AUBURN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE
248-370-9402

MARCH 2016
(03-01-15)

03 Public Accuracy Test, 10:00 a.m., City Clerk’s Office
07 City Council, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆ DATE CHANGE
08 Board of Review, 9:00 a.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
08 Tax Increment Finance Authority, 4:00 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
10 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆ CANCELED
14 Board of Review, 9 a.m. – noon; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
14 Auburn Hills Historical Society, 7:00 p.m., Auburn Hills Public Library 📚
15 Board of Review, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
15 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room ◆
16 Beautification Advisory Commission, 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room ◆
16 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆
21 Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m., Admin Conference Room ❖
24 Library Board, 7:00 p.m., Auburn Hills Public Library 📚
28 City Council, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber ◆

◆ City Council Chamber (Conf. Rm.) – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
❖ Administrative Conference Room – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
♀ Public Safety Building – 1899 N. Squirrel Road
♂ Community Center – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
● Department of Public Services (DPS) – 1500 Brown Road
caffold Fieldstone Golf Course - 1984 Taylor Road
Library - 3400 Seyburn Drive
♀ Downtown City Offices – 3395 Auburn Road, Suite A
📚 University Center, 3350 Auburn Road, Main Floor, Classroom AHUC-02
The City of Auburn Hills  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Monday, March 7, 2016 • 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  ♦  1827 N. Squirrel Road ♦ Auburn Hills MI  
248-370-9402 ♦ www.auburnhills.org

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS
   5a. Presentation - Dr. Rawashdeh and the Oakland University Loon Copter Team
   5b. Motion – Appointment of Carla Withers to the Beautification Advisory Commission
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. CONSENT AGENDA
   All items listed are considered to be routine by the City council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
   9a. Motion – Approve Liquor License Renewals 2016/2017
   9b. Motion – Request to Authorize Drafting of Fire Millage Ballot Language
10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL
11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT
12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Labor Negotiations
13. ADJOURNMENT

City Council meeting minutes are on file in the City Clerk’s office. ♦ NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 370-9402 or the City Manager’s Office at 370-9440 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.
CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Mayor McDaniel, Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, Verbeke
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Police Chief Olko, Deputy Fire Chief Macias, Assistant City Manager Grice, City Clerk Kowal, Community Development Director Cohen, DPW Deputy Director Herczeg, Lt. Gagnon, City Engineer Juidici, City Attorney Beckerleg
44 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4a. Regular City Council – February 8, 2016
Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Mitchell.
RESOLVED: To approve the February 8, 2016 City Council meeting minutes.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Resolution No. 16.02.021 Motion Carried (7–0)

4b. City Council Workshop – February 8, 2016
Moved by Hammond; Seconded by Verbeke.
RESOLVED: To approve the February 8, 2016 City Council Workshop minutes.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Resolution No. 16.02.022 Motion Carried (7–0)

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS
5a. Presentation - Kevin Lao from Google, Inc. of the Google eCity Award
Mr. Tanghe introduced Kevin Lao, sales manager for Google, Inc. and also a past intern for the City of Auburn Hills.
Mr. Lao explained the annual Google e-City Award recognizes the strongest on-line business community in each state; considered by Google to be the digital capitals of America. Google worked with an independent research firm, Ipsos, a strong leader in global research, to analyze the strength of local small businesses and cities in all 50 states. The City of Auburn Hills, Michigan, is among the ranks of American cities in the digital economy.

5b. Presentation – Courage and Bravery Award – Jaxson McHugh
Deputy Fire Chief Macias explained eight year old Jaxson McHugh called 9-1-1 when he saw his mother having a seizure. He knew how to make the call, though his mother's phone was locked. He was able to answer the questions dispatcher Monica Church asked and remained on the line until emergency personnel arrived. Prior to transporting mom to the hospital, Jaxon quickly made sure he had his house keys and the car was put inside. Jaxon's actions resulted in a positive outcome for his mother. The Fire Department is pleased to recognize Jaxon McHugh for taking quick action in coming to the aid of his mother.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT
Thomas Coolman, 848 Chase Way Blvd., thanked Mr. Kittle for his presentation at the Council workshop, noting he likes the Munetrix program. He supports a tax increase that he believes is long overdue for the fire department. He would hate to see residents paying for children to participate in programs; there are those that cannot afford the extra expense and should only be a last resort.
Tyson Brown, 3097 Waukegan Street, was contacted by a representative of ITC, the electrical transmission company who is replacing lines on the north side of Waukegan. He was informed the trees will be clear-cut and fencing will be removed over the next six months. He is upset the City had not notified the residents of the magnitude or impact this work will have on them and the use of their back yards. He isn’t sure if the City is aware of this; generally the residents are notified by the City of work taking place in the neighborhoods. He doesn’t like being pressured into signing a waiver allowing ITC into his backyard.

Mayor McDaniel stated he will investigate; ITC generally notifies the City of work taking place, but isn’t sure how ITC notifies the residents.

Phil Harrison, Commander of VFW Post 143, Auburn Hills, invited City Council to attend the March 1, 2016 meeting, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Post 143, which was launched in 1941 by a group of World War I veterans. A number of dignitaries will be at the meeting to celebrate the first 75 years. The Auburn Hills fire department is almost as old as the American Legion post; the American Legion petitioned Pontiac Township to declare the now known as Auburn Hills a fire district, having enough residents for the declaration. American Legion Post 143 helped purchase the first fire equipment needed to establish the first fire station in this area. There are other events planned later in the year celebrating the 75 years, including an event on June 11th and another on September 10th, both expected to be very large and exciting.

7. CONSENT AGENDA
All items listed are considered to be routine by the City council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Mr. Kittle requested Item 7c. be removed from the Consent Agenda.

7a. Board and Commission Minutes
   7a.4. Planning Commission – February 3, 2016
   7a.5. Joint Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and Tax Increment Finance Authority – February 9, 2016
   7a.6. Tax Increment Finance Authority – February 9, 2016

7b. Motion – Approve Purchase of Replacement 60 inch Zero Turn Commercial Mower
   RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of one Hustler Super Z HD Model 934323 Zero Turn Mower with installed collector from Munn Tractor and Lawn, Inc., 3700 Lapeer Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326 for $14,317.10. Funding is provided from the Fleet Machinery and Equipment account 661-442-977.001.

7d. Motion – Approve I.T. Service Contract Modification
   RESOLVED: To approve the proposed I.T. Service Contract Modification with Logicalis, Inc., reducing the monthly payment from $24,000 per month to $19,000 per month effective March 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019, and further to authorize the City Manager to execute this contract modification.

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Burmeister.
   RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda Items 7a., 7b., and 7d.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
   No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.023 Motion Carried (7–0)

7c. Motion – Approve Resolution Prohibiting U-Turn on Southbound Baldwin Road near McDonalds
   Mr. Kittle asked if the prohibited turn area will only be striped, with no construction to the island.

Lt. Gagnon explained there will be signage and road striping prohibiting a U-turn at that location. The RCOC has agreed, if this is successful, that the island curbing may be extended. The U-turn is primarily used by the Lake Village apartment residents to access I-75 entrance ramps. There was a mall traffic study conducted over the holiday shopping season, and those making the U-turn did not yield to those turning right like they should, thus creating traffic backups. This is a county road; they have jurisdiction over the road, however, RCOC explained having a resolution from City Council asking the U-turn be prohibited at the location can make the process much easier. The final decision is made by the RCOC, but they have agreed to prohibit the U-turn. Vehicles will have to travel about 150 yards to the next turn-around, to make the U-turn.

