### AUBURN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE

248-370-9402

**JULY 2013**

(7-11-13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>City Council</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Board of Review</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Library Board</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Beautification Advisory Commission</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SPECIAL MEETING</td>
<td>Public Safety Advisory Committee</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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**AUGUST 2013**

(7-11-13)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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<td>05</td>
<td>City Council</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>Zoning Board of Appeals</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tax Incentive Review Committee</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tax Increment Finance Authority</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Retiree Health Care Board/Pension Committee</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Admin Conference Room</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>City Council</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Council Chamber</td>
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<td>Library Board</td>
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◆ City Council Chamber – 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
◆ Fieldstone Golf Course - 1984 Taylor Road
◆ Library - 3400 Seyburn Drive
◆ Downtown City Offices – 3395 Auburn Road, Suite A
AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 1, 2013
5. APPOINTMENTS & PRESENTATIONS
   5a. Proclamation Honoring Dr. Gary Russi
   5b. County Commission Chairman Michael J. Gingell Presentations:
       1. Community for a Lifetime
       2. Firefighter Gary Chapman
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.
   7a. Board and Commission Minutes
       7a.1. Public Safety Advisory Committee – May 28, 2013
       7a.2. TIFA Minutes – July 9, 2013
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
   9a. Motion - Introduction of Ordinance 13-655 regulating the discharge of fireworks
   9b. Motion - Approve Glenmeade Lane Dedication
10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL
11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT
12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION
13a. Acquisition of Land
14. 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: by Mayor Pro Tem Hammond at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Hammond, Council Members Doyle, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
Absent: Mayor McDonald
Also Present: City Manager Auger, Assistant City Manager Tanghe, Director of Emergency Services/Police Chief Olko, Senior Services Director Adcock, Finance Director Barnes, City Clerk Kowal, Community Relations Director Carroll, City Attorney Hill, City Engineer Juidici

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4. Regular Council Meeting – June 17, 2013
Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Doyle.
Ms. Doyle requested the following changes be made to the June 17, 2013 minutes: to change hoped to clarified regarding the discussion to take place at the next workshop; change Ms. Dolly to Dr. Dolly. She appreciated the financial graphs included in the minutes.

RESOLVED: To approve the June 17, Regular meeting minutes as amended
VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None
Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.07.111

5. APPOINTMENTS & PRESENTATIONS
5a. Presentation – AARP/WHO
Ms. Adcock explained Auburn Hills will be the first City in the State to have the distinction of being recognized as an AARP World Health Organization Livable Community Network. We will be joining communities around the world in recognizing the importance of a community for all. Ms. Adcock noted this is a process that will take several years and introduced part of the team: Co-Chair, Community Development Director Steve Cohen; the Leadership Advisory Team is the Planning Commissioners, and Community Relations Director Stephanie Carroll. There are also community partners such as SEMCOG, Oakland Family Services, OHM, a retired social security manager, a retired APS director, and resident Darlene Kitchen.

Ms. Adcock introduced the State AARP President, Tom Kimball and State Associate Director Karen Kafantaris Mr. Kimball explained the Age Friendly Award is very unique and very important to AARP, and Auburn Hills is the first city in the state to win the award. There are only 14 others in the country receiving the award.

Ms. Kafantaris stated she began talking with the City over a year ago about the Age Friendly Communities, that the World Health Organization (WHO) has put together. AARP partnered with the WHO approximately 15 months ago to become the grantor of this designation. She applauds the City on taking this step forward, not many communities are preparing to address the aging population and are taking a wait and see attitude. There are many reasons to keep seniors in and engaged in the community. In Michigan, seniors spend $3.7 billion with an additional $18 billion in Medicare to the economy; 92% of seniors spend their money in their own community.

Continuing, Ms. Kafantaris stated this program is not only for seniors, the Age Friendly Program is to make life better across the entire age spectrum. Adding a wheelchair accessible curb cut also allows for stroller ease and a traffic signal cross walk time lengthened for seniors is also welcomed by families with small children. All of the changes make Auburn Hills a great place to grow up as well as a great place to grow old.

Ms. Doyle recalled Ms. Adcock stated the City already has in place many of the items that make a community an age friendly community and suggested that is why Auburn Hills received this status so quickly. Continuing Ms. Doyle asked if there is anything noticeable about Auburn Hills from other communities who are trying to achieve this goal.

Ms. Kafantaris explained there are many communities that want to be age friendly, but not committed enough to take the steps to complete the process; this program sets the framework for planning.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT
Linda Hassin, a Pontiac resident, thanked Mr. Kittle for attending the Pontiac School Board meeting as well as thanking the City and the City’s Attorney, the Oakland County Equalization, the Attorney General and anyone else instrumental in allowing the consent judgment school tax to be spread out over ten years. She also thanked State Representative Tim Greimel and State Senator Jim Marleau for their support.

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.

*Items 7a.1. and 7b. were removed from the Consent Agenda.*

7a. Board and Commission Minutes


Moved by Doyle; Seconded by Verbeke.

**RESOLVED: To approve Consent Agenda Item 7a.2.**

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke

No: None

**Motion Carried (6-0)**

*This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Mr. Kittle.*


Mr. Kittle stated he does not agree that current or past Council Members should have better benefits than current employees and does not support the Elected Officials Compensation Commission’s recommendation as stated in the minutes.

Mr. McDaniel stated he agrees with Mr. Kittle, noting in essence the Elected Officials Compensation Commission took no action, just copied the 2011 Resolution changed the year to 2013; with the exception of one sentence being added that referred to following State guidelines, staying up-to-date with the legal issues. He too, is not in support of the Resolution allowing current and past Council Members to have better health care benefits than current employees. However, the system is set up, is if two-thirds of the Council rejects the 2013 Resolution, then the 2011 Resolution would continue.

Mr. Kittle asked if Council was only approving the Elected Officials Compensation Commission minutes and not approving the recommendation.

Ms. Hammond stated Council is only approving the minutes.

Mr. McDaniel noted if Council remains quiet, the Resolution is approved.

Ms. Verbeke reasoned it would be best for Council to approve the 2013 Resolution, because of the sentence noting State guidelines will be followed and with all the changes the Governor is making, at some point there may be changes automatically because of State law.

Ms. Doyle asked for clarification, that Council is only approving the Elected Officials Compensation Commission minutes, and Council has no authority of over what the Compensation Commission recommends.

Mr. McDaniel stated Council can reject the Resolution with a two-thirds majority, which would revert back to the 2011 Resolution.

Ms. Doyle, too agreed, the benefits for current and past Council Members should be reviewed in the same light as City employees and changed accordingly.

Mr. Knight agreed with changing Council’s benefits, to mirror current benefits of employees. He stated the comments made by Council be reflected in the minutes, noting the dissatisfaction of Council with the Compensation Committee’s recommendation.

Mr. McDaniel appreciated Mr. Knight’s letters to the Elected Officials Compensation Commission of reducing Council benefits to those of employees at both this recent Compensation Commission meeting, as well as the 2011 meeting. Mr. McDaniel noted, he did not support the last appointment to the Compensation Commission because the appointee couldn’t confirm how they stood regarding the Council’s benefits. He would ask Council to be aware of the stances of other appointments in the future, and that Council should not receive better benefits than the employees.

Ms. Hammond understood Mr. McDaniel’s position, but noted the appointee stated he could not answer how he would vote, until he had read all the information.

Ms. Verbeke stated she is in agreement that Council Members should not receive better benefits than the employees; however, she does support the minutes.

Mr. Auger stated Council should take action on the minutes, because as Ms. Verbeke stated, there is language included to follow state and federal mandates.

Ms. Doyle noted the benefits being referred to, pertain to Council Members who were elected prior to 1999, not current Council Members.
Ms. Hammond noted the year for those Council Members is as of 2005.

Mr. Auger explained there are three different stages for the Council health care benefits; most of who are retired.

Mr. McDaniel noted, there are employees who retired a long time ago and their benefits have been changed to reflect what current employees receive.

Mr. Kittle stated based on the language included in the Resolution stating ‘All future benefits provided shall comply with Federal and State mandates’ he will approve the minutes of the Elected Officials Compensation Commission.

Moved by Kittle; Seconded by Knight.

RESOLVED: To approve the Elected Officials Compensation Commission minutes of June 12, 2013.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke  No: None  

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.07.113

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Mr. Knight.

7b. Motion – Accept the Investment Earnings Report

Mr. Knight noted he will approve this report, but raises the issue of giving each investor $20 million and then an additional $5 million each when one investor is doing much better than the other. He suggested the investor doing better with the investments should be the company receiving more funds to invest. He also proposed if there is a significant change in the market, where one theory is better than the other, and it is obvious, then such a large loss shouldn't be suffered for six months. He is still dissatisfied and once in a while planned risks should be taken; he feels this is very-very conservative and it is not okay to say one is not doing very well. He realizes the amount is only $400,000.00, but that amount isn’t chicken feed.

Ms. Doyle thanked Mr. Knight for removing the item from the Consent Agenda, noting she voted against giving the additional $5 million to Ambassador because their performance lagged Cutwater. Again, Ambassador is still lagging and Cutwater is earning twice as much on the City’s investment. She is not pleased with the firm hired by the City to keep an eye on how the investments are doing, with the firm stating everything is fine.

Mr. Barnes noted last month the federal fund chairman’s comments made resulted in a sell-off in the fixed income. As a result, Cutwater suffered a loss of approximately $100,000.00, and has not yet been reflected in the City’s account. If interest rates continue to increase, Ambassador will do better for the City.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To accept the Investment Performance reports for the 2013 year to date activity of Cutwater and Ambassador.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke  No: None  

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.07.114

8. OLD BUSINESS – none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a Motion – Approval of Site Plan and Special Land Use Permit / GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals – North American Headquarters

Mr. Cohen explained this is a proposal to build a new North American Headquarters for GKN Driveline and Sinter Metals; GKN has been located in Auburn Hills since 1988. GKN has since outgrown their current facility located on Seyburn Drive and will occupy a new building that will be built on the former Showcase Cinema site. Amson Dembs Development, Inc. (“Dembs”) purchased the Showcase Cinema property and will be demolishing the existing building and constructing two buildings on the site. GKN will be occupying a building on the north half of the site; Mr. Dembs hopes to construct two corporate headquarters on the site. This site allows for GKN expansion if and when necessary to the west of the proposed building. This project has been reviewed and approval is recommended.

Amson Dembs introduced himself.

Mr. Knight noted the parking lot to the west is reserved for future expansion; however, referring to the traffic study, one entrance has two drives, one for incoming traffic and the other for exiting and another entrance/exit that is for two-way traffic. He questioned if that would be sufficient once the expansion for GKN is completed.

Mr. Dembs noted the study was performed and as of right now he believes the drives will be sufficient.

Ms. Verbeke too, had a concern with traffic flow and asked if the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) was satisfied with the plan and asked if there was any discussion regarding a traffic signal.

Mr. Dembs stated yes, RCOC was satisfied with the plan as presented and believed it would work well.

Ms. Verbeke was curious to know what percentage of employees would be going north and those going south.
Mr. Dembs didn’t know the percentage, but believed between the two drives and the internal road, there wouldn’t be any traffic issues.

Ms. Verbeke stated she is disappointed with the RCOC, knowing how difficult it is for vehicles to exit the businesses on to Opdyke Road, because of all the traffic.

Mr. Dembs confirmed for Mr. Knight that the retention and sedimentation basins will serve both sites. GKN will be leasing the building and the other proposed building could be either leased or sold.

Ms. Doyle noted this project as being record setting in terms of time it has taken from concept to appearing before Council. Continuing, she stated it is a good reflection for not only Mr. Dembs and his team, but the City’s teams as well. She asked Mr. Cohen to elaborate on how a project could be reviewed and ready for Council in such a short period of time, because it is a public message of the type of city Auburn Hills is and how the City works with new development.

Mr. Cohen noted it has been 35 days from their very first meeting.

Mr. Dembs stated it is very simple, led by Mr. Cohen, the process is probably the best experience he and his team have ever had working in any community; it wasn’t only the speed; the meetings were as productive as they possibly could be even though there were many meetings.

Mr. Cohen explained it is his role and his team’s to serve the public and City Council, and they did that to the best of their ability and the fun it is to succeed with making everyone happy with a good project. The first question addressed to Mr. Dembs was how soon they needed to be in the building. Mr. Dembs replied right away. Mr. Cohen asked if 25 days would be soon enough to start and Mr. Dembs replied that was moving too fast. Mr. Cohen stated Mr. Dembs and his team are excellent as is the City’s team, it’s a terrific story.

Ms. Doyle stated she would hope there will be a press release, it’s something to celebrate and share the story. It is also wonderful to see a building, being vacant for 11 years finally demolished and replaced with such a great project. She mentioned LEED certification, noting businesses point out the expense involved, yet many universities, using tax dollars are able to achieve gold standard LEED certification. She questioned if it is possible to do permeable pavement, such as Ford Motor Company used at the Rouge Plant.

Mr. Dembs explained the budget allows some green initiative work to be added to this project, but it hasn’t been decided what exactly that will be. Work is currently being done with the design team to determine where that budget is best spent and what is most important. The building will not be LEED certified, but green initiatives will be included. As decisions are made moving forward, he will keep the City informed. Also, the demolition includes recycling the block and some of the other materials.

Mr. Kittle acknowledged the Community Development Department and the Planning Commission are part of the One Stop Ready program through Oakland County and the first meeting was held a week or so ago. Auburn Hills was the poster child for a lot of what was taking place and this project is a classic example. He appreciates all the hard work. Responding to Ms. Verbeke’s concern, he believes more traffic will head north towards the Palace to access I-75 in the evening as well as using that exit in the morning; it will be much easier than waiting for the light at University Drive.

Ms. Hammond is happy with GKN doing great work and having the need to expand, as well as the old cinema building being demolished and being replaced with something beautiful.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the Site Plan and Special Land Use Permit for GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals – North American Headquarters subject to staff and consultant’s conditions.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None

Motion Carried (6-0)

Resolution No. 13.07.115

Mr. Cohen explained this is Basil Bacall’s third hotel near Great Lakes Crossing Outlets and the fourth in Auburn Hills. The proposed building is a three-story, extended stay hotel, built on the west portion of the site, leaving the other side available for possibly another hotel or a restaurant. Marriott’s typical product for the façade of their buildings is EFIS; however, Mr. Bacall is aware of the City’s design policy of not encouraging the use of EFIS so the façade will be a more expensive, durable product - fiber cement board.

Mr. Bacall wished to comment on the speed and the first class team the City has; not easy, but very thorough, very detailed and productive. Issues are discussed and the job gets done in record time, 35 days. He has properties sitting for five years, and dreads building because of the city where those properties are located; this City is a pleasure to work in.

Ms. Verbeke questioned the building height on behalf of a neighbor south of the proposed building, noting as proposed it will exceed the height limitation for that zoning district.
Mr. Bacall stated the proposed building is six feet taller; however, Mr. Cohen visited the site and took some photos, and he did the same. From the residential area to the south, the former Border Book store wasn’t visible nor were the 30 foot light poles that sit atop a two and a half foot cement base.

Mr. Bacall confirmed for Ms. Verbeke, that the extended stay hotel is a different brand from the other two mall area hotels. The extended stay is by Marriott, a higher end hotel, and there aren’t any other of this type in the area. People are very committed to their brand of hotel; they will drive a few miles out of their way to stay at their favorite.

Mr. Kittle noted there are two other extended stay hotels in Auburn Hills and asked how the occupancy rates are for those as well as occupancy rates for the traditional type hotels.

