission members also citing concerns around traffic. Since then, the State of Michigan announced \$10 million in funding to pay for road improvements along Five Mile.

'Arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable'

The lawsuit notes that the project is permitted a special land use, subject to meeting standards set by the township zoning ordinance and is consistent with the Township's 2015 Master Plan and Future Land Use Map.

The complaint also notes that the plans were reviewed by the township's professional planning consultants, engineers, fire department and traffic consultants.

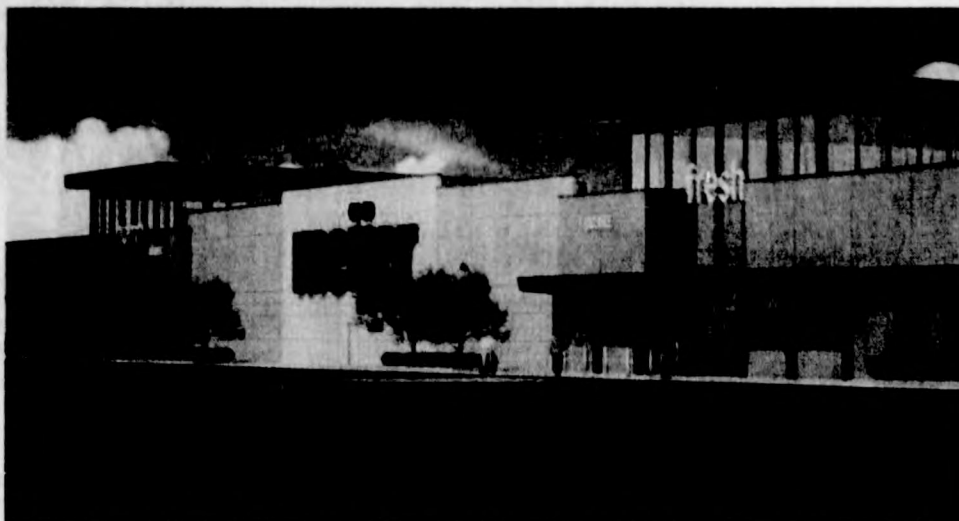
The traffic impact study recommended certain road improvements be undertaken in connection with the Meijer development, which Meijer agreed to undertake, the complaint said, noting "No township professional objected to the special land use request or the traffic impact studies submitted."

The complaint asks the court to "reverse the decision of the Planning Commission and determine...that the township's denial of the special use request constituted an arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable decision, was not based upon proper procedure, was not supported by competent, substantial and material evidence on the record, and/or violated applicable law, policy."

It also asks that the court order the township to refrain from interfering in the plaintiff's rights to develop the property, and that the court award costs for legal fees.

Court records do not show that any future hearing dates have yet been set.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.



A rendering shows part of the facade of the Meijer store proposed at 47500 Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township. COURTESY PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Community Worship

BRIGHTON HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL <small>www.hscc.net</small> at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd. 810-231-9199 Fr. John Rokus, Pastor Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Please visit our Shrine of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop	HIGHLAND Church of the Holy Spirit 3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland Saturday Mass 5PM Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM 248-887-5344 HolySpiritHighland.com The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home All are Welcome!	NOVI Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church 41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375 248-349-0565 Divine Service on Sundays at 10am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 8:45am Rev. Thomas Schroeder wesnov@lutheran.org Come and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!
NORTHVILLE First United Methodist Church 777 West 8 Mile Road (8 Mile and Taft Road) Northville, Michigan Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m. Rev. Martha M. Hensley, Lead Pastor www.firstunitedmethodist.org	SOUTH LYON 'the WAY' - a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church Worship @ Abbey Park 28413 Abbey Lane New Hudson, MI Sunday @ 10am; 248-553-7170 www.hope-lutheran-church.com Rev. Thomas Schreger	WHITMORE LAKE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 10774 Nine Mile Road Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 133 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Church 349-2621, School 349-3610 Religious Education 349-2554 Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor	RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!	RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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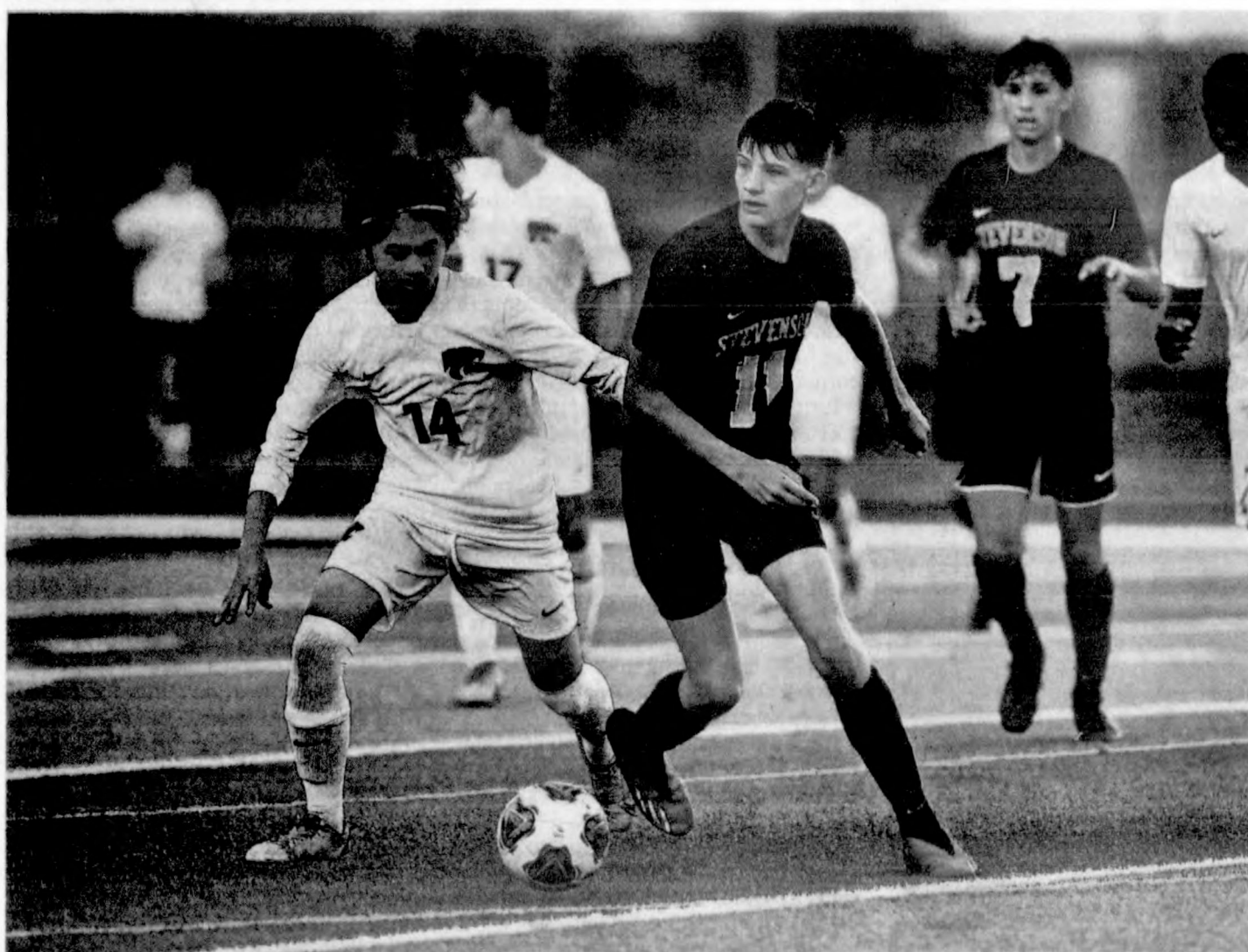
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SPORTS