Ms. Verbeke agrees this is a good move, but hopes warnings will be given to drivers, since many don’t visit the mall frequently.

Mr. Knight believes the motion should state City Council adopt a resolution recommending the change, not approving the change. Mr. Beckerleg concurred.

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Mitchell.
   RESOLVED: To adopt a resolution recommending U-turns be prohibited on southbound Baldwin Road at the entrance to Great Lakes Crossing Mall near McDonalds. Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Burmeister.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.024 Motion Carried (7–0)

8. OLD BUSINESS

8a. Motion – Accept Quarterly Investment Report / Presentation by Asset Strategies

Ms. Schulz explained the quarterly investment report was changed to provide City Council with an ‘at-a-glance’ review of managed cash. Staff has been working with Asset Strategies to develop a summary report within the detailed quarterly report, replacing the report staff has been creating. This will eliminate duplicating quarterly reporting and ensure accurate reporting. The result is a report that will be presented by George Vitta of Asset Strategies, which meets the goal of providing City Council a comprehensive and useful quarterly snapshot; the full quarterly report is always available for review.

George Vitta explained the snapshot of the quarter is found on three pages, with the first page showing charts of where the City stands. On page two, The Executive Summary reflects the excellent results over the last six years. Many municipal treasurers buy either CD’s from local institutions or buy treasurer securities which isn’t a good thing. It’s good from the standpoint that it’s guaranteed for the full face value, but the interest rates are next to nothing. Over the last six years, treasury bills have provided .08% return. The City’s cash investment program has provided a 0.87% return. On the third page, the Conclusions are all very positive. There were some unrealized losses in the fourth quarter of 2015, primarily due to the Federal Reserve raising interest rates by a quarter of point causing a little turmoil in the short term bond market.

The investment manager, Insight Investment, uses a buy-and-hold type of strategy; a little bit of patience is typically rewarded. The investment activity reflects the last quarter and the trailing year. The active cash management is ahead of the return and risk objectives. All of the investment guidelines, policies and objectives are being followed. Interest rates were raised by a quarter point, and will likely be raised more in 2016.

Mr. Vitta confirmed for Mr. Knight that not all of the investments are guaranteed.

Mr. Knight stated the City isn’t investing more than half a million dollars in CD’s because that is all the federal government guarantees. He would put $1million in each of 10 CD’s, because of the rate of return. The rates of return for CD’s is greater than other investments. He is also terribly disappointed with the County’s investments, they are doing poorly. He realizes the investment policy limits the amount the City can invest in CD’s because of the guarantees. He suggests revisiting the Policy and make changes to allow more money be invested in CD’s.

Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To receive and file Asset Strategies 2015 4TH Quarter Aggregate Cash Management report, Executive Summary Table and Investment Performance Evaluation Conclusions.

Ms. Mitchell believes Mr. Knight’s comments do warrant some research.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke

No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.025 Motion Carried (7–0)

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Approve Rezoning from R-1A One Family Residential to R-1 One Family Residential District/ Villa Montclair

9b. Motion – Approve Combined PUD Step 1 – Qualification / Step 2 – Site Plan, & Tree Removal Permit/ Villa Montclair

With approval from Mayor McDaniel, Mr. Cohen will review both 9a. & 9b. together.

Mr. Cohen explained City Council approved the Northeast Corner Master Plan at the meeting held November 23, 2015, and because of that Plan amendment, this is a request for the rezoning. The rezoning is necessary for the proposed PUD, Step 1, Qualification and Step 2, Site Plan and Tree Removal. Both Step 1 and Step 2 meet all the requirements and are ready for City Council approval. Proposed are 88, detached single family homes; 36% of the site will preserved as open space; age friendly housing options; higher architectural quality; on site amenities such as a walking trail, club house and community garden and all garages will be prepped for electrical vehicle charging.

Brendan Guest, Moceri Company, explained this project reflects the City’s philosophy of aging in place. This is a 55+ community, with 88 homes, clubhouse with pool and community garden.

Replying to Mr. Kittle, Mr. Guest stated the average square footage for the units is between 1,600 and 1,900 square feet.

Ms. Verbeke, referencing Planning Commission minutes and Mr. Pierce questioning no emergency access to the northern portion of the property, asked if there was any further discussion or an amendment to the plans.

Mr. Guest stated the purpose of the boulevard entrance to the community is to allow two points of emergency access. The the north end topography makes it very difficult to have access at that location.

Mr. Kittle asked if the streets and property will be privately owned.

Mr. Guest explained the streets will be owned and maintained by the homeowners association; the streets are 27 feet wide.

Mr. Cohen confirmed City streets are 27 feet wide. This site plan mirrors Arbor Cove regarding setbacks and street widths.

Regarding Mr. Knight’s concerns regarding sidewalks, Mr. Cohen stated there are sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Ms. Verbeke noted generally a PUD project is requested because of zoning concerns, and asked what those concerns are.
Mr. Cohen stated there aren’t many deviations from the zoning ordinance for this PUD. This PUD has allowed for open spaces. A PUD requires a development agreement, which provides more control of a project by the City long term. There are a couple minor wetland setback deviations and some minor setbacks for a few of the homes.

Mr. Guest stated this project should be underway by late summer or early fall of this year, with first occupancy by the fall of 2017. The base price of a home will be about $275,000 and noted there is market demand for this type of home.

**Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Mitchell.**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and rezone parcel 14-01-100-018 from R-1A, One Family Residential to R-1, One Family Residential district to facilitate the Villa Montclair PUD. The rezoning shall be referenced as Ordinance No. 16-873.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.026 Motion Carried (7–0)

**Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Knight.**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the PUD Step One – Qualification / Step Two – Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit for the Villa Montclair PUD subject to staff and consultants’ conditions.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.027 Motion Carried (7–0)

9c. Motion – Approve Rezoning from B-2, General Business to I-1, Light Industrial District/ Northern Sign Company, Inc.

9d. Motion – Approve Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit / Northern Sign Company, Inc.

*With approval from Mayor McDaniel, Mr. Cohen will review both 9c. & 9d. together.*

Mr. Cohen explained this is a request for rezoning property on Walton Boulevard; three parcels and part of a fourth, from B-2 General Business, to I-1, Light Industrial. There is a mixture of zonings in this area. The request is to construct an 18,585 sq. ft. light industrial building on a 1.44 acres located on the north side of Walton Boulevard between North Opdyke Road and Lapeer Road.

Mr. Knight was curious if the two zonings, being so close to each other, are compatible.

Mr. Cohen stated there is a mixture of B-2 and Light Industrial zoning along Opdyke Road; the two zonings are almost interchangeable. This business is very similar to Harmon Glass located across the street, manufacturing a product as well as selling that product. This will meet the goals of the City's plans. The building will be attractive with good landscaping.

Ms. Hammond asked how many residential homes are in that area, and how many of those homes will remain, and if this business and rezoning will impact those homes.

Mr. Cohen explained there are 15 to 18 homes, some owner occupied, some rentals and some used as businesses. This development will be required to meet all the landscaping requirements as well as other zoning requirements. All of this area has been zoned Commercial and has been for quite some time, so the intent of this area has been for commercial development.