Mr. Bacall explained the occupancy for the mall hotels has improved as well as others in Auburn Hills. This extended stay by Marriott will be drawing from NetJet clientele via the Oakland International airport, as well as the GM plant in Orion Township.

Mr. Kittle noted at the low point the occupancy rate was 50%, and asked what the percentage is today. He also recalled Mr. Bacall was sharing services between his two other hotels and asked if that sharing would be extended to this new location as well.

Randy Serles, Regional Manager stated today, the occupancy rate is between 60% and 65%.

Mr. Kittle felt 65% is a very low utilization and asked why create additional competition.

Mr. Serles explained as a whole, the occupancy rate is 65%, but individually occupancy rates can be 70% to 75% and others are below 50%. All signs point to a recovering economy and it is expected that the occupancy rates will climb as well.

Mr. Bacall explained his hotels are rated very high because of his commitment to a quality hotel regardless of brand, as well as spending quite a bit of more money than the average run hotel. Travelers do pay attention to the brand, knowing what they like and having consistency in accommodations. Also, yes, the sharing will continue with this location.

Responding to Mr. Kittle, Mr. Serles stated there is the Centerpointe Marriott at Square Lake Road and I-75 and a Residence Inn, which is a higher-end extended stay hotel, and the Fairfield Inn on Opdyke Road, which is a lower end brand of Marriott offering limited services. This proposed hotel is a mid-range extended stay hotel.

Mr. Knight questioned why the Centerpointe Marriott was built in Pontiac with accommodations for very large groups and the hotels constructed in Auburn Hills seem to be quite a bit smaller.

Mr. Serles suggested the price of the property was probably a motivator; today, because of the cost of not only constructing such a large building but also the expense of running it is the reason that nobody is building such large hotels. The Centerpointe Marriott does get a lot of convention business, being the only hotel of its size in the area. The next closet would be one located in Dearborn.

Responding to Mr. Kittle, Mr. Serles explained having a powerful brand such as Marriott hotel near the mall and other hotels will draw the loyal Marriott customer.

Mr. Kittle applauded Mr. Bacall’s intuitiveness and aggressiveness as far as business sense; however, he was curious if there are any county or region kept records or projections of the need for additional hotel rooms or if it’s strictly a private sector decision.

Mr. Cohen stated it is a private sector decision. Currently the City has 2,100 rooms in 17 hotels. The reason for so many is the I-75 corridor as well as all the international businesses located in the City.

Mr. Kittle understands new businesses bring new employees, but eventually those employees find a more permanent housing situation and adding more hotel rooms cuts into the existing businesses profits.

Mr. Bacall stated by having the right product, the right brand the right service and cleanliness he will continue to draw customers. There will also be many hotels closing because of their age and it will be cost prohibitive for them to be brought up to date. Mr. Bacall explained before constructing a hotel, it is well thought out, studied and reviewed by his critics.

Ms. Doyle asked Mr. Bacall what he would consider the ideal number of rooms and hotels for Auburn Hills.

Mr. Bacall explained having enough hotel rooms in the City is a draw when a large event is taking place; one of a list of criteria is if there is a sufficient number of hotel rooms to accommodate a large group of people.

Mr. Bacall stated he doesn’t want any business to close down, but he would hope that everyone raises the bar to meet guests’ needs.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by McDaniel.
RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the Site Plan and Special Land Use Permits for Marriott TownePlace Suites Hotel subject to staff and consultant’s conditions.
VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 13.07.116 Motion Carried (6-0)
10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. McDaniel:

- Asked for an update on the Squirrel Road paving project.
  
  Mr. Auger stated there were a few complaints of the new concrete being rough. The rough spots will wear down with time and/or the snow plows will knock down some of the rough edges. There are grooves in the concrete to allow the water to drain to the sides of the road and for traction to help with stopping.
  
  Mr. McDaniel explained the complaints he received was not about the rough patches, but dipping in the roadway. There seems to be two dips in each section of the new concrete. He believes it is one of the worst new paving jobs he has driven on.
  
  Mr. Knight agreed with Mr. McDaniel, that the road is not done well at all; the leveling wasn’t done with a leveling machine.
  
  Mr. McDaniel stated one of the complaints came from someone familiar with concrete work, and explained because the new concrete is being installed in small patches, leveling machines are not possible; he also explained the dips in the pavement can be corrected without ripping up all the work that has been done by grinding.
  
  Mr. Auger asked Mr. McDaniel to forward him the information.

Mr. Kittle:

- Asked for an update on the soccer fields and how they are progressing.
  
  Mr. Juidici explained work has been ongoing, installing underground utilities; most of the storm sewer is installed, the sanitary sewer line for the future restrooms is installed, and the water main taps have just been completed. The irrigation system is currently being worked on and once that is completed the top soil and seed will go in.
  
  - Inquired about the apartments downtown and how the angle parking is proceeding.
  
  Mr. Auger stated there are signs notifying that angle parking will soon be coming as well as posted on the web site and other social media outlets. The apartments are moving forward as is the parking garage. A meeting will be held with DTE to have permanent power hooked up; elevators cannot be installed until there is permanent power. There is a leasing agent who is leasing a portion of the DEN.
  
  Mr. Tanghe stated 40 of the apartments were scheduled to be ready in August with the remaining 57 becoming available gradually with all being done by January; however, since the issues with DTE, he’s sure that time has been pushed back.

Ms. Doyle:

- Congratulated Director of Emergency Services Olko who was just awarded the Presidential Medal, given by the Association of Michigan Police Chiefs. She also thanked Director Olko for serving on the Girls Scouts Southeastern Michigan Board.
  
  - Announced she will not be running for Council when her term expires in November. She has served on Council for four years and the Planning Commission for five years prior to Council. She is appreciative and is pleased to have served on such a functional Council. She has the opportunity to do more long distance traveling and by doing so, won’t have the time of serving the City and residents as required.

Ms. Verbeke:

- While reviewing the Planning Commission minutes, she noticed the topic of traffic and Alberta Street. A number of vehicles turn onto Alberta Street thinking there is an access from Alberta into the strip mall. It had been discussed in the fall of possibly planting quick growing trees shielding the parking lot from view until the driver has passed Alberta Street; she asked Mr. Cohen if that idea had been researched.
  
  Mr. Cohen stated research has been ongoing with OHM and the Police Department. Another thought is to have a curb cut into the strip mall, where Lazy Boy had been located. Talks will continue with the Police Department as well as with the neighbors.
  
  Ms. Verbeke stated the resident she has been in contact with agrees there should be a curb cut, as does a number of neighbors.
  
  - Asked if the City had any plans on repairing Baldwin Road, even though it is a county road.
  
  Mr. Auger stated there was a meeting with the Road Commission for Oakland County and they are aware of the condition of the road. The financing isn’t currently available, but is being looked into.
  
  - Asked if there has been any talk regarding Joslyn Road.
  
  Mr. Auger stated in the same conversation with the RCOC, installing signs into the roadway will be investigated.
  
  Ms. Verbeke questioned if the road resurfacing would be taking place, because there was an issue with the purchase of a road right-of-way.
Mr. Auger stated that has been resolved.

- Referenced the Pontiac School Board meeting and the tax issue, and asked Mr. Auger to explain. She also asked about the interest accrued on the payment schedule and how that would be handled if a resident wished to pay in full.

Mr. Auger stated he will discuss the issue in his report.

- Asked Director Olko if car seat inspections have been terminated.

  Director Olko explained because of the cost involved for the training, because there isn’t any training locally, a list of local resources that still perform the inspections has been compiled and given to anyone seeking an inspection.

  Mr. McDaniel asked if it may be possible to continue the service, he knows many people rely and feel safer with the inspection.

  Director Olko stated if there were somewhere closer for personnel to be trained it would be easier. Currently there is travel involved and it isn’t certain the training will take place; there is a lot of overtime involved as well as staff scheduling conflicts.

  Mr. McDaniel suggested the possibility of bringing in a trainer to train a department trainer so the department to stay up-to-date with training as well as training others.

  Director Olko stated those who issue the certification were not willing to do it that way; it had been looked into.

Ms. Verbeke noted it is mandated by the State for foster parents to have the car seat installed correctly, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find an agency that offers the service.

  Director Olko explained the training process also is a factor; the training is not done well.

  Mr. McDaniel suggested the possibility of the City spearheading the training, and then training others.

  Director Olko stated she will take another look at what possibilities are available.

- Witnessed a bicyclist along Joslyn Road, where there is no sidewalk or pathway, having to carry their bike over weeds. She would like the City to continue to be aware of the situation and possibly being able to solve the issue in the future.

- Wished everyone a great 4th of July.

Mr. Knight:

- Was sorry to hear Ms. Doyle would not be seeking another term, noting she is an excellent contributor to the Council meetings; and congratulated her on her success.

- Was pleased to see the big sign downtown announcing the forthcoming angle parking.

- The clock downtown wasn’t running the past week or so, and now, it is running in inaccurate; it has never run accurately in its life. He would like to see it fixed properly.

- In spite of the rain Friday night, the concert featuring Beatle music continued. There were approximately 70 people in attendance and everyone sat on the covered dance floor and listened to the music.

- He believes it is time for the City to dust off the old plan for Taylor Road and make it a four or five lane road. With a new facility being constructed and possibly more to follow, there is a need. The one major problem he sees is traffic must go southbound and turn around at quite a distance to access I-75.

Ms. Hammond:

- Summerfest was a great success and thanked staff and all the volunteers.

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- Was going to report on the MESA lawsuit, but it will be part of Mr. Auger's report and she will be happy to answer any questions.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- City Attorney Beckerleg did a great job for this City as well as the other communities, with the judge favoring his argument and allowing the debt to be paid over a ten-year period. Initially the three mils was going to be included on the summer tax as one lump sum, now it will be paid over 10 years with interest accruing. The newspaper reported MESA has contacted Pontiac schools and stated the insurance would be canceled this year, if this year's premium is not paid in full. Work is ongoing to determine what might happen if the schools aren’t able to open and to work legislatively to determine if there is anything that can be done.

Responding to Ms. Verbeke, Mr. Auger stated the tax bill will have a line item for Pontiac School debt, but no, there is no printed notice included with the tax bill explaining the situation, because at the time no one was aware of what was going to happen.
Mr. Knight stated criminal action should be taken and the teachers union should be suing because the funds the teachers were paying into MESA were re-routed for other spending.

- Two hookah lounges operate in the City, and there has been some difficulty with one of them, so there may be a need to review the City’s ordinance in the near future.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion - Recess to Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Moved by McDaniel; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To recess to Executive Session to discuss modification to Billboards at 2470 Auburn Road, 3275 Lapeer Road, and 2431 Pontiac Road.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 13.07.117

Motion Carried (6-0)

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m.

13. Amendment to Consent Judgments / Modification to Billboards at 2470 Auburn Road, 3275 Lapeer Road, and 2431 Pontiac Road

Moved by Doyle; Seconded by McDaniel.

RESOLVED: To approve the following orders offered by CBS Outdoor, Inc:

1. The 2nd Joint Stipulation to Amend the Consent Judgment for Gannett Outdoor Company of Michigan as amended; and
2. Amendment to the Consent Judgment for A Sign From Above, Inc., as amended.

The City Attorney shall be authorized to sign and enter both orders on the City’s behalf.

VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hammond, Kittle, Knight, McDaniel, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 13.07.118

Motion Carried (6-0)

14. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

_____________________________________________   _____________________________________
James D. McDonald, Mayor      Terri Kowal, City Clerk
July 15, 2013

Proclamation
The City of Auburn Hills
Honors Dr. Gary Russi

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Russi has served as Oakland University’s President since 1995; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, Oakland University has experienced unprecedented growth and has been recognized as a top-rated academic institution that is known as a university on the rise; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Russi has had a distinguished and accomplished career over the past eighteen years and has made a lasting mark on the university; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Russi has for many years maintained a high level of interaction with the City of Auburn Hills, Home of Oakland University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Russi shares and encourages the vision of creating a college town in cooperation with the City of Auburn Hills for the benefit of the students and the entire university community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Russi has forged numerous partnerships with Auburn Hills through a number of initiatives that most recently include the University Drive Streetscape project and encouraging further development in our Downtown; and

WHEREAS, The Elected Officials and Staff who worked with Dr. Russi describe him as an outstanding community partner and a friend of the Auburn Hills Community; Now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that the City of Auburn Hills hereby adopts this Proclamation to honor the years of service of Dr. Russi to the greater Oakland University community and that the City Council, Staff, and Citizens of Auburn Hills wish Dr. Russi a very long, healthy, happy and well deserved retirement.

Adopted on this, the Fifteenth Day of July, in the Year Two Thousand Thirteen.

__________________________________                       _________________________________
The Honorable James D. McDonald, Mayor                             Terri Kowal, City Clerk
Honorable Council Members:

Oakland County Commission Chair Michael J. Gingell will be present to give an award to the City for participating in the Community for a Lifetime program. Karen Adcock will be present to participate also.

In addition, Chairman Gingell will be presenting an award to Firefighter Gary Chapman in recognition of his receiving the Firefighter of the Year award. FF Chapman along with Deputy Director Manning are planning to be in attendance.

No documentation was presented in advance.

Terri Kowal
CALL TO ORDER: Chair Sendegas at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Members Sendegas, Boelter, Coolman, Doyle, McFadden,
Absent: None
Also Present: Public Safety Deputy Director’s Hardesty and Manning

LOCATION: Grusnick Public Safety Building, 1899 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 25, 2012
Moved by Ms. Doyle to approve the minutes of February 13, 2013 as submitted.
Seconded by Mr. McFadden. Motion Carried (5-0)

Ms. Doyle noted the minutes contained just enough information to relay the essence of the meeting without being overly detailed.

4. PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD
Deputy Director Manning introduced the new Assistant Fire Chief Antonio Macias.

Assistant Fire Chief Macias told the Committee Members he grew up in Pontiac and after graduating from Pontiac Catholic High School, he went to work for the Pontiac Fire Department and served for 22 years. After retiring as Deputy Fire Chief from Pontiac, he worked for Groveland Township Fire Department as a firefighter and a medic. He appreciates the opportunity to be working for Auburn Hills.

5. NEW BUSINESS
5a. Proposed Purchase of Airbags
Deputy Director Manning explained the current air bags are 15 years old and have exceeded their lifespan. The air bags are used to lift heavy objects, such as a car, debris or even a building if necessary. The new bags have a larger surface of lifting space than the current, as well with the new bags, three can be stacked and inflated, whereas the current bags can only be stacked two high. This year’s budget included the purchase of the air bags. Firefighter Tony Randolph demonstrated the current air bags.

The bid was posted for this type of bag, resulting in only two companies submitting bids. The two bids submitted, one by Fire House Resources for $18,923.00 and West Shore Fire $13,692.00; however, the low bidder did not meet the requested specifications of not being able to stack three high, the total surface-to-surface space, or a dead man control - lifting all three bags at one time.

Responding to Ms. Sendegas, Deputy Director Manning hadn’t decided what use if any, the old air bags would have. With the air bags being as old as they are, safety is the first concern.

Firefighter Randolph noted the air bags are generally used anywhere from two times to six times a month. The air bags are also used in training drills, keeping the firefighters up-to-date on how to operate them.

Deputy Director Manning noted the air bags from Fire House Resources have a three-year warranty; there was no warranty information from West Shore Fire.

Ms. Doyle stated she was surprised at how small the air bags are.

Deputy Director Manning stated the current air bags can lift over 19 tons and the new proposed air bags 22 tons. When the bags are deflated they can fit into very narrow spaces and then inflated to raise the item.