Livonia Stevenson's Talan Skiver looks to pass during a boys soccer match Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi survives scoreboard issue, forces tie with Livonia Stevenson

Brandon Folsom

 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It could've been the death knell for the Novi boys soccer team.

Thursday's season opener at Livonia Stevenson saw the Wildcats desperately pushing for an equalizer in the waning moments.

Coach Todd Pfeiffer adjusted their of-

fensive formation to improve their attack. And it was working. They were getting shot after shot on Spartans goalkeeper Noah Rieder, who was stopping every point-blank scoring chance sent his way.

With 2:59 remaining, that momentum screeched to a halt.

There was a miscommunication between the head referee and the score-

board operator. They couldn't get on the same page following a brief stoppage. And so the two went back and forth trying to perfectly time the restart of play. The only problem? That took well over 1 minute in real time to sort out.

The players from both sides could only stand around and wait. No one

See **SOCCER**, Page 2B

One of Groves' best players is just 3 years removed from leukemia



Birmingham Groves lineman Avery Gach during Oakland Activities Association Football Media Day on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, at Rochester High School. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brandon Folsom
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When it was Birmingham Groves football coach Brendan Flaherty's turn to speak at the podium during Oakland Activities Association Media Day recently, he flanked himself with a herd of some of the biggest, toughest dudes that will suit up for the Falcons this fall.

Chief among them was four-star junior Avery Gach, an offensive lineman, who already holds 29 offers from the likes of Alabama, Georgia, Michigan and Michigan State, to name a few. The No. 2-ranked player in Michigan, according to 247Sports, told Hometown Life that he

"basically lives in the weight room." At 6-foot-5 and 290 pounds, that is easily verifiable with a quick glance.

But the second-biggest player Flaherty had with him? That was likely 6-2, 230-pound defensive end Braden Hall. And, yes, Hall, too enjoys lifting weights. Only his journey to becoming one of the team's most physically dominating players in the OAA hasn't been as easy as you'd think.

Flashback to middle school. He remembers feeling sick the entire winter semester of eighth grade. When his family took him to the hospital to get a diagnosis, they learned he had leukemia.

See **GROVES**, Page 2B

These 5 players should make Milford football must-watch in 2023

Brandon Folsom

 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford football coach Andrew Michovich sat down with Hometown Life during Lakes Valley Conference Media Day on Aug. 2 to discuss a few of his players who are bound to have great seasons.

Let's take a look at five players who should make Milford, which opens the season on Aug. 24 against Waterford Kettering, must-see on Friday nights.

Ryan Allen's offseason dedication should make him an elite QB

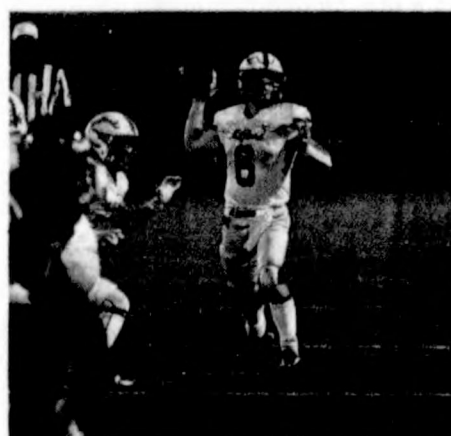
The dual-threat quarterback was already one of the top players in the league.

That was evident by him rushing 128 times for 722 yards and three touchdowns and going 108 of 187 passing for 1,384 yards and nine TDs as a junior.

But the effort he put forth in the weight room over the past three years should make him one of the best players in Michigan. Period. Not only does he appear to be stronger, both as a passer and runner, but he's also in better shape.

"Ryan did a really good job two years ago adding strength and size," Michovich said. "This year, what he has done is transform his body to be more of an athlete. He's lost about 11 pounds and gotten even stronger. He's running extremely fast, he's looking way quicker. For him, running the ball, from that point of view, he's going to be even more dynamic. He's savvy enough to get to the second level. As far as throwing the ball, he has a really good command of the offense. He's throwing with a ton of anticipation. You see the footwork and the patience and the eye discipline improve from practice to practice and from 7-on-7 to 7-on-7."