**Rick Kielbasa,** Northern Sign owner explained the business has been in its current location for better than 50 years. He purchased the company and expanded the facility, but has since outgrown the expansion. He has been looking for an existing building over the past four years but wasn’t able to find a suitable location. This location is ideal for the new building, as remaining on the same road seemed quite logical. He has received support from adjacent property and business owners for this rezoning and construction.

Ms. Verbeke is concerned with the traffic flow and the property elevation.

Mr. Kielbasa explained there won’t be a high volume of traffic, and he doesn’t believe there will be any traffic issues. He confirmed for Ms. Verbeke it was a huge disappointment that he couldn’t have the sign he wanted for his business, but understands the ordinance requirements.

Mr. Burmeister was pleased that there will be no outside storage, as addressed at the Planning Commission. The new facility will be large enough for all the vehicles and equipment to be kept inside.

Mr. Kielbasa stated the business starts at 7:00 a.m. and is generally done by 7:00 p.m. This is a smaller business, so there aren’t a great number of trucks visiting the site. The loading docks are behind the building and there maybe two or three deliveries a day.

**Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Burmeister.**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the rezoning of parcels 14-11-353-029, 14-11-353-030, 14-11-353-031, and the north part of parcel 14-11-353-032 from B-2, General Business to I-1, Light Industrial district.

**VOTE:** Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.028 Motion Carried (7–0)
Moved by Knight; Seconded by Mitchell.
RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the Site Plan and Tree Removal Permit for Northern Sign Company, Inc. subject to staff and consultants’ conditions.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Resolution No. 16.02.029 Motion Carried (7–0)
9e. Motion – Approve Site Plan and Special Land Use Permits / Auburn Marketplace
Mr. Cohen explained this is a new retail plaza, where the current Palm Palace is located; the Palm Palace will be demolished. There will not be any direct access to the site from either Squirrel Road or University Drive. Accessing the site will be from the existing access points of the strip center located on University Drive and the Applebee’s drive from Squirrel Road. There is a proposed drive through that exceeds the ordinance requirement of 10 stacking spaces. The outside seating and drive through requires a Special Land Use permit, and the plan meets all zoning requirements.

Doraid Markus, Markus Management Group explained this shopping plaza will house five or six tenants, anchored by Starbucks Coffee. The City staff has been tremendous to work with, very pleasant and easy. The look for the plaza is very dramatic and they hope to wow the passerby’s.

Mr. Knight likes the project but is concerned with the limited access to the site.

Mr. Marcus stated he and the City worked at length to determine the best ingress/egress to the site and it was decided having access on Squirrel Road would impede right lane traffic turning onto University Drive. He would have liked a direct curb-cut into the property, but the traffic concerns were the bigger issue.

Mr. Knight suggested extending the right turn lane on southbound Squirrel Road, further north, allowing direct access to the site. He wants to see this plaza succeed.

Mr. Tanghe explained this was discussed at length and decided to keep the ingress/egress where it is currently located. There are hundreds of vehicles passing through that area, and having an additional curb cut would greatly impede the traffic flow.

Ms. Verbeke agrees with Mr. Knight, the lack of a curb cut will be a hindrance to the businesses located in the plaza. There should be access from Squirrel Road to enter the plaza.

Mr. Markus would be willing to change the plan and add another entrance if approved.

Police Chief Olko explained this was discussed with the City engineers and looking at the existing traffic crash patterns, an additional curb cut will be highly problematic during peak rush hour. The pattern is well known by the drivers traveling from the east to I-75 and believes a change in that pattern will create numerous crashes.

Mr. Knight stated he would only like to see traffic entering the site from Squirrel Road, but not exiting onto Squirrel Road.

Ms. Hammond stated people don’t pay attention to signage, noting how the right lane ends at Seyburn and again up by the trailer park, when people suddenly move over when the lane ends. She believes the plan should remain as is.

Mr. Kittle noted travelers will be decelerating in the right turn lane, already, when making the turn onto University Drive.

Mr. Tanghe suggested approving the site plan as is and looking at another access point in the future. Recommendations made by the engineers and the experts shouldn’t be dismissed.

Ms. Mitchell agreed this is a good development, and suggested investigating an additional ingress prior to the businesses opening so drivers aren’t surprised later with a new access point.

Mr. Markus stated he can amend the drawings and bring them back for approval. He too, would like to see an access point directly into the plaza from Squirrel Road. The vision was to keep curb cuts on Squirrel Road to a minimum.

Mayor McDaniel suggested approving the site plan and allowing Mr. Markus to amend the plan and possibly include a new access point.

Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Knight.
RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the Special Land Use Permit and Site Plan for Auburn Hills Marketplace to allow the construction of a shopping center with a drive-through facility and outdoor seating area subject to staff and consultants’ conditions.

Ms. Verbeke asked for clarification, if this is site plan is approved as is and allowing Mr. Markus and staff to make changes for an access point.

Mr. Markus suggested tabling this plan until he amends the site plan.

Mr. Cohen suggested approving the site plan as is and allowing an amendment to the site plan be done administratively and reporting back to City Council the solution.

The motion includes the following:
Staff will meet with the Petitioner to review options and opportunities for a curb cut from southbound Squirrel Road into the site. Staff will inform City Council of the results.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
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Resolution No. 16.02.030

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Knight:
- The Avondale School Board unanimously approved open enrollment for grades K-8, for 200 students. Currently there are approximately 170 students from Pontiac attending the alternate education high school; he suggested maybe the residents in the north end of the City would like to investigate having their children participate in the Avondale open enrollment.
- He would like to know the cost of repairs when a new item is being considered for purchase. Memos from the departments are not being specific and he’d like to know repair costs versus new purchases.
- Suggested a note or acknowledgement from the City on the many accomplishments of Oakland University, such as the basketball team being in second place, or the winners of the drone contest. There are many other accomplishments as well, that should be acknowledged.

Mr. Tanghe stated the drone engineering team will be visiting City Council soon.

Mr. Kittle:
- At the Northeast Planning Session, he was talking with neighbors and a community garden was suggested for the Kensington site.
- With spring nearing, he would like to know the clean-up and finishing plans for north Squirrel Road and a timeline of completion.

Mr. Burmeister:
- Understood Captain Aguayo retired, after 20 years of service with Fire Department and asked if there are any plans for recognizing him and celebrating his retirement.
  Assistant Chief Macias stated when Chief Manning returns.

Ms. Verbeke:
- Regarding Mr. Brown’s concerns with the electric transmission company, she wasn’t aware of any work being done.
  Mayor McDaniel noted Mr. Grice sent notification to City Council.
- Reminded everyone to vote March 8th.
- Loves the idea of community gardens, though she isn’t sure if the location Mr. Kittle mentioned is ideal.

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT - none

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- As green space is being filled in the City, redevelopment opportunities exist such as what Northern Sign is planning. The structure on Squirrel Road, property the City owns, is now a vacant parcel of land and ready for redevelopment.

Ms. Kowal noted the City Council meeting for March will be March 7th and March 28th. There have been over 1,000 absentee ballots issued thus far for the Presidential Primary. There is more participation in this election than the past few. Absentee ballots are available by contacting the Clerk’s office and the Clerk’s office will remain open until 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 5th for those needing an absentee ballot.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of Attorney Opinion

Moved by Verbeke: Seconded by Hammond
RESOLVED: To adjourn to Executive Session.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 16.02.031

Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:38 pm. Resumed regular session at 10:02 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

___________________________________ ________________________________
Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor Terri Kowal, City Clerk
Mayor McDaniel announced that this workshop is a continuation of the one held on February 8th, concerning the Five Year Financial Forecast. Mr. Tanghe reminded Council of the City’s decreasing fund balance, and explained that Councilman Kittle is the President of Munetrix, a company that works with both long and short term finances. Mr. Kittle will be reviewing different scenarios that will impact the fund balance.