An audience member asked if the lifting power and materials are the same in both bids.
Deputy Director Manning stated there is a difference in lifting height, because only two bags can be stacked with one of the types, but the lifting power is similar.

Deputy Director Manning explained Auburn Hills Fire Department is part of the MABAS 3201 group in Oakland County and rely heavily upon surrounding community fire departments for assistance, as they on Auburn Hills. The other departments have similar equipment, but he isn’t sure if any of the others have this new type of air bag. If approved, each of Auburn Hills Fire Stations will have one new set of three, air bags.

Moved by Mr. McFadded to recommend to City Council the purchase of three sets of High Pressure flat Form Lifting Air Bag Systems by the Auburn Hills Fire Department.
Seconded by Mr. Coolman. Motion Carried (5-0)

6. OLD BUSINESS – none.

7. REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

Fire Department – Deputy Director Manning

- The April 2013 Monthly Report is included in the packet.
- The Firefighters Right to Know Hazardous Materials Reporting Survey Update is included. When he took over the department, it was realized the Reporting was not up-to-date. This is critical information to have for the safety of fire personnel as well as the employees that work at a particular facility and is required by law that certain measures be taken. All businesses in the City that either manufacture with or house hazardous materials are required by law, depending on the chemical threshold, to be reported to the Fire Department. The Fire Department then classifies those products based on the quantity; a yellow hazard or a red hazard, with the red hazard being the most dangerous. Bass Pro is a red hazard business because of the all the batteries the store has available. These locations are annually inspected in accordance with the City's ordinance and a pre-plan is maintained for the buildings that house these hazards in the event of an incident. All of the red buildings have a site specific floor plan, including Chrysler, then a plan is formulated for whatever chemicals a business reports to the Fire Department.

Continuing Deputy Director Manning explained the Fire Department is the one that makes the plan with the help of the Hazardous Worksheet, the data sheets give the information needed to mitigate the plan.

The yellow buildings don’t need site specific plans; however, Auburn Hills has opted to do site specific plans for certain buildings which is based on the facility, the location in the community and what could be impacted.

As of May, 93% of the companies have submitted their reports to the Fire Department, along with a floor plan and a fee of $250.00 for the yellow buildings or $500.00 for the red buildings. Calls will be made to those businesses that have not responded, and if they continue not to respond, Ordinance Officers are sent to meet with the Operations Manager and continue up the chain until the report is submitted. There haven’t been too many instances of non-compliance.

The fireworks business fall under a different act, with a new change allowing communities on behalf of the State, to create an ordinance which would allow inspections. As of now, the supply of fireworks on hand is based on the businesses’ square footage.

Deputy Director Hardesty noted there is a limit of the level and grade of fireworks that are permitted and the type of suppression system required.

- Some of the changes that have taken place in the last year include Fire Chief Burmeister retiring as well as Assistant Fire Chief Wyatt. Restructuring includes hiring Assistant Fire Chief Macias and creating four lieutenant positions within the full time ranks. There has never been a command level in the full time ranks but have always had command within the on-call ranks, which has been beneficial to the City. At this stage of the operations, routinely, the personnel on duty crew are able to get to a scene within six or seven minutes. There is a wait of three to five minutes for paid-on-call personnel to pick up an apparatus, and arriving after the initial crew. The first few minutes of an incident is critical when making decisions on how the particular incident is going to be handled. Having a good command staff to make the initial decisions when arriving on the scene will determine how the incident will be handled. The plan is to assign one lieutenant to
each of the four shifts. The full time ranks is supplemented by the paid-on-call firefighters; at night there is generally two full time personnel supplemented by one or two paid-on-call personnel. This is a huge financial savings to the City. The City also enjoys a very good working relationship between the paid-on-call and the full time personnel who are union employees. Between the two, they switch shifts with each other, where as with neighboring communities that does not happen. Some of those paid-on-call firefighters who weren’t as enthused to work closely with the full time staff have left the Department. There have been adjustments made and some still ongoing; however, he is very happy with the way things are progressing. The written tests for lieutenants will be taking place next week, and those that pass, will continue on to the assessment center. Seven firefighters have requested to take the written test.

- Trevin Robinson will be leaving the Fire Department to attend school to become a physician’s assistant. He has been the grant writer for the Department and has been very successful in receiving over $500,000.00 in federal funds.

- There was an opening in the full time ranks for a firefighter and Trevin Robinson was able to get a grant in excess of $170,000.00 in wages and benefits to fill the vacancy. That firefighter has been hired, who had been one of the medics for the City. He attended the Fire Academy with Deputy Director Manning, and has almost finished his shift training. With Trevin Robinson leaving, the grant received is about safety and having a full staff, which means the vacancy must be filled quickly, within six months, to be compliant with the grant. There is a very nice young man coming up through the paid-on-call ranks and he is just finishing up his paramedic license, which is something that is preferred when hiring a full time firefighter. Three of the full time firefighters currently do not have their paramedic license and it makes scheduling very difficult.

- Another thing having an impact on the paid-on-call firefighters is the Public Health Care Act. The Act limits the number of hours part time employees are able to work; which includes firefighters. If part time employees work 29 hours or more a week, and that employee seeks federal health insurance, the City is then responsible to pay for the health insurance up to a certain level. This has been a strain because those 29 hours includes training, shift work, and calls. The Act has severely impacted the paid-on-call availability and has impacted a number of paid-on-call firefighters who were working regularly on shifts. The shifts are generally 12 hour shifts and it has forced those firefighters to pick and choose which calls they respond to for fear of exceeding the 29 hours. Because of the hour limitations, some of the paid-on-call has had to look for full time jobs, which has impacted their ability to work for the Fire Department. This limiting of hours is having a huge impact on the operation, resulting in the full time personnel receiving overtime pay to do what many of the paid-on-call personnel had been previously doing.

One solution to the problem may be to increase the pool of paid-on-call firefighters. Currently there are seven candidates going through the process and four paid-on-call firefighters have just graduated from the Fire Academy. There are also plans to hire two more part-time medics. The process takes approximately nine months for those candidates that are hired who have no training. The City pays for that training.

The City is part of a training consortium, the Fire Academy and the EMT Academy. The City supplies the instructors, which is a few hours overtime pay for a fire staff member to teach a class, and the City purchases the books for the Auburn Hills employees who then attend the classes for free. These are State certified classes.

- A file room that contains all the records of all the buildings within the City has been converted into a meeting conference room. The records were moved downstairs, because they aren’t used often, and now, every day the meeting room is used as a morning briefing room, to review films of past situations and discuss how to better handle those situations.

- The cadet numbers are down, but there is also a grant for that program. Recruiting is currently on-going.
Police Awards Banquet was attended by approximately 110 people this year and held on a
Wednesday, as opposed to a Sunday as done in the past. He thanked the PSAC Members for attending
the banquet and showing their support for the Police Department.

- The Department has reviewed the Council’s goals and objectives and has looked at the
Department’s goals and objectives and begun budget planning. The budget planning process
involves personnel from all areas of the Department.

- Since the last meeting, there has been one new officer hired, Michelle Hessey, who is currently in
the training program; she graduated from the Oakland Police Academy.

There are three, second interviews scheduled for next week. As of right now there are no vacant
positions; however, one of the Officers will be leaving for Farmington Hills next Friday. Another
Officer will be retiring in July so his position will need to be filled. There are also other retirements
expected this year.

Ms. Doyle asked why the Officer was leaving for Farmington Hills.

Deputy Director Hardesty explained he spoke with the Police Officer today and Farmington Hills
will be closer to his home, closer to his wife’s workplace, the agency is a little larger with more
tasks, as well as still offering a pension plan and other benefits. He believes Auburn Hills pay is
comparable to the surrounding communities. The Officer spoke very positively of the community
support he has experienced in Auburn Hills.

Continuing, Deputy Director Hardesty noted for many years there were hiring freezes and Auburn
Hills was able to hire the cream of the crop. With many agencies experiencing many retirements,
there are more opportunities for the recruits to pick and choose employers; Farmington Hills is
hiring 20 new officers, Livonia is hiring 30 new officers and White Lake is hiring quite a few as
well.

Over the years there have been very few Auburn Hills Officers lost to other agencies, the majority
retire. Auburn Hills does not have a police cadet program, though many of the dispatch
personnel have gone on to become police officers. Officers hired by Auburn Hills from other
agencies must also complete training the City provides.

- The Department will be retrofitting eight patrol cars to run on propane gas as opposed to
gasoline. Police cars in London, Ontario have been using propane for police vehicles for over 20
years. The DPW mechanics will be able to make the fuel conversion. The cost of propane is
$1.70 to $1.80 per gallon, making it much less expensive than gasoline and burns cleaner than
gasoline. Oil changes are not required as frequently as a result of burning cleaner as well as less
wear on the engine. The acceleration won’t be compromised from propane, and there isn’t a
significant increase in mileage per gallon.

Deputy Director Hardesty didn’t know why propane was chosen over natural gas. This is a pilot
program and it is possible more cars will be adapted for the propane. The tank will be installed in
the trunk of the car, and because propane dissipates quickly and the tanks are pressure rated
there isn’t a great concern of an explosion in the event of a rear-end collision. There have been
tests conducted on the freeway with rear-end collisions and there have been no hazardous
results.

The DPW department will be bringing a proposal forward to Council. There has been extensive
work and investigations done by the DPW as well as Lt. Miarka on using propane. There isn’t
any type of tax break involved, since the City doesn’t pay all of the taxes at the pump as other
users; being government exempt.

The tank will be a 17 to 20 gallon capacity and a filling pump will be installed on the City campus.
The tank will fit under the rack that will be installed on the new eight vehicles that were approved
a previous meeting. This retrofit equipment can be removed from the car and be installed in
another vehicle.

- Force-on-Force training is currently taking place; which is to shoot or not to shoot paint ball
scenarios. This training takes place at the CREST center at OCC where there is a setup of a
bank, businesses, and houses. These trainings, high risk but low frequency events, are very
important and are done yearly. One of such event happened recently with a resident who was having issues at home. In the end, the Officers were able to shoot him with a kinetic impact weapon, commonly referred to as a bean bag gun and an officer tasered him from behind. The resident was then taken into protective custody.

The Officers involved in this incident did a great job of assessing the situation and knowing how to handle it. This type of training makes an officer confident in making immediate decisions and choices, as well as knowing their fellow officer knows his job as well.

- A budget item for this year was to have an architect look at the Public Safety Building to determine if updating or changes are needed; the work is not in this year’s budget. Architectural submittals have been received and staff will be reviewing the suggestions in the next few weeks. Some of the possible changes include how to better integrate Police and Fire, are building changes needed to better use and cross train personnel, how could the front desk be better used and improve the property system.

- The monthly report format has been changed and any feedback is encouraged and welcomed. The old format was becoming quite lengthy and not being read in its entirety by many. Ms. Sendegas liked the report and enjoyed reading it.

Mr. Boelter asked if there is a study conducted on traffic signals determining if a light should blink at a certain hour. A resident complained she sat at the signal at Squirrel Road and Auburn Road for what seemed to be a very long time attempting to turn on Auburn Road. It was a blinking light at the time, and the traffic was never ending.

Deputy Director Hardesty stated not all lights are studied, and he will investigate; MDOT generally controls the signals. The City has been in contact with MDOT trying to get the SCAT signal system installed on Squirrel Road. The SCAT system controls signals based on traffic.

Mr. Boelter asked what the prognosis is for University Drive over I-75.

Deputy Director Hardesty stated the City, with the help of OHM, is preparing another TIGER grant proposal. The TIGER grant is a federal program; however, the bridge is owned by the State. The City has offered funds as well as being the project manager, in an effort to get the bridge redone. There will resurfacing of the roadway on either side of the bridge being done by the City in conjunction with the County. The cloverleaf for M-59 has been discussed for a very long time and is on a very long list of to-do’s.

Ms. Doyle apologized for not being able to attend the Police Awards Banquet; she was out of the country.

Deputy Director Manning stated the Fire Awards Banquet will be held in October, in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

The next scheduled meeting is September 24, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Kathleen Novak
Records Retention Clerk
CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hassett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price (4:09 p.m.), Thornton (4:06 p.m.)
Absent: Dilland (excused), Ardelean
Also Present: TIFA Executive Director Tom Tanghe, Finance Director Gary Barnes, Management Assistant Brandon Guest, Director of DPW Ron Melcher, Executive Assistant Karrie Marsh
Guests: Glenda Meads of Glenda Meads Architects, Chris Halatek, KI Sales Specialist

LOCATION: Auburn Hills City Hall, Administrative Conference Room, 1827 North Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD
Mr. Tanghe requested to modify the agenda to include a PowerPoint presentation for the University Drive Streetscape under Correspondence and Presentations. An Executive Session was also added to the agenda to discuss Property Acquisition.

Moved by Molnar to amend the agenda to include an item under Correspondence and Presentations and to add an Executive Session. Mr. Molnar also welcomed Dr. Dolly to the Board. Supported by Hassett.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE & PRESENTATIONS
Mr. Tanghe welcomed Dr. Dolly to the Board. He stated that they have been working on the University Center project together and he explained how the project came about.

Architect Glenda Meads was present to update the Board on the University Center project, including cost additions/deletions. Ms. Meads reported that the University Center project was close to being complete, approximately four weeks from now. She reviewed the goals for the project such as maintaining the existing heritage style building, creating educational spaces in the building to bring students downtown, and completing the project for the amount approved by the Board. The project is now at the phase that requires installing drywall and choosing paint colors on the second floor. Any project will experience hiccups as this project has. Construction began on April 1st and $826,000 was approved for the project, which included a $64,000 contingency. At this time the contingency has been almost all spent. A good partnership exists between Glenda Meads Architects, Frank Rewold & Sons and Mr. Tanghe.

Several major issues occurred that were not anticipated. One would involve the large back room of the University Center. To remove the columns in the back room, the roof needed to be removed and replaced which cost an additional $10,000. The concrete slab in the back area was washed out beneath it and that
cost an additional $10,300 to correct. The stairwells needed to be enclosed and some assumptions made in the beginning of the process needed to be adjusted. IT items for the virtual academy were more than anticipated, such as the fiber that was brought in from Primary Rd. to support the IT requirements. Therefore the contingency was utilized. The project will come out great, has met the goals of the Board and preserved the historical part of the building. The building previously was not up to code, it is now.

Mr. Tanghe stated that considering this building was built in 1927, he would not change a thing. Mr. Molnar stated that Mr. Tanghe did a great job managing the budget and the safety of the young adults and others using the building should not be compromised. He supported the work that needed to be done. Mr. Tanghe noted that while we are over budget in some categories of the project, we are under in others and he expects that the overall project will indeed come in with the total project budget.

Ms. Meads thanked the Board and hopes to see everyone next at the Grand Opening in October.

Mr. Tanghe reviewed the University Drive Streetscape project with the Board. The project will occur on University Dr. between I-75 and N. Squirrel. A few employees of the City, which include the Director of Community Development Steve Cohen, DPW Deputy Director Don Grice and Mr. Tanghe, are working with OHM. The TIFA has budgeted $200,000 this year which was half of the total budget of $400,000. Oakland University will be paying the other half of the cost.

The project will be implemented in Phases. Phase I includes planters and signage containing stonework that ties Auburn Hills and Oakland University together. Light poles will be painted black, banners will be displayed and landscaping will be added.