See 5 **PLAYERS**, Page 2B



Milford's Ryan Allen passes during a Lakes Valley Conference football game Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, at South Lyon. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

would've blamed Novi for losing its sense of urgency to knot the score considering its mojo in the attack had been brought to a standstill.

But that's not what happened. The Wildcats bounced back from the impromptu break, made one final rally and then Luke Barthlow smashed in the equalizer to ensure a 1-1 stalemate in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association crossover game.

"Credit to our guys who kept playing through," Pheiffer said of the scoreboard dilemma. "That slowed the game, and we were actually starting to push once we changed our formation and got a little more offense. I have to give credit to our guys because it could've been easy there (to give up)."

Fortunately for Novi, Barthlow had been giving an extra effort all night. His hustle plays with his sprinter speed (he runs an 11.5-second time in the 100-meter dash during the spring) to save possessions, eliminate turnovers and drum up scoring opportunities is exactly what kept the Wildcats in the match.

And his goal was just a heads-up play. He got the ball near the top of the penalty box, but an awkward bounce meant he wasn't going to get off a clean shot with his dominant right foot. He elected to use his left to save the possession, and it worked. It went in.

Just 31 seconds following the scoreboard issue, he saved Novi from a loss.

"I just quickly took that touch and let it rip," the senior said. "It was amazing how we got our heads back into the game after that (scoreboard incident) because it was crazy. It was like a minute of just trying to get the clock going. It was tough mentally,



Livonia Stevenson's Colin Heberger and Novi's Josh Amairaj battle for possession during a boys soccer match Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

but we got it done. We overcame it."

Barthlow is one of 12 seniors playing for the Wildcats, several of whom have joined the team for the first time after wrapping up their club soccer careers.

It'll be his leadership that helps indoctrinate Novi's new guys into what playing high school soccer is all about.

"He's a senior so he leads by example," Pheiffer said. "He's just a workhorse. He's just not going to stop working. Even when he's tired, he's still got that second gear where he's going to keep running. He's a player who can show you that he hustles on every ball. He can make three or four runs, and then when he makes that fifth run, it tells the other guys that they need

to keep motivated and keep playing as hard as him."

Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker wasn't happy about the late defensive breakdown, but he was excited about how the Spartans sorted out their play after a sluggish start to the match.

Following halftime, Stevenson dominated offensively for about 20 minutes, which allowed Spartans captain Ben Wilson to sneak in the go-ahead goal on a corner kick.

But that scoreboard issue might have created some miscommunication amongst Stevenson's back line.

"I don't know how we got to that point, but it wasn't great," the 12th-year coach

said. "It wasn't great for us, no doubt, and it kind of broke open the momentum. There was a breakdown on the far side and somehow they (Barthlow and the Wildcats) got a 2-v-1 over there."

That won't take away from Wilson's goal, however.

The senior is a dual-threat for the Spartans in that he's one of their strongest defenders, but he can also sneak into the attack and generate goals for his teammates. It's not uncommon for him to join fastbreak runs and vocally call out where the ball should move on the play.

But his first goal of the season? That was a thing of beauty. Every coach wants their team to take advantage of set pieces, and that's exactly what Wilson did once teammate Nick Harper sailed in the pass from the outside flag.

"Coming out of the back, he's a really dangerous player," Shingledecker said of Wilson. "He's a great kid. Really, he contributes in so many ways for us defensively and in the attack. I thought that really showed up today, too."

It's no shocker the opener was a back-and-forth affair between two talented programs. Shingledecker and Pheiffer are KLAA veterans, and their teams are always in the running to compete for division titles within the league.

While Stevenson plays in the East and Novi is in the West, Thursday's match might not be the last one against one another. They could meet in the KLAA title game. What's more, they're in the same district. This could be a potential district championship matchup once the playoffs arrive.

Here's hoping a scoreboard malfunction doesn't get in the way of the final result the next time they meet.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for *Hometown Life*. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

5 players

Continued from Page 1B

Milford is set at running back with Peyton Chamberlain

Sprinter's speed, hands like a receiver and the moxie of a starting QB.

That's how you've got to describe Milford's 5-foot-9, 180-pound tailback, who should be an X-factor on offense.

He can break off big gainers, fight for short yardage, catch the ball out of the backfield and line up in the slot. He's the Mavericks' best shot of keeping the defense honest and giving Allen an opportunity to make plays.

"Peyton is kind of a Swiss Army Knife, and it's not in the connotation that he's a master of none," Michovich said. "He can do anything at a really high level. When we need to throw the ball more, he plays a little more slot. If he wants to, we can throw the ball to him out of the backfield. He's an awesome dual-threat player for us. He could start at receiver or running back, which is where he starts now. And even during our playoff game last year, when Ryan was hurt, we put some packages in for Peyton at quarterback."

As a junior, Chamberlain rushed 116 times for 530 yards and three TDs and also caught 22 passes for 196 yards and two scores.

Expect even more from him as a senior, especially with Allen, one of his closest friends, getting him the ball.

"I love playing with Ryan," Chamberlain said. "We've been best buds since we've been playing together since the sixth grade. We've been so close, playing football



Milford's Peyton Chamberlain rushes during a Lakes Valley Conference football game Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, at South Lyon. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

together. He's been by my side since middle school. Honestly, with him being a dual threat, he slings it deep and he does everything. He opens up the gap. When his gaps aren't there, mine are there. It's great to have that in our RPO offense. If he's not there, I'm there. If I'm not there, we can dish it off to one of our slots, get them in space and get up the field."

Wyatt Lesnew slated for a record-setting season

As a junior, he was one of the most dominant middle linebackers in metro

Detroit.

He tallied a staggering 139 tackles and was a big reason why the Mavericks gave up the fewest points (177) in the Lakes Valley Conference in 2022.