Mr. Kittle began by asking Council Members what their goal is for a fund balance in 2020, now that they have had two weeks to consider all that was discussed at the last meeting. It needs to be a realistic goal, and one that can be agreed upon. The last meeting had goals from 25% to 50%. As a reminder, the SEMCOG area fund balance average is about 38%, and State-wide it is about 42%. Based on the last meeting, Scenario D was deleted.

Looking at the other scenarios, by eliminating items like the public relations contract, making changes in the IT Department and the Fire Department, and counting on the bonds being paid off for Fieldstone, we would be at about a 10% fund balance, up from a negative 5.2%.

Scenario B shows incremental savings, making the fund balance 20.4% just by transferring the 911 calls to Oakland County.

In addition, costs such as “pay to play”, and moving the Fire Department hours to 24 per shift will add to the percentages, and these are displayed in Scenario C, if we deleted the Special Assessment District (SAD) the balance drops to 37.2% in 2020. If a Fire Millage of .74 mills is added, the balance would be at 43% in 2020.
Discussion took place regarding a fund balance level of agreement. Mr. Kittle reminded Council that this year there is a 73% fund balance. We should consider whether or not we’d want to use bonds for road projects, as 2017 is going to have many projects on the books.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell feels she could be comfortable with 30 – 35%, because we have excellent credit in the event of a costly emergency.

Mayor McDaniel would love to have a 50% fund balance, but realizes 35 to 50% would be more realistic.

Council Members Burmeister, Hammond, and Verbeke stated they would consider 35%.

Mr. Tanghe remarked that circumstances can change at any time, with dark stores, empty big boxes, Michigan Tax Tribunal, shared revenues and Personal Property Tax issues influencing the finances of the City.

Mr. Kittle stated he could live with a 35% balance, but he would like 40% if possible.

Mr. Tanghe introduced the consideration of a Fire Millage. He reviewed the fund balance summaries for General Fund through 2020. As currently budgeted, the percentages are at levels from 64.5% this year down to -4.6% in 2020 if we don’t make changes.

The Fire Department expenses are $3,725,626.00 for 2016, with revenues projected for $3,602,111.00. In 2020, the projected expenses are $3,819,253.00 with revenues expected to be $3,457,172.00. There will be a net deficit each year, ranging from ($123,515.00) this year to ($362,081.00) in 2020. In fact, the City’s general operating millage has been subsidizing the Fire Department for at least 15 years.

If the City were to seek a Fire Department millage, the maximum requested would be .74 mills, which would equate to $1,158,101.00 in 2017, decreasing per Headlee to $1,100,248.00 in 2020.

The Auburn Hills Fire Department runs at a high rate of efficiency. Considering the magnitude of the assets that are protected, both human and structural, our staffing levels are very low. We protect:

- 6 billion in taxable value
- 23,000 population
- Weekday daytime population of about 100,000 people
- Significant retail and tourism segment
- Significant sports and entertainment business
- Significant business, industry and technology segment
- Four educational campuses with 34,000 students

We have been doing this with only 12 full time firefighters. We are in the process of adding two more full time for a total of 14. We should aspire to be a department of 18 to 20 full time, as we operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year.

If the Fire Department millage were passed, the fund balance summary with a .74 millage would be 64.5% in 2016 (the funds would not begin to be collected until 2017); extending out to 2020 with a fund balance of 12.2%. These figures only assume the millage funds, without any other changes considered.

Mr. Tanghe went on to explain that Zillow, an online home selling site, reports the median sales price for a home in Auburn Hills is about $149,000. For a home of that value, the annual cost for the Fire Department millage would be $52.50 per year.

He will be bringing a request to proceed with a millage question for the Fire Department on the
August ballot at the City Council meeting on March 7. The timing is important as the Clerk must certify the language on May 10th in order to get it to the County on time.

Discussion took place among Council Members as to how we would rank among other communities in Oakland County with the additional millage. Mr. Tanghe replied we would still be among the lowest in the County.

Mr. Knight stated that he is in support of this millage request and will encourage residents to vote for it. It will only amount to a small amount for most of the households.

Mr. Burmeister agreed that he would also support this millage request, and commented that we still need additional fire fighters.

Mr. Kittle concurs that we need additional firefighters and police.

Mayor McDaniel thanked Mr. Kittle for again providing an excellent presentation, at no cost to the City.

Without objection, the workshop adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

__________________________  __________________________
Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor    Terri Kowal, City Clerk
5a. Presentation – Dr. Rawashdeh and the Oakland University Loon Copter Team

NO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE
To: City Council  
From: Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor  
Submitted: March 2, 2016  
Subject: Motion – Confirming Appointment of Carla Withers to the Beautification Advisory Commission, for a term ending December 31, 2018.

**INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

Please consider confirming the following appointment/reappointment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Term Ending Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Withers</td>
<td>Beautification Advisory Commission</td>
<td>December 31, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOTION**

Move to confirm the appointment of Carla Withers to the Beautification Advisory Commission for a term ending December 31, 2018.
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO
CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

I AM INTERESTED IN: Administrative Position with the Board

NAME: Withers Carla Ann Littles
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden)

HOME ADDRESS: 720 Provinceton Auburn Hills 48326
(Number/Street) (City/Zip) (Telephone)

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 3001 W. Big Beaver Road Troy 48084
(Number/Street) (City/Zip) (Telephone)

PLACE OF BIRTH: Detroit, MI DATE OF BIRTH:

E-MAIL ADDRESS: withers@youngbasile.com

ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES? Yes I HAVE LIVED IN AUBURN HILLS 18 YEARS

MILITARY HISTORY (include honors received): Not Applicable

CIVIC ACTIVITIES (offices held, honors, etc.): Graduated from Baker College in 1999 with honors.

LIST NAME, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THREE REFERENCES NOT RELATED TO YOU:

Denise Doherty
Myron Stewart
Vanessa Gray

EDUCATION:
High School Henry Ford High School

Business or Vocational Randolph Vocational School

College or Technical Oakland Community College and Baker College

Graduate or Profession Graduate of Oakland Community in Legal Assistant/Graduate of Baker in Business
EMployment:


Name of employing firm/owner

3001 W. Big Beaver Road

Troy, MI. 48084

(Number/Street) City/State Zip Code

Legal Assistant

Title of Position

Intellectual Property Lawfirm

Type of Business/Organization

Your Duties and Responsibilities: Provide administrative support to attorneys pertaining to intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights)

Dates of Employment: 2/21/05 to present

Previous Positions of Employment:

Company/Organization

City/State Dates of Employment

State Farm

Bloomington, Il. 2/88 to 10/98

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WISH TO INCLUDE (use separate sheet if necessary):

I am a certified Legal Assistant. I am a Notary Public. I take pride in the community that I live in and I would like to be a part of it.