The second Phase will possibly include pond improvements. Mr. Hassett stated that the pond is a nice focal point. Mr. Hassett asked if there has been or will be discussion with OHM about the turn around on University Dr. Many semi’s and trucks turn around there and cause traffic congestion. Mr. Melchert will follow up on the issue and respond to the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Moved by Molnar to approve the June 11, 2013 minutes.
Supported by Price.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

**FINANCIAL REPORT**
Finance Director Gary Barnes presented the financial report for June 30, 2013, reviewing the activities for this period, including the most recent revenues and expenses. That report included the following Total Liabilities and Fund Balances and Available Cash:

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Supported by Thornton.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

**OLD BUSINESS**
Mr. Tanghe introduced a memo dated June 13, 2013 regarding the adoption of Policy Guidelines for Development Incentives. At the last meeting Mr. Tanghe was asked to formalize a concept by way of a policy that provides an outline of how and when incentives might be used. The guidelines were presented to the Board as Mr. Tanghe reviewed each requirement. He stated to the Board that in some cases the actual price of the land is already an incentive. The TIFA may decide to absorb the cost of riverbank stabilization rather than lowering the price of a property for example.

Moved by Molnar to adopt Policy Guidelines for Development Incentives as contained herein and authorize TIFA staff to utilize these guidelines in their recruitment efforts for development. Supported by Thornton.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Tanghe introduced a memo dated June 27, 2013 regarding the approval of furniture for the University Center. Competitive bidding was accomplished through a cooperative purchasing program called NJPA, National Joint Powers Alliance. The advantage to joining the cooperative is to take advantage of large volume pricing and to purchase KI brand furniture which was the desired product by our educational partners who will be using the facility.

The first proposal was for the furniture in the amount of $87,400.00 from KI. The second proposal was for the installation of the furniture in the amount of $8,100.00 from The Interior Group of Brighton, MI, a vendor utilized by KI specifically for installation. The furniture will be manufactured in a period of six to eight weeks. The installation should be completed mid-September, in time for the October 3rd ribbon cutting.

Mr. Tanghe introduced Mr. Chris Halatek, KI Sales Specialist, stating that Mr. Halatek worked well with the group, as did Brandon Guest. There were many people, personalities and opinions to consider and accommodate. Mr. Halatek stated that KI is a leading provider of educational furniture. He does a lot of work with OU, Saginaw Valley and Baker College to name a few colleges and universities. He stated that it was a pleasure to work with a group that was passionate about the project. He believes we will have a great center and will have hard time keeping student and teachers out of the facility. The furniture is adaptive and all mobile, with the exception of the virtual academy due to the IT elements being run to the tables. The furniture warranty ranges from 10 years to life depending on the elements. The motto of KI is durable, functional design.

Chairman Hassett asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Molnar wondered if people would know what NJPA is. Would they know that it satisfies our bidding requirements? Mr. Tanghe replied that the public would not know what it is and if questioned, the City has an ordinance that allows for cooperative purchasing. Ms. Price asked about the timing of the order and if it would be complete by the date of the ribbon cutting. Mr. Halatek is ready to place the order immediately. The furniture will be manufactured in six to eight weeks. Installation will take approximately four to five days. It would be complete for the ribbon cutting.

Moved by Molnar to approve the purchase of furniture from KI contained in the Final Quote, 13CAH-447/C, with revision date June 27, 2013, in the amount of $87,400; and the installation of the furniture from The Interior Group in their final quote, 06-PM-2327, dated June 14, 2013, in the amount of $8,100; for a total cost of $95,500; and authorize the Executive Director to issue purchase orders in these amounts to the respective vendors. Funding is available from GL No. 251.735.984.000. Supported by Goodhall.
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Moved by Molnar to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of property acquisition. Supported by Thornton.

Board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:26pm.
Board reconvened the regular meeting at 6:16pm.

Moved by Goodhall to authorize the Executive Director to complete the analysis of the purchase of 880 Doris Rd. and based on the result of that analysis to purchase the property for $850,000 to serve as a south operations center for DPW and make the final decision based on the staffs analysis of the cross benefits and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents on behalf of Tax Increment Finance Authority. Supported by Thornton.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

Motion carried

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
Dr. Dolly thanked the Board and stated that she was please to be a member.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – The next regularly scheduled TIFA Board meeting is Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 4:00p.m. at Fieldstone Golf Club in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Hassett to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.
Supported by Thornton.

Yes: Dolly, Goodhall, Gupta, Hassett, Molnar, Price, Thornton
No: none

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Karrie L. Marsh
Recording Secretary
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Peter E. Auger, City Manager; Doreen E. Olko, Director of Emergency Services
Submitted: July 11, 2013
Subject: Introduce with the Intention to Adopt Ordinance No 13-655 Amending Chapter 38, Fire Prevention and Safety, of the Auburn Hills City Code Regarding the Discharge of Fireworks.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

In June 2013 the State Legislature amended 2011 Public Act No. 256, known as the “Michigan Fireworks Safety Act allowing local communities to pass ordinances regulating the ignition, discharge, and use of consumer fireworks to prescribe the hours of day or night during which a person may ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks. Local municipalities can regulate, including prohibit, the use of consumer fireworks on all days that are not national holidays, the day before or the day after national holidays. "National holidays" are those defined in 5 USC 6103:

New Year's Day, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the third Monday in January
Washington’s Birthday, the third Monday in February
Memorial Day, the last Monday in May
Independence Day, July 4
Labor Day, the first Monday in September
Columbus Day, the second Monday in October
Veterans Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day, December 25.

Consumer fireworks include Roman Candles, aerial cakes, firecrackers, bottle rockets and other items.

The Department of Emergency Services began documenting calls related to fireworks in late May 2013. Once the law took effect in January 2012 we stopped documenting calls because fireworks were no longer illegal and there was no police response necessary. Since we became aware that the Legislature was considered an amendment to allow local governments to pass restrictions, we began to track complaint calls again. From January 1-July 8, 2013 we have had 64 calls complaining about fireworks city wide compared to 34 calls for the same period last year. The attached analysis shows more detail on the complaints and the locations.

If the ordinance were to be adopted the Department of Emergency Services would move immediately to disseminate information through the website, cable TV, local print media, social media to announce the change.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of an ordinance to limit the days of use for consumer fireworks to only those required by the statute (30 total days) and the time of day for use of consumer fireworks to prohibit their use from midnight to 8 am except on New Year’s Day when the prohibition would be from 1 am to 8 am. The Clerk will publish the ordinance as is required by law.

MOTION

Move to introduce ordinance 13-655 to amend Chapter 38, Fire Prevention and Protection, and to set a public hearing, second reading and final adoption on August 5, 2013.

I CONCUR:  

PETER E. AUGER, CITY MANAGER
Report Date: 7/8/2013

Report Data Summary

*All data is calculated using verified offenses

Verified Offenses for the Year 2012

- **Time Frame:** January 01, 2012- December 31, 2012
- **Total:** 53
- **Peak Day:** Saturday & Sunday (12 offenses each)
- **Peak Time:** 2200 (16 offenses)
- **Peak Month:** July (58% of Offenses)
  
  **NOTE:** July 04, 2012- attributed to 7 or 13% of total offenses

Verified Offenses for the Year to Date- 2013

- **Time Frame:** January 01, 2013- July 08, 2013
- **Total:** 64
- **Peak Day:** Wednesday & Thursday (12 offenses each)
- **Peak Time:** 2200 (17 offenses)
- **Peak Month:** June ( 50% of Offenses) *
  
  **NOTE:** Data does not include the entire month of July
  
  July 04, 2013- attributed to 10 or 16% of total offenses

January 01, 2012- July 08, 2012 Verified Offenses: 34
January 01, 2013- July 08, 2013 Verified Offenses: 64

*Percent Change:* Increase 88.235%

Verified Offenses for the Month of June 2013

- **Time Frame:** June 01, 2013- June 30, 2013
- **Total:** 32
- **Peak Day:** Saturday (9 Offenses )
- **Peak Time:** 2100 (7 offenses)

**NOTE:** 11or 34% occurred on or within the area of Briarvale Dr.

June 2012 total verified Offenses: 10
June 2013 total Verified Offenses: 32

*Percent Change:* Increase 220%

*All data calculated using verified offenses within Crime View Dashboard under Fireworks code L3506*
Auburn Hills Police Department 1899 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

CRIME ANALYSIS: FIREWORKS REPORT

January 01, 2012 - December 31, 2012

Verified Offense Data Table

Year: 2012
Total: 53

Peak Day(s): Saturday- (12)
Sunday-(12)
Secondary day: Wednesday-(9)

Peak Time: 2200 Hrs -(16)
Secondary Time: 2100 Hrs -(12)

Peak Month: July (58% of Offenses)

NOTE:
July 04, 2012- attributed to 7 or 13%
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Verified Offense Data Table

Time: Jan. 01 - Jul. 08, 2013 (YTD)

Total: 64

Peak Day(s): Wednesday-(12)
              Thursday-(12)
Secondary day: Saturday-(9)

Peak Time: 2200 Hrs -(17)
Secondary Time: 2100 Hrs -(12)

Peak Month: June (50% of offenses)
Secondary Month: July (32.5% of offenses)

NOTE:
July 04, 2013- attributed to 10 or 16%
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## Verified Offense Data Table

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| Secondary day: Sunday - (7) |
| Peak Time: 2100 Hrs - (7) |
| Secondary Time: 2200 Hrs - (6) |

**NOTE:**
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NOTES:
ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4743

AN ACT to amend 2011 PA 256, entitled “An act to revise, consolidate, and codify the laws relating to certain fireworks; to regulate the purchase, possession, sale, and use of certain fireworks; to establish a fireworks safety fee; to provide for the transfer and expenditure of funds; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies; to provide for penalties and remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts,” by amending sections 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 18a (MCL 28.454, 28.455, 28.457, 28.460, 28.461, 28.462, and 28.468a), sections 4 and 12 as amended and section 18a as added by 2012 PA 257.

Sec. 4. (1) A person shall not sell consumer fireworks unless the person annually obtains and maintains a consumer fireworks certificate from the department under this section. A person who knows, or should know, that he or she is required to comply with this subsection and who fails or neglects to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine, or both, with the fine as follows:

(a) For a first violation of this subsection, not more than $5,000.00.

(b) For a second violation of this subsection, not more than $20,000.00.

(c) For a third or subsequent violation of this subsection, not more than $40,000.00.

(2) An application for a consumer fireworks certificate shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) The application shall be submitted no later than April 1 of each year in which consumer fireworks are to be sold.

(b) The application shall list the name and address of each retail location from which consumer fireworks are to be sold.

(c) The application shall be accompanied by a fee of $1,000.00 for a certificate for each retail location that is a permanent building or structure or $600.00 for each retail location that is not a permanent building or structure. The fireworks certificate fee required to be paid for a retail location that is not a permanent building or structure shall not exceed 60% of the fireworks certificate fee for a retail location that is a permanent building or structure.

(d) The application shall be accompanied by a copy of the applicant’s current sales tax license, including the applicant’s account number, issued by the department of treasury for each retail location where consumer fireworks are to be sold by the applicant.

(3) A consumer fireworks certificate issued under this section is valid from the date of issue until April 30 of the year after it was issued. A person may renew a consumer fireworks certificate for a retail location by making application in the same manner as provided under subsection (2). However, the department shall not issue a renewal consumer fireworks certificate unless the department determines that the applicant properly remitted all of the fireworks safety fees required to be paid in the preceding year. The department shall provide to the department of treasury the sales
tax license information received from the applicant and any additional information as may be necessary to allow the
department of treasury to confirm that each sales tax license submitted by the applicant is current and valid. The
department shall enter into an agreement with the department of treasury under section 28(1) of 1941 PA 122,
MCL 205.28, that will allow the department of treasury to provide that information to the department. The department
shall not issue an original or renewal consumer fireworks certificate to an applicant until the department of treasury
has confirmed to the department that each sales tax license submitted by the applicant is current and valid, and that
the applicant is otherwise eligible to obtain a consumer fireworks certificate under this act.

(4) Not more than 30 days after an application is submitted to the department under this section, the department
shall issue or deny issuance of a consumer fireworks certificate to the applicant and, if issuance is denied, shall indicate
to the applicant the reason for denial.

(5) If the department denies issuance of a consumer fireworks certificate under this section, the applicant may cure
any defect of the application within 45 days after the denial without paying an additional fee. The department shall not
unreasonably delay or deny an application under this section.

(6) A consumer fireworks certificate is transferable upon approval by the department and the payment of a $25.00
transfer fee. However, the department shall not approve the transfer of a consumer fireworks certificate unless the
transferee satisfies eligibility requirements for an original consumer fireworks certificate under this act.

(7) The holder of a consumer fireworks certificate shall prominently display the original or copy of the certificate in
the appropriate retail location. A person that violates this subsection is responsible for a civil fine of $100.00. Each day
that the consumer fireworks certificate is not displayed as required under this subsection is a separate violation.

(8) The department shall not issue a consumer fireworks certificate to a person that is ineligible under this act.

(9) The face of the consumer fireworks certificate shall indicate the location or address for which it was issued.

(10) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the fireworks safety fund.

Sec. 5. (1) Consumer fireworks shall only be sold from a retail location if all of the following applicable conditions are
met:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a retail location satisfies the applicable requirements of NFPA 101 and
NFPA 1124 not in conflict with this act, and the Stille-DeRossett-Hale single state construction code act, 1972 PA 230,
MCL 125.1501 to 125.1531. However, any provision of the Stille-DeRossett-Hale single state construction code act, 1972
PA 230, MCL 125.1501 to 125.1531, that is inconsistent with the applicable requirements of NFPA 101 and NFPA 1124
is superseded to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2013, a permanent building or structure shall be equipped with a fire suppression system
in compliance with NFPA 1124.

(c) The retailer at that retail location is licensed under section 3 of the general sales tax act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.53.

(d) The retailer has a valid federal taxpayer identification number issued by the federal department of the treasury,
internal revenue service. This requirement does not apply to a retailer that is a sole proprietorship.

(2) A person that knows, or should know, that he or she is required to comply with subsection (1) and who fails or
neglects to do so is responsible for a civil fine of $2,500.00 for each violation. Each day that a person is in noncompliance
constitutes a separate violation.

(3) During periods when consumer fireworks are sold, each retail location selling consumer fireworks either shall be
added as an additional insured, or public liability and product liability insurance coverage shall be obtained and
maintained, in an amount not less than $10,000,000.00 per occurrence. A person that knows, or should know, that he or
she is required to comply with this subsection and who fails or neglects to do so is liable for a civil fine of not more than
$5,000.00.

Sec. 7. (1) Except as provided in this act, a local unit of government shall not enact or enforce an ordinance, code, or
regulation pertaining to or in any manner regulating the sale, display, storage, transportation, or distribution of
fireworks regulated under this act.

(2) A local unit of government may enact an ordinance regulating the ignition, discharge, and use of consumer
fireworks, including, but not limited to, an ordinance prescribing the hours of the day or night during which a person
may ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks. If a local unit of government enacts an ordinance under this subsection,
the ordinance shall not regulate the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks on the day preceding, the day of,
or the day after a national holiday except as follows:

(a) A local unit of government with a population of 50,000 or more or a local unit of government located in a county
with a population of 750,000 or more may regulate the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks between the
hours of 12 midnight and 8 a.m. or between the hours of 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. on New Year's day.

(b) A local unit of government with a population of less than 50,000 located in a county with a population of less
than 750,000 may regulate the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks between the hours of 1 a.m. and 8 a.m.
(3) An ordinance under subsection (2) shall only impose a civil fine of not more than $500.00 for each violation of the ordinance and no other fine or sanction.