At 5-foot-11 and 235 pounds, he's back bigger and stronger and is on pace to leave Milford as one of the best players in school history.

"Wyatt will leave Milford as the leading tackler in school history, and I don't even think it's close," Michovich said. "Last year we played 10 games, and we're hoping to play a lot longer than 10 games, so it's not out of the question to get him into the 200s. He has really dedicated himself in the weight room this summer to do just that. We expect him to play downhill in our stack linebacker position, pretty much shutting down anything between the tackles. He's going to be, hopefully, phenomenal."

Lesnew plays as old-school as they come. His neck roll on his shoulder pads even says that he's a throwback linebacker from the 1980s. But he's also an old-fashioned leader.

He's not taking full credit for the milestones he's setting within the program. He understands it takes a full team effort for him to rack up the number of tackles he gets each game.

"I'd like to say that it's all me, but, obviously, it's not," the senior said. "Our D-line does a very good job of opening up gaps for me to make tackles. I was able to fill them at the right time. I had over 100 tackles, but all of them were not really me doing anything special. It was just me being in the right spot at the right time. It was more of a team thing. I don't see that as me getting those tackles. We all got those tackles together."

The Mavericks' secret weapons? Owen Stark and Landon Murray

There's no question Milford is loaded with talent. And that includes some other names like Tyler Freer, Brady Flanagan and Jon Motes, who were each All-LVC players a year ago, and Ike Stuft, Ryan Galda, Jake Smetanan and many, many others.

But the two guys Michovich couldn't stop talking about during Media Day were his starting receivers, Stark and Murray. Allen enters the season as the second-best QB in the LVC, behind only three-star Toledo commit Kalieb Osborne, but these two playmakers could help make him the top arm by season's end.

"Our two receivers, Owen Stark and Landon Murray, No. 1 and No. 2, are both 6-foot-2," Michovich said. "Owen Stark is about 190 pounds. Murray's not quite as big, but they have the best ball skills I've seen in my five years at Milford. Owen Stark is going to be a three-year starter on the varsity basketball team at power forward. He's just a grinder with great hands and can go up and over pretty much anybody. Landon is super dynamic. He had a really good half of the year on JV (in 2022). We let him play JV with a broken hand. Once his hand healed up, we pulled him up to varsity, and we're expecting really big things from him. Those two guys will be two of our three biggest targets on offense (along with Chamberlain), and it wouldn't be out of the question for both of them to each put up 500-plus yards."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for *Hometown Life*. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Groves

Continued from Page 1B

Over the next year, he battled cancer, but, of course, he missed freshman football season. His final chemotherapy appointment wasn't until October of that year.

But that didn't stop him from making the varsity as a sophomore. And as a junior? He was nearly unstoppable as he helped Groves (9-4) win both Division 2 district and regional championships and face eventual state champion Warren DeLaSalle in the semifinal.

To any stranger watching, they never would've guessed that one of the strongest pass rushers on the field had not only recently beaten leukemia but turned himself into one of the most-feared players in the OAA-White.

"It was a struggle a little bit coming back," said Hall, who totaled 33 tackles for loss and 10 sacks a year ago. "I wasn't as confident because I hadn't played in such a while. But over the course of my sophomore and junior years, I started getting my confidence back and playing how I like to play."

Part of that struggle was regaining the size and strength he lost while being in and



Birmingham Groves' Braden Hall celebrates a turnover during a Division 2 football playoff game Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, at Birmingham Seaholm. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

out of the hospital as an underclassman. But dedication to the weight room and his diet has helped him return to playing shape. So much so that he received his first college offer, from Hope College, in May. He'll likely receive more offers throughout

his senior season.

Every three months he checks in with his doctor at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak to ensure that the cancer hasn't come back. So far, so good.

Groves wants to play for a state champi-

onship. It returns 25 starters in all three phases of the game, including quarterback Cayden Hardy, running back Mario Campo-Lovasco, defensive back Chris Little and outside linebacker Aidan Leung, among many other key pieces. It should have the horses to get there. And with Hall's inspiring story? It should have the leadership to get it done as well.

"I just think it was his inner strength, calmness and maturity," said Flaherty of Hall's effort to return to the team and become an All-OAA selection as a junior. "For him to beat it, I think it's just kind of his attitude and strength and the family backing he had with his mom, dad and older brother."

Groves opens the season Thursday, Aug. 24, at North Farmington. It's the start of Hall's final chance to leave a legacy with the Falcons. And cancer isn't going to hold him back.

"Having leukemia was kind of life-changing," Hall said. "I've just put it all in the past and am now focused on the future and this next season. We're focused on winning a state championship. We're always trying to be better than we were. We lost to DeLaSalle in the semifinals, so the next step is getting to Ford Field."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for *Hometown Life*. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Meet 'Little Mack,' a future star guard for Marian girls basketball

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mack Reid hasn't even played an actual game yet.

Nor is the incoming Bloomfield Hills Marian freshman guaranteed to make the varsity girls basketball team.

But that's not stopping second-year coach Michelle Lindsey from demanding more leadership out of Reid, who could be the next great guard to come out of the prestigious Catholic League-Central.

"Her leadership is going to be key," Lindsey said following Thursday's summer scrimmage against Walled Lake Western. "She's quiet. I'm trying to get more out of her. As long as she keeps hustling and pushing the other kids, we'll be fine. Right now, she's quiet, though. We're already expecting high things out of her. She accepts those goals and challenges, and that's what she wants, too. She told me that's why she chose Marian. So she's excited to take on those challenges, and we're excited to have her."

That's right.

Reid is only 14 years old.

She's stepping into the second year of Lindsey's rebuilding project with the Mustangs, who had a 10-14 record last winter. There are already plenty of other older, more-established girls in the program. From Butler University commit McKenzie Swanson to her younger sister, Ella Swanson, senior Abby Landa and juniors Charlie Bingham, Molly McLeod and Ruby Jansen, the daughter of former NFL and Michigan lineman Jon Jansen, and a few others.