IF APPOINTED, DO YOU PREFER YOUR MAIL SENT TO: Business Residence

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS FORM IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Carla A WITHERS 11-24-15

(Signature) (Date)
To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager and Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police  
Submitted: February 26, 2016  
Subject: Motion: 2016 Liquor License Renewals.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY
This is the time when City Council reviews all On-Premises Liquor Licenses within the City for renewal. If the City wishes to object to the renewal of a license, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) must receive the written objection at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of April 30th, 2016. Upon receipt of an objection from the City, the MLCC will hold an Administrative Revocation Hearing to determine if the license should be renewed or not. By State law and local ordinance the only liquor licenses that need to be renewed by City Council and the MLCC are those businesses that serve alcohol for consumption on premises.

To insure the close monitoring of LCC licenses, City Council has enacted Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances, “…to regulate and establish procedures and standards for liquor licensing in the City of Auburn Hills.” Pursuant to this ordinance, license holders pay a renewal fee to the City and are inspected by the Police, Fire, and Building Departments. The Fire Department found some minor violations at licensed liquor establishments within the City and is working with the businesses to correct the issues. The Building Department also found some minor violations and they too are working with the businesses to correct these violations. Both departments recommend approval for all establishments.

Beyond the physical inspection performed by the Police Department, we also check our computer records for the number of calls for service at each establishment and the nature of the requests. We have determined that no establishments had substantial problems with the frequency or nature of calls for service. In 2015, the Police Department conducted two (2) under age controlled buy enforcement operations. During the sting operations conducted one (1) of our Class C establishments furnished alcohol to a minor. As part of our follow-up the establishment was referred to our TIPS program (Training for Intervention Procedures), which educates bartenders and wait staff on how to recognize intoxicated individuals and what actions they are to take if they are confronted with intoxicated persons on their premises. Applebee’s declined our offer of TIPS training and elected to train their staff in-house. Our officers continue to work with area hotels and motels during prom month to prevent underage drinking at those establishments.

LICENSES OF SPECIAL NOTE
There are four (4) Class C On-Premise licenses in escrow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSEE</th>
<th>DBA</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIFA</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>3350 Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Yeomans</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>1451 Opdyke (old Mt. Jacks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stir Crazy Café-Great Lakes LLC</td>
<td>Stir Crazy</td>
<td>4248 Baldwin Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capri Concepts Mesa LLC</td>
<td>Toby Keith’s “I Love This Bar”</td>
<td>4698 Baldwin Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATIONS – 3 YEAR HISTORY

According to the MLCC and a database maintained by City departments, the following establishments have received violations:

- Alfoccino 3/3/15- Failed to Provide proof of TIPS training
- Applebee’s #8076 (Squirrel Rd) 5/9/2012- Sale to Minor-Fined
  12/18/14- Sale to Minor-Fined
- Applebee’s 12/17/15 – Sale to Minor -Pending
- Bar Louie 12/13- Sale to minor-Fined
- Buddy’s 7/15/15- Sale to minor- Fined
- Courtyard Marriott 12/18/14 – Sale to Minor-Fined
- Duffy’s 12/6/2012 Sale to Minor- Fined
- Hoop’s 5/7/2012 Sale to Minor- Fined
- Joes Crab Shack 1/26/2012 NSF Check to LCC
- Max & Erma’s 5/7/13- Failed to Provide proof of TIPS training
- On The Border 5/23/13- Sale to minor-Fined
  8/26/14- NSF Check to LCC
- Red Ox 5/7/2012 Sale to Minor- Fined
- Santa Fe Café’ 12/7/2012 Sale to Minor- Fined
  11/30/2012 Sale to Minor/After hours- Fined
- Toby Keith’s 8/4/2012 furnished alcohol intoxicated person-Fined
  12/6/2012 Sale to Minor-Fined
  4/16/2014 Sale to Minor-Fined
  12/4/14- NSF Check to LCC
  6/18/15- NSF Check to LCC

LICENSES ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL

The following licensed establishments have met all requirements for license renewal in accordance with Police, Fire and Building department inspections and have all paid the annual license renewal fee:

- Alfoccino
- AMC Theatres
- Applebee’s #8088
- Applebee’s #8076
- BD Mongolian Barbeque
- Bar Louie
- Buddy’s Pizzeria
- Callahan Brother’s Inc.
- Chili’s Grill & Bar
- Crown Plaza O’Malley’s
- Courtyard Marriott (Hospitality Properties)
- Fieldstone Golf Course
- Fran O’Brien’s Maryland Crab House
- German American Marksman Club
- Hilton Suites
- Hill Gazette Post #141-American Legion
- Hyatt Place Hotel
- Joe’s Crab Shack
- Logan’s Roadhouse
- Longhorn Steakhouse
- Romano Macaroni Grill
- Makimoto Sushi Bar & Asian Kitchen
- Max & Erma’s Restaurant
- Miyako Japanese Steak & Seafood
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
- On The Border
- Hoops Sports and Entertainment
- Sonesta Suites
- Red Ox Tavern
- Rainforest Cafe
- Rangoli Indian Cuisine
Attached is the City Treasurer’s report on the status of all outstanding taxes, utilities or license renewal fees. The information contained in this memo is as of 3/3/2016.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends renewal of all liquor licenses for those establishments listed above that have met the City’s requirements. The below listed licenses are not recommended for approval as they have unpaid fees from one or more of the following; taxes, water bill, or renewal fees:

Duffy’s  
Palace of Auburn Hills  
Parkside Tavern  
Ciccarelli’s  
TGI Friday’s  
Lelli’s

**MOTION**

Move to recommend approval of the annual liquor licenses of those establishments that have met the licensing requirements of the City; and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2016 to consider evidence regarding the recommendation of non-renewal of a liquor license to those establishments who have not met the City’s requirements.

I CONCUR:

______________________________
Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
The following establishments have not met the requirements for license renewal due to non-payment of renewal fees, water/sewer fees, and/or taxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Real Property Taxes as of 03/03/16</th>
<th>Personal Property Taxes as of 03/03/16</th>
<th>Prior Year Personal Winter/Summer</th>
<th>Total Taxes Due</th>
<th>License Renewal Fees</th>
<th>Water &amp; Sewer</th>
<th>Total Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015 Summer</td>
<td>2015 Winter</td>
<td>2015 Summer</td>
<td>2015 Winter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciccarelli’s</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1,979.73</td>
<td>1,078.41</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3,058.14</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duffy's Irish Pub</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>4,124.34</td>
<td>295.09</td>
<td>244.45</td>
<td>543.42</td>
<td>5,207.30</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lelli’s</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palace Sports &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkside Tavern</td>
<td>9,631.75</td>
<td>8,317.52</td>
<td>1,033.13</td>
<td>855.91</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>19,838.31</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGI Friday's</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>8,015.73</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>8,015.73</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Status as of 03/03/16

Grand Total Delinquencies: 72,241.50
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; James Manning, Fire Chief
Submitted: March 2, 2016
Subject: Request to Authorize Drafting of Fire Millage Ballot Language

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Over the last several months, City Council has been discussing the City’s long-term finances in depth, particularly after struggling with the loss of more than $1 billion in taxable value post-2008. In particular, the Fire millage has not paid for Fire operations in many, many years; and has relied upon the City’s General Operating Millage to fund its operations. This was achievable when the general fund was very financially stable and had high balances of cash on hand. This is no longer the case.

As you know, several actions have taken place over the last several years to curb operating costs. Many of these costs are related to maintaining necessary personnel. Let’s face it, we are in the service delivery business and the majority of our expenses surround compensation. We have completed the difficult tasks of closing defined benefit pension plans, substantially reducing the cost-of-living adjustments on those plans, have converted to define contribution plans (401k) nearly two decades ago, and are collecting twenty-percent of health care premiums from our employees toward their employer-provided health care. This is just an example of a few of the many things we have completed to cut costs.