Sec. 10. (1) The retailer or person to whom a consumer fireworks certificate is issued is responsible for remitting all fireworks safety fees as described in section 9 to the department on forms and in the manner prescribed by the department; shall hold the fireworks safety fees collected in trust for the state until remitted to the state; and is personally liable for the payment of the fireworks safety fee money to this state.

(2) The department may refer for collection to the department of treasury past due amounts of the fireworks safety fee consistent with section 13 of 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.13.

(3) A retailer or person shall remit the fireworks safety fees no later than 20 days after the end of each preceding month. A retailer or person that operates 25 or more retail locations in this state that are permanent buildings or structures may remit the fireworks safety fees in an aggregate filing under 1 common identification number as determined by the department.

(4) The department shall investigate any fireworks safety fees reported, but not paid, by a retailer no later than September 30 of each year.

Sec. 11. (1) The fireworks safety fund is created within the department of treasury.

(2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

(3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

(4) The department shall expend money deposited in the fund as follows:

(a) One hundred percent of the money received from fireworks safety fees under section 8 to be used for the training of firefighters under the direction and approval of the firefighters training council established under the firefighters training council act, 1966 PA 291, MCL 29.361 to 29.377.

(b) One hundred percent of the money received from consumer fireworks safety certificates under section 4 to administer this act and to pay the costs of delegating inspections under this act to local units of government under subsection (5).

(5) The department may establish a program for delegating inspection duties under this act to 1 or more local units of government. If a local unit of government agrees to carry out inspections, the department shall pay 70% of the consumer fireworks safety certificate fee paid by each retail location inspected by the local unit of government and retain the remaining 30% of that fee. If a local unit of government declines to participate in the program described in this subsection, the department retains its inspection duties under this act.

Sec. 12. (1) A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks on public property, school property, church property, or the property of another person without that organization's or person's express permission to use those fireworks on those premises. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person that violates this subsection is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than $500.00.

(2) Consumer fireworks shall not be sold to a minor. A person that violates this subsection shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than $500.00, or, for a second or subsequent violation of this subsection, a civil fine of not more than $1,000.00. In addition, the person's consumer fireworks certificate shall be suspended for 90 days after the civil fine is ordered for a second or subsequent violation. This age requirement shall be verified by any of the following:

(a) An operator's or chauffeur's license issued under the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923.

(b) An official state personal identification card issued under 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300.

(c) An enhanced driver license or enhanced official state personal identification card issued under the enhanced driver license and enhanced official state personal identification card act, 2008 PA 23, MCL 28.301 to 28.308.

(d) A military identification card.

(e) A passport.

(f) Any other bona fide photograph identification that establishes the identity and age of the individual.

(3) An individual shall not discharge, ignite, or use consumer fireworks or low-impact fireworks while under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance. As used in this subsection:

(a) “Alcoholic liquor” means that term as defined in section 1d of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1d.

(b) “Controlled substance” means that term as defined in section 8b of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.8b.
(4) An individual who violates the smoking prohibition under NFPA 1124, 7.3.11.1 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(5) Signage stating the smoking prohibition described in subsection (4) satisfies the requirements of NFPA 1124.

Sec. 18a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who receives a citation for a serious violation, an order issued under this act, or a rule promulgated under this act shall be assessed a civil fine of not more than $1,000.00 for each violation.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who receives a citation for a violation of this act that is not a serious violation may be assessed a civil fine of not more than $500.00 for each violation.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to violations for which a specific civil fine is provided by this act.

(4) The state fire marshal may request that the prosecuting attorney for the county in which a violation of this act occurred issue a complaint and request a warrant for the prosecution of a person who commits a criminal violation of this act.

(5) All civil fines collected under this section shall be paid to the department within 15 working days after the date the penalty is ordered, not subject to further review, and credited to the fireworks safety fund.

(6) The department of treasury shall institute proceedings to collect any civil fines ordered but not paid under this act.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

---------------------------------------------------------------------
Clerk of the House of Representatives

---------------------------------------------------------------------
Secretary of the Senate

Approved ...............................................................

---------------------------------------------------------------------
Governor
An ordinance to amend Chapter 38, Fire Prevention and Protection, of the Code of Ordinances to adopt Fireworks Regulations to conform with and exercise authority under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, Public Act No. 256 of 2011, as amended by Public Act No. 65 of 2013 and all future amendments.

THE CITY OF AUBURN HILLS ORDAINS:

Section 1 of Ordinance

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the ignition, discharge and use of fireworks within the city boundaries in accordance with the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, Public Act No. 256 of 2011, as amended.

Section 2 of Ordinance

Chapter 38, Fire Prevention and Protection, is hereby amended to add Section ______ to read as follows:

Sec. _____. Fireworks.

(a) Definitions and adoption by reference. As used in this section, the following words and phrases have the meanings indicated.

(1) Act means the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, Public Act No. 256 of 2011, MCL 28.451 to 28.471, as amended, which is hereby adopted by reference as a part of this ordinance.

(2) Articles pyrotechnic, as defined in the Act, means pyrotechnic devices for professional use that are similar to consumer fireworks in chemical composition and construction.

(3) Consumer fireworks, as defined in the Act, means fireworks devices that are designed to produce visible effects by combustion, that are required to comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations promulgated by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and that are in compliance with the construction, chemical composition, labeling, and other requirements in the Act. Novelties and low-impact fireworks as defined in the Act are not consumer fireworks.
(4) Display Fireworks, as defined in the Act, means large fireworks devices that are explosive materials intended for use in fireworks, displays and designed to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation.

(5) Fireworks, as defined in the Act, means any composition or device, except for a starting pistol, a flare gun, or a flare, designed for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, and consist of consumer fireworks, low-impact fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, display fireworks, and special effects.

(6) Low-impact fireworks, as defined in the Act, means ground and handheld sparkling devices.

(7) Minor is an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(8) National holiday means New Years Day (January 1), Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. (third Monday in January), Washington’s Birthday (third Monday in February), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (first Monday in September), Columbus Day (second Monday in October), Veterans Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November), and Christmas Day (December 25).

(9) Novelties, as defined in the Act, means all of the following:

(a) Toy plastic or paper caps for toy pistols in sheets, strips, roll, or individual caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap, in packages labeled to indicate the maximum explosive content per cap.

(b) Toy pistols, toy canons, toy canes, toy trick noisemakers, and toy guns in which toy caps as described in subparagraph (i) are used, that are constructed so that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion, and that are not designed to break apart or be separated so as to form a missile by the explosion.

(c) Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter.

(d) Toy snakes not containing mercury, if packed in cardboard boxes with not more than 12 pieces per box for retail sale and if the manufacturer’s name and the quantity contained in each box are printed on the box; and toy smoke devices.
(10) Special effects, as defined in the Act, means a combination of chemical elements or chemical compounds capable of burning, independently of the oxygen of the atmosphere and designed and intended to produce an audible, visual, mechanical, or thermal effect as an integral part of a motion picture, radio, television, theatrical, or opera production or live entertainment.

(b) Prohibited ignition, discharge, and use. Consumer fireworks shall not be ignited, discharged or used in the city except in the following situations:

(1) Consumer fireworks may be ignited, discharged or used on the day preceding, the day of, and the day after a national holiday except:

(a) Consumer fireworks shall not be ignited, discharged, or used on public, school, church, or private property of another person without the express written permission from the person or entity legally in possession and control of that property.

(b) Consumer Fireworks shall not be ignited, discharged or used between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 am on the day before, day of and the day after a national holiday, except on New Year’s Day. On New Year’s Day, they shall not be ignited, discharged or used in the city between 1:00 am and 8:00 am.

(c) Minors

(1) A minor shall not possess, use, discharge or ignite any consumer fireworks at any time.

(d) Under the Influence. An individual shall not discharge ignite or use consumer fireworks or low impact fireworks while under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and controlled substance.

(e) Unmanned free-floating devices. Any unmanned free-floating device (sky lanterns) which requires fire underneath to propel it and is not moored to the ground while aloft, have an uncontrolled and unpredictable flight path and descent area so as to pose a potential fire risk and are therefore prohibited.

(f) Novelties; inapplicability of ordinance. This ordinance does not apply to novelties. Nothing in this ordinance regulates, the sale, storage, display for sale, transportation, use, or distribution of novelties.
(g) **Zoning Ordinances.** Any person selling, distributing or transporting fireworks shall otherwise comply with the Act, and is required to comply with the zoning ordinances of the city, including obtaining necessary approvals thereunder. Failure to obtain necessary zoning approvals is subject to penalty as provided in the zoning ordinances of the city.

(h) **Imminent dangers.** Notwithstanding the Act, no person shall use, discharge or ignite fireworks thereby creating or causing an imminent danger or threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and such fireworks being used, ignited or discharged may be immediately seized.

(i) **Seizure.** All fireworks possessed, used, discharged, and/or ignited in violation of the Act and/or this section are subject to seizure. Any costs incurred by the city to seize and store the fireworks shall be paid by the responsible party.

**Section 3 of Ordinance**

The sanction for a violation of Section 94.29 is deemed a municipal civil infraction, punishable by a civil fine of not more than $500.00, plus costs, damages, and expenses and any other relief allowed under law.

**Section 4 of Ordinance**

Amended only as specified above and in this Section, the Code of Auburn Hills shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 5 of Ordinance**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 6 of Ordinance**

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this Ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they are commenced.

**Section 7 of Ordinance**

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision.
**Section 8 of Ordinance**

A synopsis of this ordinance shall be published in accordance with the Charter of the City of Auburn Hills, and this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon the publication of said synopsis.

CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

By: ____________________________________  
James McDonald, MAYOR

____________________________________  
Terri Kowal, CLERK

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Terri Kowal, Clerk of the City of Auburn Hills, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. ____, was adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills held on ________________, and that a synopsis thereof was published in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Auburn Hills in the Oakland Press, a newspaper circulated in the City of Auburn Hills, on ________________, 2013, said publication having been made within fifteen (15) days after adoption of this Ordinance.

Date:  
______________________________  
Terri Kowal, CLERK
DATE: JULY 15, 2013

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Peter E. Auger, City Manager; Ronald J. Melchert, Director of Public Works
Submitted: July 11, 2013
Subject: Motion, Approve Glenmeade Lane Dedication

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Representatives of the business owners of Hirotec America, Inc., FEV, Inc., Iroquois Industries, Greenblendz, Inc., and Data Reproductions Corp. collectively, has submitted a letter (attached) requesting that the City Council consider acceptance of Glenmeade Lane as a public street. Glenmeade Lane is located south off of Brown Road and east of Giddings Road. The City Council has had a policy of not accepting streets for the past several years. However, this item was considered by City Council at their regular meeting on March 5, 2001. There was a general consensus among the City Council members to move forward to approve and include Glenmeade Lane into the City’s public road network, but to have further discussion regarding the acceptance of Auburn Court. At this time Glenmeade Lane was never formally adopted. Attached are the City Council meeting minutes of March 5, 2001 for your review.

City Council typically considers a newly constructed street to accept into the public road network. A recent inspection of the Glenmeade Lane conducted by the DPW and OHM revealed that the road is in need of some minor joint repair to bring it to a satisfactory condition for acceptance as a public road. A new road would have a PASAR rating of a 9 or 10 with no maintenance required. Glenmeade Lane is currently at a PASAR rating of 6, which is considered good and comes with a recommendation to apply preservative treatments such as crack and joint sealing. Considering the typical scenario of a new road for consideration, OHM was asked to provide a cost estimate for full depth joint repairs which would bring the pavement to a PASAR rating of 8. The total estimated cost for joint repairs is $49,550.

Documents provided for your review is the Glenmeade Lane roadway legal description and map. A quit claim deed will be provided once the road dedication is accepted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

DPW staff has met with the property owners along Glenmeade Lane in February and in March of 2013, and all understand that acceptance of Glenmeade Lane, into the public road network, will be consider with the minimum submission of: 1. A legal description of the roadway; 2. An engineering drawing depicting the legal description; 3. A quit claim deed granting ownership of the roadway to the City, and 4. Payment to the City in the amount of $49,550 for future improvements to the road surface and storm drain system.

MOTION

Move to approve the resolution, ACCEPTING GLENMEADE LANE AS A PUBLIC ROADWAY.

I CONCUR: 

PETER E. AUGER, CITY MANAGER
June 11, 2013

Dear Mayor and City Council of Auburn Hills:

The undersigned businesses with locations along Glenmeade Lane request consideration for the private Glenmeade Lane to become a part of the public road network of Auburn Hills.

We acknowledge that a pre-determined amount of cost will be associated with transferring ownership of the road to bring it up to Auburn Hills' standards.

At such time of the approval for the road to be transferred from private to public, the sum of $49,550 will be paid to the City by the undersigned businesses. A quit claim deed will also be provided with road description at that time.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Hirotec America, Inc.
4567 Glenmeade Lane
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

FEV, Inc.
4554 Glenmeade Lane
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Iroquois Industries
2100 Brown Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Greenblendz, Inc.
4520 Glenmeade Lane
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Data Reproductions Corp.
4545 Glenmeade Lane
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
GLENMEADE LANE

ROADWAY CENTERLINE

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 3, T.3N., R.10E. OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN, CITY OF AUBURN HILLS, THENCE S 87°12’03”W 483.35 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE S 02°47’57”E 7.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S 02°20’37”E 1156.18 FEET; THENCE S 32°23’41”W 81.70 FEET. TOTAL LENGTH 1237.88 FEET.

NOTE: BEARING AND DISTANCES ARE TAKEN FROM THE OAKLAND COUNTY GIS DATA AND ARE BASED ON STATE PLANE COORDINATES.
Supported by Ms. Harvey-Edwards.

VOTE: Yes: Cooper, Harvey-Edwards, Knight, McDonald, McMillin, Pillsbury, Sendegas
No: None

Motion carried (7-0)

9. Discussion of possible acceptance of dedication of Glenmeade and a portion of Auburn Court

Mr. Ross explained the owners of property along Glenmeade Lane and the north/south portion of Auburn Court are interested in dedicating these private roads to the City. The DPW and OHM have examined the roads and prepared cost estimates to bring the roads into compliance with City standards. Both groups of property owners have indicated a willingness to provide funds for the work.

Mr. Ross offered the opinion that both streets could be integrated into the City’s road system, with the benefits to the City including control over utilization and maintenance, an increase in State Road Aid based on the length of the roads and greater continuity in the road system. He indicated it would be appropriate to accept both streets if the condition that the parties requesting dedication provide adequate funding to bring the streets up to the City’s standards and provide the City with all the appropriate documentation.

Mr. Ross indicated, in response to a question from Mr. McMillin, the City is not obligated to accept private streets, but may consider doing so on a case by case basis. He noted that maintenance on the streets should be minimal, although the bridge on Auburn Court could carry the potential for long term expense including erosion issues or replacement.

Mr. Knight asked if Auburn Court would be a Class 1 road because it is traversed by heavy duty trucks.

Mr. McDonald pointed out when the issue of accepting Auburn Court was first introduced by Mr. Ralph Cowie the property owners were not in agreement. Mr. Ross reported Mr. Cowie is now indicating he has raised the necessary funds.

Mr. Westmoreland, responding to Mr. Knight’s earlier question, indicated Auburn Court will be sufficient to handle traffic when the improvements are made.

Mr. Pillsbury asked if there are any negatives to accepting the streets. Mr. Ross noted that, although maintenance is anticipated to be minimal, there could be long term expenses associated with erosion and bridge replacement.

Answering Mr. McDonald’s question, Mr. Ross indicated the City would do the improvement work on the roads and have the owner’s reimburse the cost, but the acceptance would not be done until the roads were satisfactorily inspected.

Mr. McDonald requested the prior report from OHM on Auburn Court.