Yet Lindsey is already expecting more of an effort from Reid, who recently moved to nearby Beverly Hills with her family from South Lyon, where she attended Millennium Middle School.

And, for the most part, Reid has lived up to those expectations. She's been to about every off-season activity Lindsey has scheduled. She wakes up and trains daily. She gets instruction from a private coach weekly.

Reid, who's part of the Michigan Mystics travel program, has done her best to make the transition from junior high to high school a smooth one. Mar-



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mack Reid attacks the basket during a girls basketball scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ian's expected to return eight contributors from last year's Division 1 district championship team, and they haven't overlooked the effort Reid has put into getting herself acclimated with the program.

"She wanted the summer schedule right off the bat," Lindsey said. "She's been at everything. She's 100% basketball. Now it's like she has the trust of the whole team already. You can see it. We spent two days at Grand Valley for summer team camp, and they all really meshed with her during those two days. She's exciting to watch, and it's going to be an exciting future for her here at Marian."

So what does Reid bring to the team?

Simply put, she's fast and explosive. With any outlet pass she gets, it takes nothing for her to get the ball to the other end for a layup or to find a teammate for an open look.

At the top of the key, she's great at driving to the basket for hard-fought points in the paint. Her signature shot is the floater from just inside the free-throw line.

Not to mention she's a pretty good ballhandler, which should make



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mack Reid attacks the basket during a girls basketball scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.



Bloomfield Hills Marian coach Michelle Lindsey talks to her players during a girls basketball scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

McLeod's life a lot easier if the two can share point guard duties throughout the team's grueling CHSL schedule.

Reid can also get passes into the

paint when needed.

She's a solid combo guard already.

"It's been a good experience so far," Reid said of her time with the Mustangs this summer. "Coach Michelle is a great coach, and, obviously, last year was a rebuilding year, but I think this year we're starting to get more chemistry together and I think it's going to be a good year. I've just got to keep working..."

"It's been good getting to know new people here because I didn't know anybody here at first because I grew up like 30 minutes away. It's been good meeting new people through basketball this summer, and it'll be nice to have friends coming into (high school)."

Tryouts haven't even happened yet, but Reid has a strong chance of making the varsity as a freshman.

She's serious about helping the program improve. Plus, she has individual goals she wants to attack, including winning a starting role with the team, earning a scholarship to play basketball in college and eclipsing the 1,000-point milestone for her career.

"It would mean a lot (if I make the varsity) just knowing that all of the work I've put in has paid off," Reid added. "Marian is such a big school. They've got a lot of state championships for basketball. It'd just mean a lot."

At the beginning of the summer, Lindsey liked the idea of having Reid in the backcourt with 6-foot-3 McKenzie Swanson in the post. Lindsey was calling it "Big Mack and Little Mack."

Now she's changed her mind about that nickname. Reid has already outplayed it.

"We call her Little Mack, but she doesn't play like a Little Mack," Lindsey admitted. "I've got to figure something else out because she's not Little Mack with her passes. She's dropping dimes. She's a good little player."

The good news is Lindsey has plenty of time to figure out a more suitable nickname for Reid, who should have the upper hand when tryouts roll around in November because of her play this summer.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

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Carr finally in the driver's seat as Michigan's top prep football player for 2023

Mick McCabe
Special to Detroit Free Press

The wraps are off of CJ Carr. Over the past three seasons, Saline coach Joe Palka tried protecting his star quarterback, not permitting many designed quarterback running plays.

But now Carr, the grandson of former Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr who has committed to Notre Dame, is a senior and the Free Press' No. 1 rated Michigan high school football player in the state.

All Palka and Carr's teammates want now is for him to play like it.

He has already won a bunch of games. But now?

"At some point," Palka said, "he's going to have to win games for us on his own."

A year ago Carr completed 222 of 326 passes for 2,685 yards and 26 touchdowns, with only five interceptions, to set the stage for his senior season.

The good news is that Carr appears to be even better than a year ago, especially when it comes to his passing.

"It feels like it's got more zip, I think it does," said senior tight end Dylan Mes-

man, a Louisville commit. "Of course, he's in the gym every single day; he's working as hard as he can. Seeing that progress isn't rare for me. He's always working hard."

Added zip will make Carr more effective, but it won't make an ounce of difference if he cannot keep his composure in the pocket.

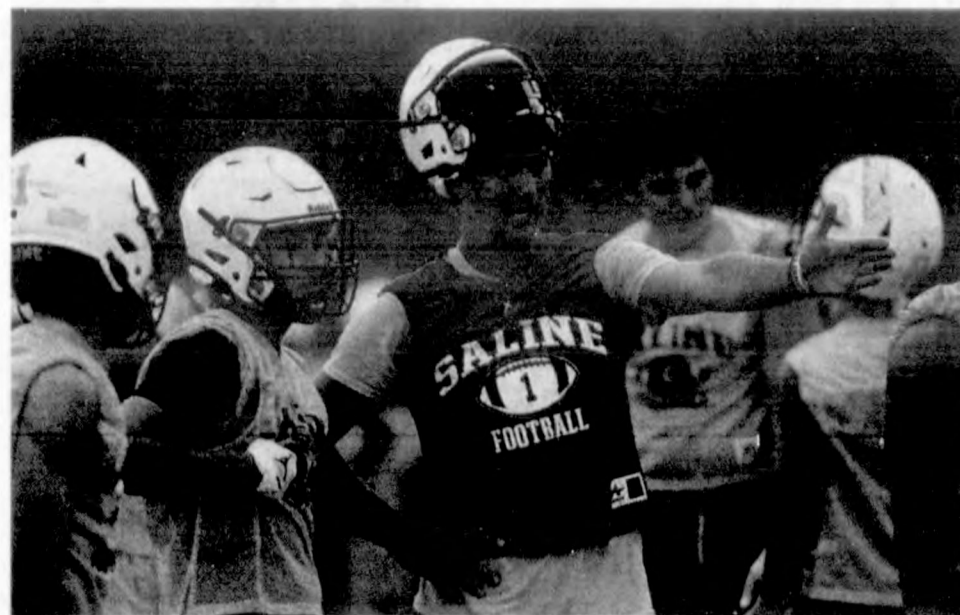
That hasn't been a problem in the past, and it certainly won't be this season.