Our Fire Department has gone through a thorough evaluation over the last couple of years. Chief Manning has done an exceptional job of determining needs and changing the way in which we have operated the department. We have held true to some long-standing traditions in the department such as maintaining a supplemental paid-on-call workforce for many years. That system in the last couple of years is no longer serving us well and has simply become a cost that we can no longer support. Significant changes in 2016 to Fire operations have reduced the department’s reliability on the general fund this year, but we are still operating at a loss that is budgeted at $120,000. We have adopted a new transport model that is generating income, and we have re-worked the paid-on-call system to be a permanent part-time scheduled shift system. Through greater efficiencies and dollars saved, we are now able to increase our Firefighter ranks in 2016 by two additional full-time personnel. One new Firefighter/Paramedic has recently joined us and a second Firefighter/Paramedic is also about to join our team. This will raise our full-time count to fourteen (14) Firefighters. Ideally, that count should be eighteen to twenty. Alternative staffing and scheduling methods could keep that number closer to eighteen. Considering all of the assets that this City is responsible to protect, including large entertainment, retail, tourism, education, and business populations that boost our nighttime population from 23,000 to a daytime population of over 100,000, we cover this City 24/7/365 with only fourteen (14) full time personnel, supplemented with part time personnel. This quite frankly, should not continue.

The Auburn Hills City Charter provides for a maximum Fire operating millage of 2.5 mills. Due to the increased taxable values of the community back in its high growth years, that millage, under the state’s Headlee amendment, was forced to be rolled back. The current millage rate for Fire operations is 1.76 mills, a rate that is levied on a total Citywide taxable value of less than $1.6 billion; down from less than a decade ago when it exceeded $2.6 billion. In other words, we continue to grow, but we can’t keep up with that growth when the law only allows us to increase taxable values and therefore, tax revenues, at the rate of inflation which this year, is three-tenths of one percent. Headlee made it certain that communities could not receive extraordinary increases to revenue during high-growth years by capping growth at the annual rate of inflation. What it never took into account was something like the crash of 2008. We cannot grow our way out of this funding shortfall.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

After now having completed a significant analysis of our finances both now and including a five-year projection, Staff recommends that the City place on the ballot for August 2, 2016, a ballot question asking the citizens to support an increase to the Fire millage by way of a Headlee override, from the current rate of 1.76 mills to a rate of 2.5 mills, thus increasing the
Fire millage rate by .74 mills. It is important to note that the City is not requesting a millage rate that exceeds what has always been provided for by the City Charter, but to allow us to override the current millage to levy the 2.5 mills that is permitted by the Charter. A ballot question will need to be drafted by the City Attorney for review and approval by the City Clerk’s office on or before May 10, 2016. In turn, the City Clerk will submit the ballot language to the County Clerk’s office for their required approval on or before May 12, 2016. County Clerk’s approval will be necessary for the ballot question to come before the qualified citizen voters of Auburn Hills at the election held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

MOTION
Move to direct the City Manager and City Attorney, in conjunction with the City Clerk’s office, to formulate a ballot question for the August 2, 2016 election seeking a Headlee override of the Fire millage from 1.76 mills to 2.5 mills (an increase of .74 mills), with the 2.5 mill levy being the maximum allowable by Charter. The ballot language shall return to City Council for review and proposed acceptance on Monday, March 28, 2016.

I CONCUR: _______________________

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER
Oakland University students honored

Two recognized for ingenuity outside classroom

By Anne Runkle
arunkle@oakpress.com
@AnneRunkle on Twitter

Two Oakland University Honors College students recently were recognized for showing exceptional ingenuity outside the classroom.

Alexa Ruhfass of Bloomfield Hills and Brian Neumeyer of Romeo each received awards sponsored by Shinola, the Detroit-based company known for its handcrafted products, including watches, bicycles and leather goods.

Ruhfass has displayed ingenuity through her gifts as a textile artist, the company said. Each semester, the liberal studies major expresses her “thoughts, opinions, feelings and learning outcomes in knitted forms.” Her inspirations for these creations include her volunteer experiences at the Student Organic Farm and Hoop House on OU’s campus, as well as a liberal studies course focused on the challenges facing the city of Detroit. Her Detroit-inspired creation – a turquoise shawl – is especially close to her heart.

“This is truly my favorite, like the city I choose to be my second home,” Ruhfass wrote in a letter to the Shinola Ingenuity Award Com-

Students
FROM PAGE 1

mittee. “I like to express a ‘second look beauty’ with my artwork, the same astonishing beauty Detroit evoked in me 22 years ago when I came here from Germany.”

Neumeyer, a senior mechanical engineering major, was awarded for his work at Dataspread Inc. in Troy. With a knack for increasing efficiency, Neumeyer has contributed to numerous company projects, including the Baxter Mobility Base, an intelligent mobile robotic platform capable of observing its surroundings and moving with a payload autonomously. In one of his most recent projects, Neumeyer redesigned and manufactured a part for a water jet, which uses high-pressure water and abrasive to cut through materials.

In a letter of recommendation, Neumeyer’s employer wrote, “When designing a component, (Brian) considers not only how it will work, but how it could possibly fail... along the way, he optimizes the part so that the end result is a high-quality component.”

Ruhfass and Neumeyer will meet with Shinola executives, tour the company’s facilities in Detroit and receive Shinola products.

“Detroit and this region have an incredible legacy of ingenuity, and we’re happy to play a small role in helping recognize these talented students who will no doubt go on to advance our community and the world through their work,” said Jacques Panis, president of Shinola. “We look forward to welcoming Alexa and Brian to our headquarters and factory in Detroit to meet our team and show them our operations and learn more about their skills and interests.”
Fifth-graders build automotive prototype with engineers

Auburn Elementary School fifth-graders had the opportunity to consult with professional engineers when they designed and constructed an automotive prototype out of construction paper, plastic wheels, a nozzle, some tape and a balloon.

They even held a mock news conference for the unveiling of the car at the school, which is part of the Avondale School District. The program, A World in Motion, was founded by the Society of Automotive Engineers more than 25 years ago. The goal is to bring science, technology, engineering and math disciplines into the classroom in a way that students can connect them to the real world.

For Auburn Elementary Principal BJ McCabe, A World in Motion is the perfect match for the elementary school classroom.

“It complements the projects-based, real-world context learning that is at the heart of our curriculum,” he said.

Mike Hartrick, an engineer with FCA US in Auburn Hills, volunteered to bring A World in Motion projects to Auburn Elementary. He sees the value of teaching the students about science, technology and mathematics as well as showing them the real-world applications of the lessons.

“It begins with working with the students on their understanding of force and motion, including Newton’s first, second, and third laws of motion,” Hartrick explained. “Once we begin construction of the Jet Toy — or ‘car’ — and after we test it, modify it, and retest it, the lessons advance beyond the science and methodology. At that point, the students are experiencing what real engineers go through when they design and test and modify in the real-world setting of design and manufacturing.”

After the lesson about the laws of motion, the engineers lead the students through building a chassis for their “car” and then construction of their balloon/nozzle motor.