Mr. Ross clarified for Ms. Harvey-Edwards right-of-way dedication would be required, and the proper documentation would be the current owners’ responsibility.

Mr. Ross explained the property owners are looking for assurance that if the work is done to bring the roads up to City standards, the City would be willing to accept the streets. Regarding Glenmeade, Mr. Ross suggested the City perform the work to assure it meets City standards and is done properly and have the property owners reimburse the costs.

There was a general consensus to move forward with Glenmeade, but to have further discussion about Auburn Court after reviewing OHM’s report.
At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held in the Council Chambers at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326 at 7:00 p.m., on the 15th day of July, 2013

The following resolution was offered by Council Member __________ and supported by Council Member __________:

WHEREAS the street surface and base were constructed in or around 1990, and reviewed by the City’s engineering consultant and the Department of Public Works and have been found to be acceptable for integration into the City’s street system; and

WHEREAS those owners sharing a property line with the Glenmeade Lane right of way, that being, Hirotec America, Inc., FEV, Inc., Iroquois Industries, Greenblendz, Inc., and Data Reproductions Corp., collectively will prepared a Quit Claim Deed conveying ownership of the road right-of-way known as Glenmeade Lane to the City of Auburn Hills; and

WHEREAS the street surface and base are intended to be part of the City’s public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate for the City Council to accept the improvements and authorize their integration into the City’s overall systems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, pending submission by Hirotec America, Inc., FEV, Inc., Iroquois Industries, Greenblendz, Inc., and Data Reproductions Corp., collectively of 1. A legal description of the roadway; 2. An engineering drawing depicting the legal description; and 3. A quit claim deed granting ownership of the roadway to the City, 4. Payment to the City in the amount of $49,550 for future improvements to the road surface and storm drain system, that:

1. The street surface within the right-of-way on Glenmeade Lane is hereby accepted as a public improvement and is directed to be integrated into the City’s street maintenance program.

2. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to provide maintenance for the facilities which have been accepted by the City and to integrate the facilities into the City’s overall street program with maintenance provided as required under that program.

3. Within 30 days after the City Council’s approval of this resolution, the City Clerk shall record a certified copy of this resolution with the Oakland County Register of Deeds and shall file a copy of this resolution with the office of Michigan State Treasurer. The Street Administrator shall report to the Michigan Department of Transportation the addition of Glenmeade Lane to the list of streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Auburn Hills for Act 51 Report.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION: RESOLUTION ADOPTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed City Clerk for the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Auburn Hills City Council held on the 15th day of July, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this ____ day of July, 2013.

____________________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk
Honorable Council Members:

Executive Session

This session is to discuss acquisition of land. No backup information was provided.

Terri Kowal
July 3, 2013

Karen S. Adcock, S.D.C.
Senior Services Director
and
Brian Marzolf, Recreation Director
City of Auburn Hills
1827 N. Squirrel Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

A few weeks ago we rented the Community Center for our son’s grad party. I can’t begin to tell you how many people made positive comments about having the party in your fine facility. It was a very warm day outside, but inside everything was perfect.

I’d also like to take this time to commend two men who were working there that day, who made sure all of our needs were met. They are Dick Drew and Mark Ardelean. Whenever we needed a question answered or where to find something, they were always ready to help.

I particularly want to thank Mr. Drew for the courteous and professional manner he displayed throughout our time there. He represented you two, along with the City of Auburn Hills, very well.

I would not hesitate to rent the facility again and will recommend it to friends also. If I do, I would request that these two fine men be present on duty.

Please see to it that a copy of this small token of appreciation is placed in the file of each man.

Respectfully,

Stephen Witkowski
3130 Eastern Avenue
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
'Under the Streetlamp' to raise funds for Meadow Brook Theatre
Former cast of 'Jersey Boys' perform in fundraising benefit for the theatre.

... see page 4

New hotel proposed in Auburn Hills
Marriott TownePlace Suites to be built near Great Lakes Crossing Outlets.

... see page 5

Auburn Hills Police Chief awarded Presidential Medal
Chief Doreen E. Olko receives medal from Michigan Association of Police Chiefs.

... see page 8
COMMUNITY

The sound of music fills the city of Auburn Hills

The city of Auburn Hills will be filled with music all summer long this year with not one, but two music series programs. Although the “Friday Nights” Downtown Music Series and the “Sounds of Summer” Music Series have begun, those who have not had a chance to experience the varying styles of musical acts in both series still have a chance to with the programs running into the month of August. The best part is the music series are free and open to all.

At the “Friday Nights” Downtown Music Series, enjoy a variety of live music downtown all summer long on Friday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. from June 7-August 23 in Riverside Park. Riverside Park is located at 2-52, Squirrel Court, Auburn Hills. Here is the complete lineup of artists and downtown concert specials:

July 12 – Annabelle Road (Country)
July 19 – SPACECAT (Top 40)
July 26 – The As Is Band (Variety)
Aug. 2 – North Oakland Dixieland Band (Swing)
Aug. 9 – LEGEND The Band (Oldies)
Aug. 16 – The Rhythm Kings (Cover Band)
Aug. 23 – The Classics (30s-90s)

Meanwhile, at the “Sounds of Summer” Music Series 2013, enjoy some great performances on the back patio of the Community Center as the evening music series continues for the 26th season! Some picnic tables are available, but lawn chairs and/or blankets are advised. The address of the Community Center is 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills. All performances are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The lineup is as follows:

July 11 - North Oakland Concert Band (Variety)
Aug. 8 - Stardust Big Band (Big Band)

For more details on both events, call Auburn Hills Parks & Recreation at 248-370-9353.
Former OU coach who expressed religious views on Twitter now remains silent

By MEGAN SEMERAZ
Megan.Semeraz@oakpress.com; @MeganSemeraz

Former Oakland University women’s basketball coach Beckie Francis has always been outspoken on social media about her Christian faith, but she has been silent since the day it was announced she had been fired.

The former coach often tweeted her religious views and messages through her public Twitter account.

Francis told The Oakland Press last year that she had found religion during a three-year hiatus away from coaching beginning after the 2001-02 season. In the same interview, Francis came out about the real reason she took a leave of absence, which was she had been sexually abused as a child by her father.

Francis then became a strong advocate against sexual abuse — becoming a heavy supporter of “Erin’s Law” to strengthen protections against the sexual abuse of children. The legislation is named in honor of Erin Merryn, a woman from Schaumburg, Illinois, who was sexually abused as a child and now campaigns nationally for increased education and protections.

Michigan was ultimately the fifth state to pass the law. The messages Francis tweeted varied, including one of her favorite Bible verses: “Psalm 37:4 ‘Delight yourself in The Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.’”

The account also included things in everyday conversation, for example, asking the Lord to be with
Bachrouche told The Oakland Press about her stories of religious intimidation and emotional abuse by Francis, it made former OU Pep Band member Katie Wright recall her religious experience with Francis.

Though Wright never felt pressured and never personally talked to Francis, she recalled an event that took place while she was in the band in the past few years.

"I had gone on a Summit League Tournament trip (in South Dakota), and I remembered that we had to go to the church and play the fight song for the church (for no known reason except the church loved OU)," Wright said.

Wright said the event was listed on their itinerary and was mandatory.

"It wasn't optional, so we had to go as a band and the basketball teams went too," Wright said.

Francis' husband, Oakland University President Gary Russi, announced his retirement hours before it was announced that Francis had been fired.

Wright remembered how supportive both Francis and Russi had been of the band and the fact Russi was always "very kind" to them.

For now, Francis remains mute on social media, and has not spoken with the media since before her firing.

Contact Megan Semeraz at 248-745-4528 or email Megan.
Semeraz@oakpress.com.
Auburn Hills could see new extended-stay hotel

Plans for a new extended-stay hotel in Auburn Hills could come to fruition pending approval from the city council.

The proposal outlines plans for a Marriott TownePlace Suites hotel to be built just south of a site occupied by a former Borders bookstore near Great Lakes Crossing Outlets and west of Baldwin Road.

The planning commission reviewed and approved the $4.6 million, three-story, 80-room hotel on June 25 and the project will head to the city council for a vote on July 1.

The project will be the third hotel adjacent to Great Lakes Crossing owned by Basil Bacall.

Marriott TownePlace Suites is a mid-priced hotel that offers a full kitchen in each room, a complimentary breakfast, a fitness center and laundry facilities, and will include studio, one- and two-bedroom units.

“We are pleased at the possibility of having another hotel in Auburn Hills that can serve the needs of both our business community and out-of-town guests who come to Auburn Hills for shopping and entertainment,” said Steve Cohen, director of community development.

“Basil Bacall’s decision to build another high-quality hotel project here shows his confidence in Auburn Hills’ economic climate and his continued commitment to excellence.”

To view renderings of the project, visit the city of Auburn Hills community development blog at http://auburnhillsdevelopment.com/.

— Staff writer Andrew Kidd

WES.

BLOOMFIELD TWP.

Senior citizen reported missing is found

A 75-year-old man who had gone missing early this week was found, in good spirits by the West Bloomfield Fire Department.

Fire officials found Michael Jaffe of West Bloomfield around 5 p.m. and cleared him medically. Jaffe was last seen around 7:30 p.m. Monday leaving the Library Pub on Haggerty Road. His wife told West Bloomfield police that he went to the bar with a friend and was various tools inside the black 2007 Buick Lucerne they were driving. Bigelow and Cherry were both charged with attempted larceny from a motor vehicle. Bigelow’s bond was set at $25,000 cash, 10 percent allowed, while Cherry received a $5,000 personal bond during arraignment at 52-3 District Court. Preliminary examinations are set for July 1.

Investigators are attempting to determine where the catalytic converters were stolen from. Anyone with information is asked to call the Auburn Hills Police Department at 248-370-9444.

— Staff writer Dave Phillips

AUBURN HILLS

Two suspects accused of stealing catalytic converters

Two people were arrested in Auburn Hills on accusations that they stole several catalytic converters. Tirus Bigelow, 21, of Highland Park, and Amber Cherry, 23, of Detroit, were arrested Tuesday night after a witness saw them attempting to cut a catalytic converter off a vehicle in the Ride Share parking lot on Baldwin Road near I-75, police said. The witness called police, and an officer stopped the suspects’ vehicle as it was leaving the parking lot.

The suspects were unable to take the catalytic converter before they attempted to leave, but police found it catalytic converters and
Local public safety official receives award from law enforcement association

Thursday, July 4, 2013 8:42 PM EDT

By ANDREW KIDD
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A local police chief has received statewide recognition for her contributions to the law enforcement field.

Auburn Hills Director of Emergency Services and Chief of Police Doreen Olko was awarded the Presidential Medal for outstanding and extraordinary professional and personal service to the criminal justice system on June 25 by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

"Chief Olko has selflessly served the city of Auburn Hills for the past 17 years," said Auburn Hills City Manager Peter Auger. "The city is pleased to see her innovative approaches to emergency services, community policing, traffic safety and homeland security recognized at the state level. We are grateful for her stewardship and look forward to Chief Olko continuing to serve the Auburn Hills community."

Consideration for the award is given for criteria such as long-term contributions to criminal justice and law enforcement via involvement in MACP committees, boards or related bodies. Olko has been a member of the association since 1992.

Olko said that the award came as a surprise to her and that she was flattered.

"It's a thrill to be honored by your peers," she said, "by people who know what the job is and who understand the responsibility."

She added that to be recognized for her service out of the many law enforcement and public safety officials in the region was a particular honor.

"There are certainly a lot of people here in Oakland County that do a lot and serve in a lot of the same roles," she said. "It was particularly flattering and humbling to be singled out like this. I'm grateful for the city because they allow me to participate in these things."

Olko's law enforcement career began in 1973 at the Ingham County Sheriff Department. In 1977, she joined the Meridian Township Police Department, ultimately achieving the position of Commander of Staff Services. She joined the Auburn Hills police force in 1994 as Deputy Police Chief and was appointed Chief of Police in 1996.

Olko holds the position as the longest-serving female police chief in the state of Michigan. In 2012, Chief Olko accepted additional duties as Director of the Auburn Hills' Emergency Services Department, which combined the city's police and fire departments. Olko is also active in various civic and professional organizations.
Guest column: Auburn Hills has plugged into the future of transportation. Have you?

**Guest writer** By Guest writer

on July 03, 2013 at 7:00 AM, updated July 03, 2013 at 7:05 AM

Steve Cohen is director of community development for the City of Auburn Hills.

By Steve Cohen

More than two years ago, Auburn Hills made an intentional decision to prepare for the fueling needs of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs). Since then, the city has worked hard to raise awareness and communicate the benefits of providing PEV charging infrastructure to both consumers and employers.

Earlier this month, the city’s efforts were recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) when Auburn Hills accepted an invitation to be a partner in the DOE’s Workplace Charging Challenge to encourage employer adoption of PEV-friendly workplaces. The invitation was extended to the city based on its strong leadership in promoting PEV infrastructure readiness both statewide and nationally.

In 2011, Auburn Hills became the first municipality in Michigan to adopt a comprehensive Electric Vehicle Infrastructure ordinance. The City’s ordinance encourages, but does not require, developers, builders, homeowners and business owners to make electric car charging stations a regular part of construction. The goal of the ordinance continues to focus on raising awareness.

As the city works to increase adoption of PEV infrastructure, we find communities and municipalities often hold the misconception they are responsible for building this infrastructure on their own – they aren’t. Building the network of charging stations in Auburn Hills is very similar to how the city has constructed its network of walking and biking pathways for decades.

Over many years, developers built pathways along the roadway in front of their developments at the request of the city. The pathways linked-up, but where there was a gap – the city filled it. Now, we have a comprehensive pathway system and property owners helped build the majority of it. Auburn Hills has followed this same model of implementation to begin building the PEV infrastructure for the city looking ahead at the needs of not only current PEV drivers, but those of the next generation to come. With this approach, it is not the public sector but rather the private sector that absorbs the majority of the costs of the PEV infrastructure.
When the city began to plan for PEVs in 2011, we found many businesses were unaware of how easy it is to plan for charging stations and how they are needed to support this new market not only locally, but nationally. Today, it has become a routine and accepted part of our site plan review process.

As a result, 16 development projects have been approved by Auburn Hills with planned electric vehicle charging stations in their parking lots. 68 locations within these developments are being prepped for stations and 18 stations have been installed. Auburn Hills has also “walked the talk” by installing eight public charging stations in three separate locations within its borders.

In the meantime, Auburn Hills continues to communicate with employers that charging stations serve as an attractive employee benefit, enhance corporate sustainability efforts and signal corporate leadership in adopting advanced technology. It is also cheaper and easier to rough in charging infrastructure during initial construction than ripping things up after the fact. Once the basic infrastructure is in the ground, charging stations can be easily installed in the future as consumer demand increases. It’s a pretty simple concept and smart urban planning.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, like the Chevy Volt and Ford C-Max, are the pioneers of a future market of automobiles that will help reduce our country’s dependency on foreign oil and provide cost savings to consumers (electricity is the equivalent of approximately $1 per gallon of gas). These cars will fuel differently than people are currently used to. However, in the decades to come, it will become common place for drivers to charge their electric cars at night in their garage (while they are sleeping) or at work, similar to charging a cell phone.

With cost savings over gasoline and convenient home refueling, there are many reasons to support and encourage the adoption of PEVs, but economic development is the primary driver in Auburn Hills. The city is ranked as the third largest industrial employer in Michigan. With the automakers and numerous suppliers having a huge footprint in the region, both the public and private sectors have a common interest in working together to support the early adoption of alternative fuel options, such as compressed natural gas and propane, and PEVs. PEVs are considered the “low hanging fruit” of the domestically fueled vehicles because electricity is available everywhere at a low cost and charging station infrastructure is relatively inexpensive to install.