"CJ's growth year in and year out has been just amazing," Palka said. "He is so much more relaxed right now, so much more mature. He's physically more mature, but his overall demeanor — and we preach not too high, not too low — that's him."

"He's been in the big moments and been in the bad moment, and when something goes bad right now, it's no big deal, we'll have another opportunity and let's go make a play."

Helping him "make a play" this fall is an added 15 pounds of muscle, putting him at 6 feet 3 and 210 pounds.

At least now Palka won't be reaching for his rosary beads when Carr decides to tuck the ball and run.



Saline football quarterback CJ Carr instructs teammates during practice at Saline High School on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023. MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS

"The thing he'll do more and more this year, that people saw him do against Belleville, is keep plays alive," Palka said, referencing last season's district final. "He's a lot better with his feet than people think. He's big and he's physical. We just have always tried to prohibit him as a young player from doing that. Now it's time, in my opinion, to turn him loose."

Saline lost that Belleville game, 62-44, but not because of Carr's performance: That evening Carr was amazing, completing 37 of 53 passes for 383 yards and five

touchdowns.

The game ended Saline's season, but Carr can still appreciate that the game was a classic.

"It was a real exciting game," he said. "It was sad to go out on a loss, but also real exciting to finish the way that we did."

The loss heightened Carr's confidence level, and the work he put in in the weight room helped, too.

"We put on a good amount of weight," he said. "I think it's going to help me in the run game this year."

Matt Hunt returns to alma mater to coach Howell baseball

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL - Matt Hunt is returning to where his baseball career began as the new varsity head coach at Howell.

Hunt takes over from Jason Ladd, who coached the Highlanders since 2012. Ladd, who had a 318-114-3 record as co-coach and head coach, said he resigned.

Hunt graduated from Howell in 2008, playing two full seasons on the varsity after being called up for districts as a sophomore.

"Obviously, it's my alma mater," he said. "I hold some records there as a player. It's a great opportunity, a great community. I look forward to putting my name in the record books as a coach."

Hunt has been an assistant coach the last three seasons at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. Working with outfielders and as a hitting instructor, Hunt helped the Cardinals win the National Christian College Athletic Association championship in 2022 and reach the NAIA World Series this spring with a 48-10 record.

He was ready to return to coaching at the high school level.

"I have little kids," said Hunt, who lives in Howell. "Being home more, closer to home, giving back to the community I came up in. Howell has had a lot of success lately. I think they can even take it a step higher. I'll try to get Howell back on top of the ranks."

Hunt was the head coach at Fowlerville from 2017-20, compiling a 75-29 record

and winning three district championships.

He played four years of college baseball, starting at Concordia before he transferred to Saginaw Valley State University for his final three seasons. He was a two-time all-conference selection at SVSU. He played one season of professional baseball in 2013 with the independent Trinidad Triggers in Colorado.

Hunt will inherit a team that returns a first-team All-Livingston County middle infield in shortstop Nick Hoom and second baseman Daniel Hampton. Hampton will be a sophomore and Hoom a junior next spring. Howell will also return two second-team all-county picks in catcher JT Thomas (a junior) and outfielder Andrew Hiller (a senior).



New Howell baseball coach Matt Hunt coached at Fowlerville from 2017-20. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.

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Obituaries

William Charles Knoll

LIVONIA - William (Bill) Charles Knoll died peacefully at home surrounded by his family August 11, 2023.

Bill was born on September 25, 1951 to Robert and Eva (Kerr) in Pennsylvania. He grew up in Livonia and graduated from Franklin High School where he met his soulmate Janice. He attended Western Michigan University and they married in 1975. They raised their family in Livonia and Bill founded and ran several small businesses throughout his career. They relocated to Charleston, SC where they enjoyed their final years together.

Those who knew and continue to love Bill describe him as an inspiration, a creative force, a loving, kind soul who was funny, witty, and loved his family above all else. He was a lifelong avid Detroit Tigers and Red Wings fan. Despite the many challenges along Bill's path, he continued his adventurous and thrill-seeking ways. He made sure to enjoy the ride of life, a particularly wild ride at times from skydiving, to hang gliding, and most recently Alaskan cruise excursions.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife and his loving children, Katie and Charlie (Jackie) and adored grandson Britton, as well as his brother Bob (Jane), sisters Denise Quarles (Van) and Colleen, brother-in-law Jerry (Eileen), his dog Journey, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Frank and Bernice and brother-in-law Glenn.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Michael J Fox Parkinsons Foundation. A Celebration of Life will be held honoring Bill in September.



Ercel (Fred) Turner

LIVONIA - Ercel (Fred) Frederick Turner passed away at his Livonia home on August 9, 2023 at the age of 96. Born and raised in the coal mining town of Tams, West Virginia, Fred only spent one summer working in the mines. He considered himself fortunate to enlist in the Navy in World War II and 'tour' the South Pacific. After the fighting, Fred was stationed in Japan during the Occupation. He always admired the Japanese people and their culture because, despite the hostility, they treated the American soldiers with respect and grace. Fred earned an undergraduate degree using the GI bill, followed by a law degree at night school. He remained a Michigan attorney in good standing for 70 years. Fred's mother had wanted him to become a Baptist Minister but even she admitted that he probably helped more people in his private law practice than he would have in the church.