“We review force and motion principles and then the students attach the motors and begin testing their cars,” said Hartrick. The first round of testing, which measures the effects of different nozzle sizes and mass added to the car, is done with computer simulations and allows for the engineers to engage the students in a discussion of “what ifs?”

—Anne Runkle

AUBURN HILLS

Downed power line closes Dutton Road

A downed power line closed Dutton Road just east of Squirrel Road near where four communities meet on Monday.

Auburn Hills police reported the closure at about 5:30 a.m. Shortly after 9 a.m., the roadway was still closed with police, fire and DTE workers on the scene.

Westbound traffic had to re-route through neighborhoods or track back to Adams Road.
Veronica Mitchell

Veronica Mitchell, General Motors senior engineer in vehicle definition and balance, received a Modern Day Technology Award at the 2016 Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference, held recently in Philadelphia. General Motors Diversity Communications team made the announcement. Mitchell was recognized for her work at GM, and for her impact in creating new opportunities for women and minorities in the automotive industry.

She started at GM in 1994 as a quality manufacturing engineer. She has held many positions of increasing responsibility in manufacturing, validation and product engineering.

Mitchell has a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering, from Michigan Technological University, and an executive master of business administration in leadership studies from Baker College Center for Graduate Studies. Mitchell, an Auburn Hills resident, is an Auburn Hills City Council member and serves as liaison to the planning commission.
Organization offering bags for safe drug disposal

By Paul Kampe
paul.kampe@oakpress.com
@paulkampe on Twitter

A new product is making the disposal of prescription drugs quick, anonymous and environmentally friendly.

Health officials say the bags also reduce the likelihood of prescription drug abuse.

The Deterra Drug Deactivation system is a carbon-based pouch which deactivates unused pharmaceuticals in pill, liquid or patch form when filled with water.

“One of the reasons people become addicted to opiates is easy access to prescription drugs,” said Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities Communication Manager Kim Urbanowski said.

“People love them. The reality is ... some people don’t feel comfortable taking their medications to a police department.”

The alliance discourages disposing of medications in the garbage, sink or toilet. Medications cannot be reactivated once the Deterra system neutralizes their chemicals, Urbanowski added.

Available in several sizes, the bags are 98-percent effective and safe for landfills, according to their manufacturer, Minneapolis-based Verde Technologies.

“You can go home and clean out your medicine bags > PAGE S

TIM THOMPSON — THE OAKLAND PRESS

Julie Brenner (left), executive director, and Kim Urbanowski, communication manager for the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities, with prescription drug neutralizing bags in their Auburn Hills office Monday.
Bags

FROM PAGE 1

cabinet,” Urbaniowski said. “It’s just easy.”

Those cabinets could contain opioid pain relievers such as Vicodin and OxyContin.

The Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force notes the state ranks 10th nationally in opioid prescription rates per person. And, citing a statistic from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Verde Technologies said 2,500 kids throughout the nation begin abusing prescribed opioids every day.

A 2014 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth — the most recent such survey available for Oakland County students on the Department of Education’s website — found nine percent ninth-graders and 12 percent of 11th-grade students in the county had used prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription in the 30 days prior to taking the survey.

Aside from properly obtaining medications through a prescription, teens reported obtaining the drugs from friends either sharing or selling the medications or taking them from their home without a parent’s knowledge, Urbaniowski said.

The Deterra system has been available to pharmacies in the past, but the bags have only been available to consumers for the past year.

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office and other local police agencies participate in Operation Medicine Cabinet, a program which provides drop-off points for prescription drugs.

However, just getting to the sheriff’s office or police station can also be a deterrent, Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities Executive Director Julie Brenner said.

“It’s an instant way to get expired medications off the shelves,” she said.

“This is a convenience … and it’s environmentally friendly.”

The Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities, which recently relocated to Auburn Hills, is the first organization in Michigan to offer the bags, according to Urbaniowski.

The group recently distributed more than 700 Deterra bags to prevent coalitions and at regional Families Against Narcotics meetings throughout Oakland County with a goal of 1,500.

The bags are estimated to have the potential to destroy more than 25,000 pills, 27 gallons of liquids or 3,400 medication patches.

“We can’t keep them in stock,” Brenner said.

“It’s wonderful people can do this anonymously. It’s a very personal, private thing.”

Residents can obtain the free bags from the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities by calling (248) 221-7101.

Founded in 2004, the Alliance of Coalitions for Communities is a 16-coalition prevention partnership serving more than 40 local communities. It represents the county’s chapter of Families Against Narcotics and is partially funded by the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

The alliance is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new location, 395 N. Opdyke Road, Wednesday, March 2.

Visit achcmi.org for more information.
Boy, 8, honored for courage after mom's seizure

By Paul Kampe
paul.kampe@oakpress.com @paulkampe on Twitter

A Waterford third-grader was honored by Auburn Hills City Council for the poise and responsibility he showed in a late-January emergency.

Jaxson McHugh, 8, was presented with the Courage and Bravery Award by Auburn Hills Fire Department Assistant Chief Antonio Macias prior to the council's Monday meeting.

Jaxson's mother, Megan Schwek, awoke with a headache and nausea Jan. 29. After calling in sick to work and notifying her son's school of his absence, she returned to bed.

Honor » Page 7

The next thing she remembers is being carried from her Auburn Hills home by first responders.

"He saw me shaking and couldn't wake me," Schwek said. "I'm like 'really? I have no memory of any of it.' "That's all I recall of that day."

Remembering an overlooked iPhone feature, Jaxon swiped the unlock button and pressed "emergency" on his mother's phone, which enabled him to dial 911.

"We taught him how to use an iPhone, but you can teach how to be calm, cool and collected," Schwek said.

Once connected to emergency dispatchers, Jaxon was able to direct them to the apartment. He even remembered to grab his house key and ensure their cat was indoors before leaving.

"He showed responsibility beyond his years," Schwek said.

Jaxon is a student at Schoolcraft Elementary in Waterford Township. He was presented a plaque at the beginning of Monday's meeting.

Jaxon McHugh was awarded for bravery.
New dorm to be built on OU's campus

Student housing project expected to cost $77M

By Paul Kampe
paul.kampe@oakpress.com
@paulkampe on Twitter

The Oakland University Board of Trustees approved what could be the first in the next wave of expansion at the Rochester-area campus.

A new $77 million, 750-bed student housing complex is expected to open in August 2018 and alleviate continued overcrowding on campus.

Rochester's Frank Rewold and Son, which built the Rochester-area school's most recent student housing addition, 2014's Oak View Hall, was selected for the project.

"We have a chance to make a bold statement about the direction Oakland University is going," Glenn McIntosh, vice president for student affairs, said at the Monday board meeting. "We see our campus as the No. 1 choice for many students in the state of Michigan now."

The housing project is going to be built on the
Dorm

south side of the campus, adjacent to a recently built parking structure, the first student residence in that area of the suburban campus, which lies in portions of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills.

The $30 million, 500-bed Oak View opened to capacity less than two years ago and the school once again opened with some of its 2,700 student residents being lodged in nearby hotels.

“Our demand for student housing is very strong,” McIntosh said. “We’re only beginning to tap the demand for on-campus housing.”

Trustees also gave their approval to issue $124 million in general revenue bonds to fund the project and others on the horizon.

Also discussed was the possible $32 million expansion of Elliott Hall, which was built in 2000 and named for one of the school's prominent donors.

The project would add some 64,000 square feet to the building, home of Oakland's School of Business Administration, nearly doubling its size.