For those not motivated by the environmental and natural security reasons to support domestically fueled vehicles, simple economics may catch their attention. No doubt, automakers will focus their research investments and ultimately deploy these vehicles in areas of the country that are supportive of the technology. Michigan is the nation’s automotive hub; however, we’re seeing these vehicles being sold elsewhere.

Auburn Hills’ leaders decided early on they did not want to rest on their laurels and wait for other regions of the country to capture this investment. The entrepreneurial culture within our city drives us daily to innovate...
and lead, so it was natural for us to do so with alternative fuel vehicles. It was also a logical next step to partner with the DOE on the Workplace Charging Challenge.

Experts believe plug-in electric vehicles will constitute only 4 to 10 percent of the market by 2020, so it will be a long road toward mass adoption. However, the workplace has become a “second showroom” where consumers can become more familiar with this relatively new technology. Keeping with our leadership approach, Auburn Hills will continue to do our part in the economic development arena to plug into the exciting future of PEVs by telling our story and engaging other Michigan communities to act and do the same.

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Do you have a guest column on a statewide topic to share? Email MLive Statewide Community Engagement Director Jen Eyer at jeyer@mlive.com.

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GKN technology and research facility coming to former Auburn Hills cinema site

Friday, July 5, 2013 12:08 AM EDT

By ANDREW KIDD
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An abandoned cinema complex seen as an eyesore by some is coming down to make room for a new business park — and a new North American headquarters.

GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals recently received approval from the Auburn Hills City Council on July 1 to construct a new 168,056 square-foot technology and research facility on the northern half of the former Showcase Cinema property located at 2150 N. Opdyke Road.

GKN will be signing a 15-year lease with Novi-based developer Amson Dembs Development, Inc., which is building on the site and planning another corporate headquarters for the southern half in the future. The total investment on the northern half of the site is estimated to be in the area of $24 million.

The empty theater property was originally the site of the Blue Sky Drive-In, which began operation in 1948 with space for 700 and was demolished in 1989 to make room for the now-vacant cinema.

Showcase Cinema shut down this and many other locations in 2002 due to an inability to keep up with competition from newer theaters, such as the AMC Theatre at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets.

United Kingdom-based GKN Driveline employs 22,000 people at 57 facilities in 23 countries and works in partnership with vehicle manufacturers to develop driveshaft and geared component technologies.

Contact Andrew Kidd at 248-745-4630 or andrew.kidd@oakpress.com. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewJKidd. Subscribe to his Tout video feed at www.tout.com/ru/andrewjkidd

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Development News

Marriott hotel planned for Auburn Hills

Auburn Hills’ draw as a destination for corporate visitors is leading to the opening of a new hotel — a $46 million Marriott property that will boost the city’s property tax revenue and give Oakland County visitors and tourists another lodging option.

The Marriott Townplace Suites will be built near the Great Lakes Crossing outlet shopping center on I-75 and will have 80 rooms in a three-story building. The opening date is set for sometime in 2014.

It will replace a closed Borders bookstore west of Baldwin road and north of Great Lakes Crossing Drive and be near a Holiday Inn Express and a Hampton Inn, all projects of Michigan hotel developer Basal Bacall.

Stephanie Carroll, a spokesperson for the city of Auburn Hills, says the city has about 2,100 hotel rooms to house visitors, but a Marriott option was missing.

"So many people are looking especially for Marriott," she says, "And because of our corporate presence in Auburn Hills we get people who come here and need to stay a month. They need an extended stay and a mid-priced hotel."

"The story here," she says, "is Mr. Bacall continues to invest in this community."

Write: Kim North Shine
Source: Stephanie Carroll, coordinator of community relations and legislative affairs, city of Auburn Hills
Auburn Hills asks Oakland University to consider changing its address from Rochester

Saturday, July 6, 2013 7:07 PM EDT

By RYAN FELTON
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To be in two places at the same time would be a miracle, Albert Einstein is to have said.

What would he have thought of Oakland University?

The 56-year-old public institution has raised some eyebrows for years in the communities immediately surrounding it over the geographical conundrum it presents: Although the university’s infrastructure lies in the boundaries of both Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills, its address is listed at 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester.

And that bothers Auburn Hills City Councilwoman Anne Doyle

“I always say to the news media ... 'Hey, I know that’s their spin, but I expect the truth from the news media,'” Doyle said. “I think a lot of times there’s new reporters and they don’t know, and it says Rochester (as OU’s address). Unless I keep raising it with the news media, they don’t realize that really all (OU) has is a post office box, with a Rochester address.”

The reasoning behind why the university is listed under a Rochester address, while its actual location is almost five miles away from city limits, dates back to its inception. Attention has been drawn to the issue time and time again.

Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills did not exist as such when Matilda Dodge Wilson donated the land that became the university in 1957.

Theodore Montgomery, spokesman for Oakland University, told The Oakland Press last year that Wilson “felt a great deal of affinity for the city of Rochester for welcoming with open arms the charter class of students in 1959.”

“Back in the day, the postmaster registered a Rochester mailing address for our university,” Montgomery said. “We have a great relationship with Auburn Hills, we partner with them on many initiatives. We brag about what great neighbors they are.

James McDonald, mayor of Auburn Hills, shared a similar sentiment toward the university.

“We have a good relationship with them and we’re proud of them,” he said. “And I hope they’re proud of Auburn Hills.”

McDonald said he thinks the desire to have the address listed in Auburn Hills stems from the city’s pride of the university and pointed out there will soon be a welcome sign along city boundaries that reads “Welcome to Auburn Hills, home of Oakland University.”
He agrees that Doyle is correct in asserting the address should be changed.

As a former broadcast news anchor and reporter, McDonald said Doyle "likes the truth being printed."

Doyle is a member of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, she said. She worked as a journalist for 15 years, including a tenure at the local Fox affiliate in Detroit covering sports.

"I think like a news person and just expect the truth and expect the truth from the university, too," she said.

But the economic incentive of having the address switched is somewhat unclear. The university is a public institution and does not pay property taxes to Rochester, Montgomery said.

But, even though the university doesn’t pay taxes, Auburn Hills' tax base supports the municipal services that are called to attend to the school during emergencies, including fire, police and snow plow service, Doyle said.

"That’s all paid for by the residents of Auburn Hills," Doyle said. "That’s why I feel it’s really important. At this point, it's gotten to be a matter of disrespect."

Regardless, McDonald thinks that eventually the address will be listed in Auburn Hills.

"It’s just gotta work its way through the system," he said.

Contact staff writer Ryan Felton at 248-745-4654 or ryan.felton@oakpress.com. Follow him on Twitter @ryanfelton13.
Where Is Oakland University Located? (Bet You Pick The Wrong City)

Alan Stammalan@astamm.com
July 7th, 2013, 10:22 AM

The community where Oakland University sits feels slighted by the common belief, abetted by campus administrators, that it’s in Rochester.

Though this may not seem as critical as whether Harvard is in Boston or Cambridge, or whether Yale is in West Haven or New Haven, it’s a big deal to Auburn Hills' mayor and a council member.

Ryan Felton of The Oakland Press sketches the battle lines in a suburban skirmish:

Although the university’s infrastructure lies in the boundaries of both Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills, its address is listed at 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester.

And that bothers Auburn Hills City Councilwoman Anne Doyle. . . "That’s their spin, but I expect the truth from the news media. . . Really all it has is a post office box with a Rochester address."

As part of its push to straighten the record, Mayor James McDonald tells Felton, signs at city boundaries soon will say “Welcome to Auburn Hills, home of Oakland University.”

Doyle, a former sportscaster at WJBK (Channel 2) from 1978-84, applies an inflexible standard from that profession.

“I think like a news person and just expect the truth, and expect the truth from the university, too,” she said.

She notes that fire department response, police protection and snow plowing on public roads alongside the campus are "all paid for by the residents of Auburn Hills."

“That’s why I feel it’s really important. At this point, it’s gotten to be a matter of disrespect.”

Read more: The Oakland Press
Recent Articles
Former Oakland University women's basketball coach Beckie Francis' award may have come during investigation of her conduct

Wednesday, July 3, 2013 12:37 AM EDT

By PAUL KAMPE
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and
By MEGAN SEMERAZ
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Former Oakland University women's basketball coach Beckie Francis was awarded the Most Courageous Award by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association possibly at the same time she was being investigated by the university for her conduct and just a year after the school had previously investigated her program.

Oakland University announced late last month Francis had been suspended without pay May 30 after an Internal review was launched into her behavior. Her conduct was brought to the attention of a school administrator in April, according to the university.

A university spokesperson could not specify when the investigation began because the school does not comment on details of internal reviews or personnel matters. No written communication regarding Francis' termination was available from the university through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Francis was unanimously voted the winner of the USBWA’s annual award, named after former Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt, in late-February and accepted the award at the women's Final Four in New Orleans in April, a month after Oakland had concluded the 2012-13 season.

Last week, a former player came forward to say Francis had infringed upon her religious freedoms when she played for Oakland University. Farmington Hills native Jenna Bachrouche, who practices Islam, said Francis regularly made her feel uncomfortable and attempted to sway her to Christianity, as well as regularly scrutinizing the player's weight from 2010-12.

Bachrouche transferred to Western Michigan University following the 2011-12 season. After sitting out the 2012-13 season due to the NCAA’s transfer rule, she will be playing again this fall.

In another statement June 26, the school said it had taken "appropriate corrective action" to remedy "non-secular conduct and behavior" following the 2011-12 season.

An Oakland University spokesperson said a review of other aspects of the women's basketball program is still ongoing with no timetable for completion.
Director of athletics Tracy Huth and Francis have both declined comment since the firing.

The basketball writers executive director Joe Mitch said he was unaware of the school's investigations or Francis' firing.

Francis, who was fired by Oakland University with cause June 12, revealed shortly before the beginning of the 2012-13 season she had been the victim of sexual abuse by her father during her childhood in New York.

Mitch said Francis' revelations about past sexual abuse was "the underlying thinking" in her nomination for the award.

"The board thought it was a courageous act and wanted to award her for coming forward," he said.

Mitch added the group voted 13-0 in favor to select Francis.

Francis accepted the award during the Final Four in New Orleans, which was held April 7 through 9.

According to Mitch, a $500 donation was made in Francis' name to Care House of Oakland County, a child abuse prevention agency based in Pontiac, for which Francis serves as a board member.

The courage award is presented annually by the basketball writers group to male or female athletes, coaches, officials or administrators who are deemed to have demonstrated extraordinary courage while facing adversity in life. The award has been presented by the writer's association for the past 25 years.

Francis and Gary Russi, who became university president in 1996, met on campus when she arrived in 1997, and were married in 1999. Russi announced his retirement the afternoon of June 12, just hours before Francis was relieved of her duties by the athletic department, although a document filed by the university indicates she was officially terminated at 10 a.m. of that day.

Francis had a 227-162 record in 13 seasons with Oakland, leading the Golden Grizzlies to the NCAA tournament twice in her tenure, which was interrupted by a three-year hiatus from 2002-05. She guided the school through its transition to Division I as she had in previous stops as head coach at Stony Brook and as an assistant coach at Buffalo.

She was named an Esteemed Woman of Michigan in 2010.

Russi announced June 12 his resignation, effective Aug. 1, and interim president Betty J. Youngblood was sworn into office at a June 25 Board of Trustees meeting. Board chair Michael Kramer said Youngblood would be assuming daily operations July 1.

Russi has been at Oakland University since 1993, serving as interim president beginning in 1995 before accepting the position on a permanent basis. The school expanded greatly in his time at the top, with a student population now approaching 20,000, it added more than 50 academic degree programs in the process.

Russi is now working with Youngblood as the school transitions leadership. A national search for a new president is expected.

Paul Kampe covers Oakland University athletics for The Oakland Press. Read his blog, "Grizzlies Den," at TheOaklandPress.com/blogs/sports.
Oakland University Board of Trustees member Dennis Pawley steps down

Monday, July 8, 2013 5:29 PM EDT
By MEGAN SEMERAZ
and PAUL KAMPE
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Longtime Oakland University Board of Trustee member Dennis Pawley has stepped down from his position less than one year from his most recent appointment date, effective immediately.

The eight-member board is the governing body of the Rochester-area university. Trustee terms are for eight years, with Pawley's not expiring until August 2020.

Pawley said that in accepting an appointment to the board last fall, it was not his intent to serve a full, eight-year term. He intended to provide counsel and insight based on considerable institutional knowledge during a particularly active period of university growth.

"I told the governor I would stay no more than two years," Pawley told The Oakland Press. "I would've resigned next year at this time anyway."

The move comes after long-serving OU President Gary Russi announced his retirement last month. Within hours, it was announced that Russi’s wife and OU women’s basketball coach Beckie Francis was fired from her position.

Pawley said he felt future board members should be involved in appointing Russi’s replacement because they will be working with a search firm to find a candidate and eventually serving on the board with that person.

"New people should pick the next president, not me," he said.

Pawley was serving his third term at OU. He previously served in 1996-98 and from 2002-10 — spending some of his time as the chairman. He said the timing of Russi’s retirement, effective Aug. 1, and Francis’ termination — both announced June 12 — does look odd, but is merely incidental.

"It looks weird, but he had been talking about leaving for years," Pawley said. "He really put the university on the map. ... Why not go out on top."

"He had a unique way with people. He could sell the board on his vision and get the community involved."

The Pawley name is well-known across the Oakland University campus. Dennis Pawley, along with his wife Carlotta, have donated millions of dollars to the institution.

In 2004, the couple donated a $4 million leadership gift to the university to name the School of Education and Human Services building “Carlotta and Dennis Pawley Hall.” Pawley also established the Pawley Lean Learning Institute with a $1 million gift in 2002.

More recently, the couple donated an estate gift of $738,000 to the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. Pawley was a member of the Board of Trustees at the time the university was in negotiations for the building.

“Dennis Pawley has served the university well for years — as a student, donor, friend, trustee and chair of the board,” said board chair Michael Kramer in a press release. “His contributions to the university are incalculable, and we wish him only the best with his future endeavors.”

In the span of a year, Oakland University has lost several key members of the administration in addition to Russi and Francis, including Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder K. Moudgil, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Mary Beth Snyder and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ron Sudol.

Long-serving former BOT chairman Henry Baskin, who served the university from 1996-2012, finished his out BOT term last year.

Betty J. Youngblood has been appointed by the board to serve as interim president. An Oakland alum, she previously served as associate vice president for outreach and as executive director of Oakland University-Macomb.

URL: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/07/08/news/local_news/doc51db2f0b99bdf749598801.prt

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Former OU student faces jail time for criminal sexual conduct

Wednesday, July 3, 2013 9:46 PM EDT

By NATALIE POPOVSKI
Special to The Oakland Press

Former Oakland University student Reanna Douglas was sentenced to 30 months to 15 years in Oakland County Jail after being found guilty of one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree. Oakland County Circuit Court judge, Daniel P. O'Brien, presided over the July 1 sentencing.

Case background

Douglas, 22, was charged last October with having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female lacrosse player from Lake Orion High School.

According to court documents, the relationship occurred between June and August 2012 after Douglas met the victim while working as a women's lacrosse coach for the school.

Douglas pled no contest to these charges at her pre-trial hearing April 1, but was taken into custody afterward for violating her no contact order with the victim. She was later released after being issued a GPS tether, according to court documents.