Fred's wife of 68 years, Edith Turner, passed away at their home in 2021. He is survived by four children, Viki Palid (Michael), little (but taller) Fred Turner, James Turner and Wendy Turner, 7 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and many wonderful friends, neighbors and caregivers. Fred is fondly remembered by his grandchildren for teaching them how to look after their belongings. Specifically, to hide their Easter chocolate before leaving for Sunday Mass.

A private memorial for both Edith and Fred will be held by the family at a later date. Fred was a great lover of dogs so any donation for the betterment of their lives would be appreciated. This would include special treats for your own pets.



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Frederick J. Grose, M.D.

MILFORD - Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother went to be with his Lord and Savior, Monday July 31. He passed peacefully at home due to heart and lung disease while being cared for by loving family and hospice. Fred leaves behind a great family legacy where he is survived by his 2 brothers: Donald (Jane) and Robert (Kathy); 3 children: Cheryl Christmas (James), Linda Beck (Bradford) and son Dr. Ronald Grose (Anne); 10 grandchildren: Colette Daramola (James), Brandon Christmas (Laura), Brianne Olson (Jesse), Ryan Beck (Kim), Christina Buffa (Gaetano), Lindsay Miller (Kevin), Joshua Beck, Katie, Abbey and Megan Grose; 16 great grandchildren: Elijah, Savannah and Micah Daramola, Emma, Avery, Benjamin and Judah Christmas, Payson, Acadia and Clay Olson, Jacob and Michael Beck, Emerson and Jaxon Buffa, Natalie and Amelia Miller.

Fred grew up in Farmington, Michigan - just down the street from his childhood "sweetheart," Dolores, whom he would later marry. He attended Clarenceville High School and later went on to study biochemistry at The University of Michigan. During his college years, he married Dolores and then joined the U.S. Coast Guard after completing school. He was stationed in Staten Island, N.Y. and later San Juan, P.R. where he served as a commanding officer on search and rescue ships sailing up and down the Atlantic seaboard. After his Coast Guard service he moved back to Farmington and worked at the Michigan Cancer Institute in Detroit where he did early viral research and worked on the electron microscope, helping to write 8 scientific research papers. From there, he entered medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his training in 1966, internship at Providence Hospital in Southfield, MI and later to become a well-respected Family Medicine physician who practiced for 35 years at Providence Hospital in both Southfield and Novi, Michigan. He was known as a man of integrity who loved God and was an active member at both Clarenceville United Methodist Church and Brightmoor Christian Church where he was also a deacon. Fred was a family-man who was kind, generous and a gentleman who lived his Christian faith. Trained as a classical pianist in his youth (as well as a trumpet player), he always had a love for music and even learned to play the French horn in his 70's. He continued to enjoy playing piano for and leading many choirs while he lived at Fox Run retirement community with his wife Dolores. Fred spent the last 3 years of his life living with his oldest daughter and her husband after the passing of his wife, Dolores, whom he was married to for 68 years.

There will be visitation from 9:00 - 10:00am followed by a Celebration of Life service held at Brightmoor Christian Church (40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48377) on Friday, August 25th from 10:00 - 11:30am (Live-streaming will be available). A private military burial will be held Thursday, August 24 at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in his memory to Brightmoor Christian Church, Novi Christian Academy or christianfriendsofseket.org.



Patricia G. Allen

NORTHVILLE - Patricia G. Allen, age 85, a long-time resident of Northville, passed away August 11, 2023. She was born on December 25, 1937 in Banner, Arkansas; daughter of David and Iris (Chandler) White. Patricia was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart James M. Allen on February 2, 1957; they spent 64 years dedicated to one another until his death on November 3, 2021.

When Patricia was 5 years old, she moved from Arkansas to Novi, Michigan where she lived until marrying Jim; making Northville her home for 66 years. Patricia graduated from Northville High School, class of 1956. Following graduation, Pat worked as a bank teller at Depositors State Bank until she began her family. Her most rewarding career was being a mom. After her children were grown, Pat went to work at the family business, Allen Monuments in Northville and Milford. She was an integral part of the business, using her strengths to manage the office.

Pat had many musical talents. She sang at church and played the piano with grace. While living at Cambrian Senior Living, Pat often played the piano for other residents, which was a blessing for everyone. She was an avid reader who enjoyed reading gothic and romance novels. Pat loved to go antique shopping and would travel to Cape May, New Jersey with her daughter just for the shops. She was captivated with the east coast history and Victorian homes she often toured while on vacation. Pat enjoyed afternoon tea at various Victorian tea rooms with family and friends. She taught her grandchildren how to make drinking chocolate in antique chocolate pots and to appreciate history.

Pat was an incredible host during the holidays, more importantly she was a wonderful cook. Some of the fond memories with her family include playing putt-putt and laughing so hard they couldn't stop or going to the Chandler family reunion in Arkansas. She adored the many pets she owned over the years. Her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Pippa Rose, continued to show Pat unconditional love and loyalty with her weekly visits to Cambrian Senior Living. Pat, a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother with a contagious laugh, will be missed by all who knew her.

Patricia is survived by her children, Scott (Dana) Allen and Shari Allen; her grandchildren, Heather Allen, Nicole Allen, and Justin Allen; her sister Sharon (Peter) Ekert; and her brother Charles "Rick" (Beverly) White. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her brothers, Ronald White and William White.

A funeral service was held Saturday, August 19 at Casterline Funeral Home of Northville. She was laid to rest next to her husband at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville.

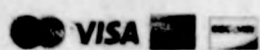
Memorial contributions are suggested to Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Contributions - VE01FS, 4100 John R, Detroit, Michigan 48201.



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Common workplace benefits

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Salary is just one component of the package that businesses may offer their employees. Though salary is important, an honest comparison of companies can benefit from a look at the larger picture - and that includes an analysis of what companies offer in addition to financial compensation.

Some people feel that certain perks outrank salary on their professional priority list. The Society of Human Resource Management indicates 92 percent of employees feel employment benefits are important for overall job satisfaction. They're also a driving factor when candidates read job postings.