The business administration school has reached its highest-ever enrollment, school officials said, and the building and its class space are maxed out.

“We really need to pay attention to the core” of the university, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost James Lentini said.

The firm hired to design the building also worked with the school on the recent additions of its $62 million Human Health Building and $74 million Engineering Center, which opened in 2012 and 2014, respectively.

While the board decided to move forward with the aforementioned projects, it collectively pushed pause on a proposed $44 million expansion of the Oakland Center, the school's student center.

Originally built in 1958, the building has been expanded three times, most recently in 2008, but is again at capacity.

The 140,000-square-foot building now sees more than 1.6 million visits each year, school officials said.

“It's our living room,” McIntosh said.

The project would add another 60,000 square feet, but trustees asked McIntosh to conduct further research into the firm recommended to design the building in granting its conditional approval.

The bonding is also expected to fund renovations to the campus’ Anibal and Fitzgerald houses, which were not discussed Monday by the board.

New trustee Robert Schostak, appointed in December by Gov. Rick Snyder, joined the board via phone and took part in discussion and voting.

The board meets next April 11.

A rendering shows the location of a planned new $77 million student residence at Oakland University.

A rendering shows the $77 million, six-story, 228,000-square-foot student residence approved Monday, Feb. 22 by the Rochester-area school’s board of trustees. It is scheduled to open in August 2018.
Legoland tickets on sale

With the opening of the Legoland Discovery Center at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills less than a month away, the attraction’s operators announced tickets are now on sale.

The 32,000-square-foot center features play areas, a 4-D cinema and Lego-themed rides. It opens March 25.

Tickets start at $23.50, children under 3 are free, according to the Legoland website, and must be purchased online in advance. Also, adults must be accompanied by a child to visit.

Legoland Discovery Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday with the last admission two hours before closing.

The attraction will host Adult Nights from 7 to 9 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month.

Legoland Discovery Center, located in a space formerly occupied by Jeepers!, will also feature local attractions, including downtown Detroit’s Renaissance Center, recreated using more than a million of the popular children’s blocks.

Merlin Entertainment also operates the Sea Life Michigan Aquarium at the mall.

Visit LegolandDiscoveryCenter.com for more information.

See images from the recent Legoland Master Builder’s competition at Media.TheOaklandPress.com.

— Staff writer Paul Kampe

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTER

The operators of Legoland Discovery Center in Auburn Hills released images of Detroit-area attractions recreated in Legos which will be on display when the attraction opens at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in late-March.
Firefighters extinguish basement fire at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall

By Brian Johnston
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Firefighters from Rochester and Auburn Hills worked together to put out a fire in the basement of Meadow Brook Hall late Monday afternoon, according to freelancer Dave Page.

Meadow Brook Hall, which is located on the east side of Oakland University's campus, made no mention of the fire on its Twitter feed.

Page reported the fire was extinguished quickly, within 20 minutes.

No injuries were reported.

Firefighters were able to extinguish a fire in the basement of the Meadow Brook Hall late Monday afternoon.
Hawk Woods Nature Center to host Boys Scouts Merit Badge Week

The Hawk Woods Nature Center in Auburn Hills will be hosting Boys Scouts Merit Badge Week in March.

A variety of badge programs will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. from March 14 through 18.

The badge activities will include Bird Studies and Citizenship in the World (March 14), Environmental Science and Fish and Wildlife (March 15), Forestry and Geology (March 16), Nature and Plant Science (March 17), and Sustainability and Weather (March 18).

Mike Mansour, a naturalist at Hawk Woods Nature Center, is a certified Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor and will be leading the activities.

FYI
For more information and registration, visit www.auburnhills.org.

— Staff writer
Aftab Borka
AUBURN HILLS

AQUARIUM OPENS

CLAWS EXHIBIT

Katherine Graf, 4, of Macomb Township, takes a look at the new Japanese Spider Crab at SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills on Monday. The crabs grow to 44 pounds and can reach 13 feet in length.
SEA LIFE Michigan displays Spider, King and Fiddler crabs

By Paul Kampe
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SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium, located inside Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills, introduced a wide variety of crustaceans from around the world in a new exhibit which opened Monday, Feb. 22.

Claws features the Japanese Spider Crab, the Puget Sound King Crab, the Mantis Shrimp, the Fiddler Crab and the Halloween Moon Crab.

"While (we have) been open for a year now, there is always something new and exciting to experience and learn at our aquarium," general manager Hayley Anderson said in a press release from aquarium operator Merlin Entertainment. "We can't wait to introduce guests to these fascinating creatures that are now calling Sea Life Michigan home."

Aquarium displays curator Kelli Cadenas noted Mantis Shrimp have smashing clubs on their arms which can be used to open shells and stun prey, adding they have better color vision than humans.

Meanwhile, Japanese Spider Crabs have legs more than 2 feet in length can live up to 100 years.

"Our guests are going to be blown away by how cool these unique creatures are," Cadenas said in the release.

The 35,000-square foot aquarium, Michigan's largest, is home to more than 5,000 creatures including sharks, stingrays, jellyfish and seahorses.

Merlin Entertainment also operates the mall's soon-to-open Legoland Discovery Center.

For more information about the exhibit or to purchase tickets, visit www.visitsealife.com/michigan.

* View photos inside the aquarium at MedialTheOaklandPress.com.
BRIEFING

AUBURN HILLS

Art and Wine Tasting
night benefits
Children’s Village

The North Oakland/Macomb Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated’s 2016 Annual Benefit, Uncorked – A Night of Artistry, Poetry and Wine Tasting will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10.

Local acclaimed artists and renowned spoken word poets will gather to provide a celebration of arts to benefit Oakland Children’s Village and Jack and Jill of America Foundation. Noah’s Event Venue, located at 3391 Cross Creek Parkway in Auburn Hills, is the site for the evening’s festivities.

Guests will enjoy the artists’ talents, hors d’oeuvres, wine tasting and giveaways. Tickets are $50 and available by contacting NOMJJFUNDRAISER@gmail.com.
OU to host Model UN Conference

By Paul Kampe
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More than 200 students will serve as delegates at Oakland University's first High School Model United Nations Conference beginning Friday, Feb. 26.

The conference is expected to feature several simulated general assembly committees and United Nations specialized agencies, including a 2030 expanded Security Council.

The security council will address potential future issues such as a possible resolution to the long-running fighting in the Middle East and political uncertainty in North Korea.

"We had to create crises that haven't even happened," event Secretary of Communications and Public Relations Kendall Kosikowski said. "The debate can go in a completely different direction than anyone would expect."

Other global issues to be discussed include: cyber security, food security, immigrant rights and safe drinking water as a human right.

The event, hosted by the school's Department of Political Science and the school's Model United Nations Club, will be held in the Oakland Center. It kicks off with opening ceremonies at 3:30 p.m. Friday and runs until 9 p.m. and resumes at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27.

The conference has been in the planning stages for a year, Kosikowski said.

"Ever since then, it's been coming together slowly," she said. "There were a lot of logistical things we didn't think about."

Banners like those took a backseat as organizers labored over the conference's subject matter, Kosikowski, a senior majoring in international relations and communications, said.

The delegates are comprised mostly of Oakland County students, but also includes students from schools around the state.

Founded in 2008, the Model United Nations Club is open to all Oakland students.

The club attends model United Nations Conferences each semester and sponsors events on campus to discuss and debate international issues.