Certain benefits are standard offerings, while others take perks a step further. The following are some of the benefits job seekers may encounter in job listings and during the interview process.

- **Health insurance:** Offering health insurance is mandatory in certain areas, while in others it is up to the employer. Insurance costs may be taken care of by an employer, while in most cases employees have a portion of those costs deducted from their paychecks. Health benefits also may be extended to employees' family members. Large organizations may allow employees to choose their health insurance provider, while small firms may only contract with one company.

- **Flexible health spending account:** A health care spending account, sometimes called a health savings account, enables employees to set aside a portion of their incomes before taxes are deducted. That

money can be used for qualified health purchases. Employees submit receipts for these health needs, which can include co-payments, over-the-counter medications, sanitary products, or first aid equipment, and then get reimbursed up to the amount they had deducted for the year. HSAs are one way to reduce tax burden.

- **Paid time off:** Often referred to as "PTO," this is a benefit that enables employees to schedule personal days off from work. Typically, PTO accrues each pay period by a set number of hours. PTO may occur in place of or in conjunction with separate vacation time. PTO can be a negotiating point with prospective employ-

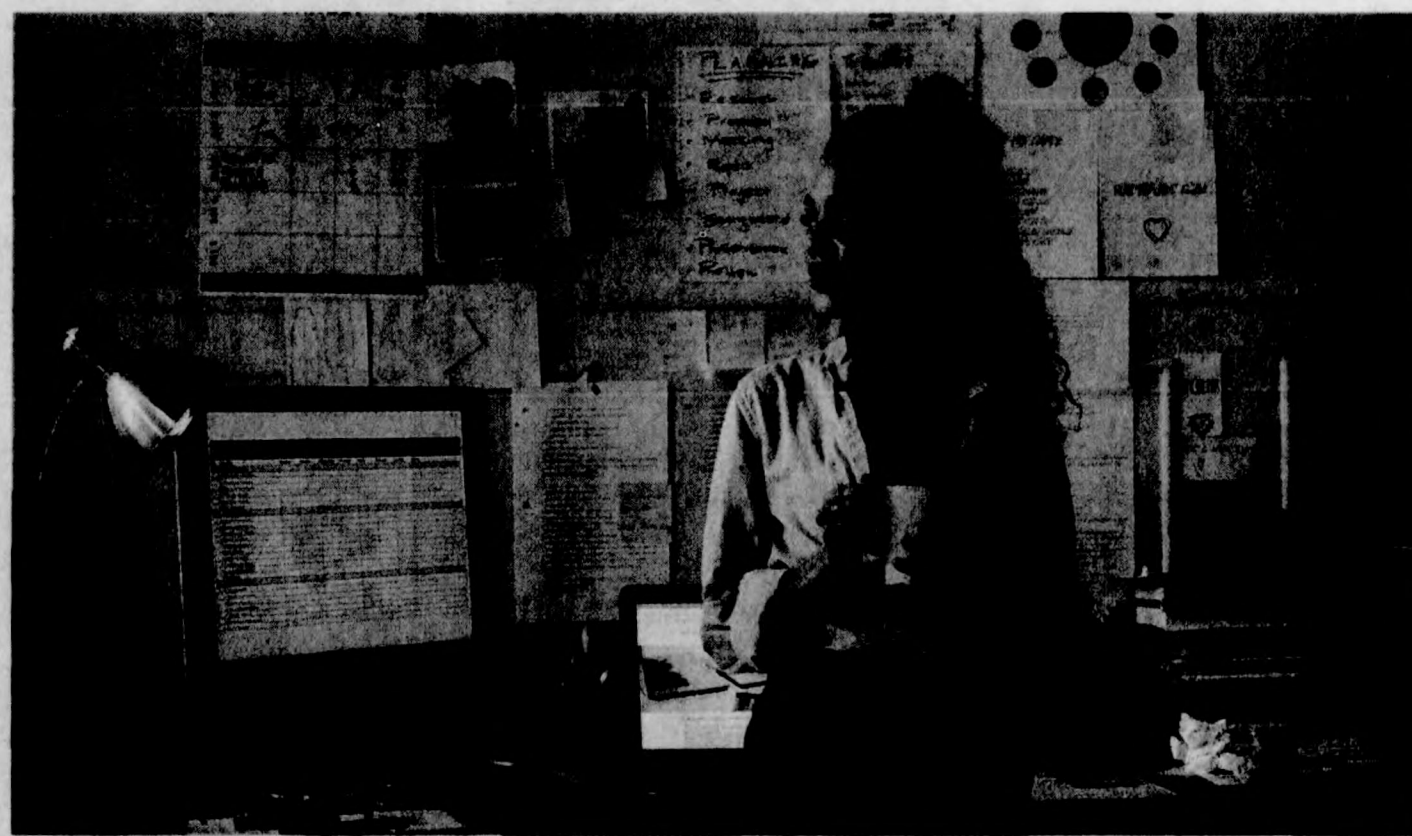
ers who do not have wiggle room on salary offerings.

- **Life insurance:** Many employers contract with life insurance companies to offer their employees discounted rates on life insurance premiums. Employees typically pay these costs out of pocket, but the employer facilitates the relationship with the insurance broker.

- **Retirement savings:** Employers may offer pensions or other retirement savings plans such as 401(k) and 403(b) accounts. Employees contribute a percentage of their salaries and employers may make matching or discretionary contributions as well.

- **Flex scheduling/remote work:** Many employers recognize the advantage of allowing employees to work from home all or a portion of the week. An alternate work schedule also may be offered to help employees. With an alternate work schedule, employees may eschew the traditional 9 to 5 schedule for an 8 to 4 or even 11 to 7 schedule. Flexibility is something employees covet, as it can help them achieve a work/life balance.

These are just some of the benefits professionals can consider as they search for a new job. Additional benefits include bonuses, stock options and tuition reimbursement.



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