The defense

During the sentencing, Defense Attorney Cheryl Carpenter referred to the case as "unique," "heartbreaking" and a "situational offense." She said the incident was merely statutory and said Douglas had never used force or coercion to get the victim to engage in sexual activity.

"There is nothing to show Reanna was a predator," Carpenter said. "She's not someone who targets teenage girls — this was situational."

Carpenter said Douglas does not fit in the third and most "dangerous" tier of criminal sexual conduct.

The defense asked the court to consider deviating from the original sentencing guideline, and instead have Douglas serve one year in prison and one year in rehabilitation.

Carpenter used Douglas' work and educational history as a reason for the judge to deviate.

According to Carpenter, Douglas graduated from Oakland in May and had dreams of becoming a lawyer.
Carpenter said she knew the biggest problem with Douglas receiving a deviation was the bond violation, in which she reportedly made threatening comments regarding the victim's father as well as made contact with the victim. She added that Douglas accepted responsibility and admitted guilt for what she had done.

The prosecution

The prosecution recommended that Douglas spend 3-15 years behind bars for the crime, and decided there was no compelling reason for the judge to consider deviating from those guidelines.

Sara Pope-Starnes, assistant prosecuting attorney for the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office, said Douglas' work history did not provide a compelling reason to deviate because that is where she met the victim.

The prosecution also stated that Douglas was made well-aware of the conditions of her bond by 52-3 District Court judge, Julie Nicholson, in November, but still chose to have contact with the victim.

The victim’s father appeared in court and requested that Douglas receive full sentencing to keep her away from his family and “off of his doorstep.”

While addressing the court, he also said he held the Lake Orion School District accountable for not taking better care of his daughter in favor of preserving the school’s image.

The verdict

Douglas made final remarks at the sentencing, and apologized to the victim’s family as well as the Lake Orion community.

"I wanted you (O'Brien) to know I'm very sorry, particularly for the bond violation," Douglas said. "Whatever your recommendation, I appreciate and accept it."

O’Brien said he made note of the reasons for a deviation. He also noted that her plea of no contest was in passing.

O’Brien decided it was proper for Douglas to serve 30 months to 15 years in prison beginning July 1. She received a one-day credit and must comply with DNA and HIV testing, sex offender registry requirements and may not have any contact the victim.

“You have a right to appeal and I wish and pray for the best," O’Brien said.
OU student wins honor from fraternity

Friday, July 5, 2013 7:09 PM EDT
By JENNIFER HOLYCHUK
Special to The Oakland Press

Oakland University graduate Maria Willet was named the 2013 International Sweetheart of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, OU’s largest male Greek organization. Her acceptance of the title, which comes with a $500 scholarship, was announced by the TKE Offices of the Grand Chapter last month.

Willet, 22, is a Flushing native who graduated with her bachelor of arts in political science from OU in April. She is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and has been working with OU’s Upsilon-Xi chapter of TKE for several years.

“The Upsilon-Xi chapter has impacted me since day one of my college experience when they helped me move into my dorm room freshmen year,” she said.

According to Kyle Erdman, TKE’s communications specialist, individual chapters nominate notable women from their campuses to be considered for the title of IKE International Sweetheart.

“Our entire TKE nation across 290 campuses then votes on who they believe to be the official Sweetheart,” he said.

Willet said she was “completely shocked” at receiving the title and scholarship, and she is now awaiting her official crowning ceremony at the 2013 TKE conclave in Washington, D.C., August 8-11.

Willet, who plans to attend OU in the fall to pursue her masters in public administration, will be working as the student outreach coordinator in the Alumni Engagement Office while continuing her involvement with the OU Center for Autism Research, Education and Support.

She said she hopes to stay involved with OU’s chapter of TKE as well.

“I hope to meet brothers from other chapters through visits, conclave and Regional Leadership Conference and represent Tau Kappa Epsilon with pride,” she said.
Oakland Community College Auburn Hills has new president

Gordon May, 63, of Rochester Hills, has come a long way since he was on the management track in the trucking business and an adjunct faculty member at the 29,000-student Oakland Community College 26 years ago. May, who has been president of the Highland Lakes Campus since 2002, has been named president of OCC's high tech Auburn Hills campus, the largest of the college's five campuses, where he has served as interim president since former President David Mathews died suddenly in February.

OCC Chancellor Timothy Meyer made the announcement Tuesday, saying it is effective immediately. May also continued serving as president of the Highland Lakes Campus at Cooley Lake and Hospital roads in Waterford Township, while he was interim in Auburn Hills.

He guided $23 million in improvement and expansion projects while at Highland Lakes campus.

An interim president for the Highland campus will be announced soon, said spokesman George Cartsonis.

May, who was teaching a business course at OCC in 1986, had earned his bachelor's degree and was on the road to higher management positions in the trucking business, when in 1987 the chance to become the founding director of OCC's new Pontiac Center in the city's downtown presented itself. May did not hesitate to jump at the opportunity.

The Pontiac Center was created with the goal of linking Pontiac students to OCC's academic campuses and May switched his career path with a mission of making Pontiac students aware of their educational opportunities with the two-year college.

Ever since, May has been known for his ability to form relationships and partnerships that have been helpful to the college and has continued to move up in the college system.

"Gordon May has proven himself as OCC's versatile 'utility infielder,' filling in with excellence in whatever role the college requires," said OCC Chancellor Tim Meyer.

May's most recent role as Auburn Hills Campus interim president, from March to the present, was his third such assignment. He was interim for 18 years beginning in 1990 and was interim president for two months in 2012. He has also been executive director at Royal Oak and Southfield campuses.

"I am returning to where I started; at the Auburn Hills Campus; I have come full circle to the campus where I was teaching a class in 1986," May said.

May holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Indiana University, a master's of education degree, Education Specialist certificate and doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University. He has taught graduate classes in higher education at both Wayne State University and Oakland University.

During his time at OCC, May has been involved in many college and community projects.

May and his wife, Patricia Shipp May, a long-time educational counselor at OCC's Auburn Hills Campus, reside in Rochester Hills. Their daughter Amira May Woodruff is a dentist in West Bloomfield and their daughter Carissa May, a medical student at University of Indiana School of Medicine.

AUBURN HILLS
Lake Trust relocates branch

Lake Trust Credit Union is celebrating the grand opening of its Auburn Hills branch, 2550 N. Squirrel Road, across from Oakland University.

At just 1,200 square feet, the location will be the smallest of all of Lake Trust's branches. For more information, visit laketrust.org.
Gordon May Named Auburn Hills Campus' Permanent President

7/2/2013 - Published by Oakland Community College, (Bloomfield Hills, MI)

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich., July 2, 2013 — Oakland Community College Chancellor Tim Meyer has named Dr. Gordon May, 63, President of the Auburn Hills Campus, effective immediately.

While continuing his duties as President of the Highland Lakes Campus, Dr. May also served as Auburn Hills’ interim President since the untimely passing of President David Mathews in February 2013.

"Gordon May has proven himself as OCC’s versatile ‘utility infielder,’ filling in with excellence in whatever role the college requires,” said Chancellor Meyer.

Dr. May’s most recent role as Auburn Hills Campus Interim President, from March to the present, was his third such assignment. He was Interim President from November to December 2012 and in 1998-99. He has been Highland Lakes Campus President since September 2002.

Dr. May began his career at OCC as business faculty adjunct in 1986. At various intervals from 1987 to 1999, he was Director and later Executive Director of the Pontiac Center. In the late 1990s, he was an Interim Dean at Auburn Hills and Highland Lakes, and served as Executive Director at Royal Oak/Southfield prior to his appointment to the Highland Lakes presidency.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Indiana University, a Master’s of Education degree, Education Specialist certificate and PhD in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University. He has taught graduate classes in higher education at both Wayne State University and Oakland University.

Dr. May and his wife, Patricia Shipp May, an educational counselor at OCC, reside in Rochester Hills and are the parents of two adult daughters.

About Oakland Community College

With campuses located throughout Oakland County, OCC is the largest of Michigan’s 28 community colleges and the 23rd largest in the nation. The college offers degrees and certificates in more than 160 fields including university transfer and general studies degrees.

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Media Contact Information

http://www.automationalley.com/a2_nws_newsdetail?id=a0M6000000F95Z8EAJ 7/3/2013
Pontiac teachers file lawsuit, saying health care premiums were misused to fool state

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 11:57 PM EDT

By DIANA DILLABER MURRAY
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Pontiac teachers are accusing the school board, business manager and former school superintendent of fraud, deceit and malfeasance for taking money out of their paychecks for health insurance premiums and using it in the general fund for operations.

In fact, Michael Lee, attorney for the Pontiac Education Association, alleged in an Oakland County Circuit lawsuit filed this week that the reason school officials were putting the money into the general fund was to try and deceive Michigan officials as to the status of the state-approved plan to reduce the district’s deficit of $37.7 million.

“They have been taking money out of our checks and they haven’t been paying MESSA (Michigan Education Special Services Association),” said Aimée McKeever, president of the PEA.

As a result, the insurance carrier canceled coverage effective July 31.

The district already owed $7.8 million in back health insurance premiums from the 2011-2012 school year as of Jan. 13. That amount is being levied against property owners on their tax bills under a court order resulting from a settlement between Pontiac schools and MESSA.

As of July 1, the district was in arrears in its payments to MESSA for an additional $3.3 million from this school year, according to a letter accompanying the lawsuit, for a total of more than $11 million.

Lee alleged the defendants acted together to “purposefully, intentionally, fraudulently and maliciously misrepresent to (the PEA members) that in fact the payments were being made to MESSA on their behalf for the purpose of medical insurance coverage.”

The lawsuit names each trustee individually, including Board President Carrol Turpin, Vice President Karen Cain, Secretary Brenda Carter, Treasurer Sherman Williams II and trustees Susan Loveland, Mattie McKinney-Hatchett and S. Barbara Raby.

Also named are Paul Bryant, business manager, who, according to the lawsuit, has sole authority to make payments to vendors; and former Superintendent Brian Dougherty, who was charged with running daily operations from Aug. 27, 2012 until May 17, 2013.

Dougherty said his attorney has advised him not to comment at this time. Interim Superintendent Kelley Williams said she has not seen the lawsuit and the district has no comment.
The union is asking Circuit Judge Shalina Kumar to order the district to cease and desist from this practice.

The PEA is also asking Kumar to order the district to make the payments to the insurance carrier; to pay more than $25,000 for all lost wages and benefits, plus interest; and to pay for any and all other compensation members might have lost as well as attorney fees.

According to attorney Lee, none of the defendants are entitled to government immunity since their actions were either intentional interference, fraud, conversion, misappropriation or grossly negligent for failure to make accurate reports and refusal to properly supervise subordinates who are engaged in "misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance."

Lee alleges administrators purposely chose to divert those monies on other debts without agreement or consent.

The suit states the board intentionally disregarded their duty to monitor the administrators and willingly used the wrongfully diverted income "for the purpose of deceiving the state of Michigan" on the status of the district's deficit elimination plan.

"No employer may withhold or otherwise divert an employee's income without that employee's written permission," Lee maintained in the lawsuit.

Under the PEA contract, the district was to pay the premiums in full under the teachers contract until September. That's when the district began taking more than 20 percent of the premiums out of checks of employees, including teachers, non-union employees and some administrators, including the interim Superintendent Kelley Williams.

The union said neither the district's nor the employees' contributions were paid to the insurance carrier.

PEA's McKeever said: "They are very upset, very panicked because they are so far behind," and they are worried about not having insurance, she said. The union is working to find another insurance carrier.

State school Superintendent Michael Flanagan cited the district's failure to pay MESSA employees' health premiums as one of the reasons for finding the district in probable financial stress and in need of a review by a team approved by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The Treasury Department's Emergency Loan Board agreed and Snyder approved a high-level board with experts in finance to visit the district, review finances and interview employees to determine whether Pontiac schools is in a financial emergency.

If the team finds that to be true, the Pontiac Board of Education will be obligated to choose between several options, including an emergency manager, bankruptcy or a consent agreement.

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State considers plans for Pontiac retirees’ health care, deadline is Monday

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 11:57 PM EDT

By DUSTIN BLITCHOK
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LANING — Pontiac Emergency Manager Lou Schimmel was at the state Capitol on Wednesday with a $6 million problem.

"We can’t pay $6 million, because we don’t have it," a serious-looking Schimmel told the Michigan Department of Treasury’s Emergency Loan Board, referring to the annual cost to the city for about 1,000 retirees’ health care.

The three-person board must decide by Monday whether Schimmel’s plan for dealing with health care — eliminate the obligation for two years or whenever the city’s financial emergency ends — or a proposal by the Pontiac City Council involving a transfer from a city pension fund is the best option. The board decided not to take a vote Wednesday, with the intention of meeting again on Friday or Monday after reviewing the issue.

John Nixon, director of the state’s Department of Technology, Management & Budget, said to Schimmel: "So if we don’t approve this, what I hear you saying …"

Schimmel replied: "I’m going to be talking to you about bankruptcy."

A delay until Monday is fine, Schimmel told the board. "If there’s no decision after that, we’re in a world of trouble."

Mayor Leon Jukowski and Stephen Hitchcock, an attorney for the city, were in the audience. No Pontiac City Council members were present. President Pro Tem Patrice Waterman could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

"Here we are, here they aren’t," said resident Linda Hasson, who encouraged the Emergency Loan Board to approve Schimmel's proposal.

Claudia Filler, the president of the City of Pontiac Retired Employees Association, said: "I’m happy that they’re taking their time to study all the implications of their actions."

The group has several pending lawsuits against the city related to benefit cutbacks. "We’ve already filed suit in federal court. If they take the action, I’m 99 percent sure that we’re going to be following up with a lawsuit if they eliminate our benefits, if the current litigation doesn’t totally cover that," Filler said.

The emergency manager, the third appointed to the city since its finances came under state supervision in 2009, outlined for the board what he’s done since coming to City Hall, including paying down most of the city’s debt.
"I came into the city, which was in disaster shape, and did, I guess you'd say, major surgery," Schimmel said. The city receives about $30 million annually in revenue, as compared to $57 million annually before its property tax base dwindled by more than 50 percent.

"Out of $30 million, we pay nearly $12 million for police services and about $6.5 million for the fire department, which used to cost us $14 million," Schimmel said. "There is nowhere else to go."

Schimmel floated a millage proposal to pay for retiree health care on the November ballot, but it was rejected by voters.

The emergency manager has said he wants to leave City Hall this month, and the city’s new budget that took effect July 1 pays for retiree health care through the fall with proceeds from the sale of Lot 9 and the anticipated sale of the Pontiac Municipal Golf Course.

Schimmel’s request to set aside retiree health care has been made in order to wipe out the city’s remaining $6 million annual structural deficit, or obligations consistently above and beyond the money that’s available to pay them. Part of his plan is to provide a $400 per month pension benefit increase to help offset the retirees’ cost of purchasing health care.

Under the state’s emergency manager law, the Pontiac City Council submitted a counterproposal to the Michigan Department of Treasury that pitches what’s known as a “420 transfer” from the Pontiac General Employees Retirement System, which is approximately 150 percent funded, with about $450 million in assets.

The pension board’s attorney has said that “if you want to take pension assets and use them to pay for retiree health care, this is the way to do it."

A 420 transfer allows the use of 50 percent of a pension fund’s earnings each year over and above projected returns to pay for retiree health care, per state law. Federal law dictates that the transfer can’t bring the pension plan beneath a 125 percent funding level.

Attorney Hitchcock said the council’s proposal isn’t viable.

"There would have been several years in the last five years where this wouldn’t have worked,” Hitchcock said. “You're into this game where you never know whether your year is going to generate any money you can withdraw for health care contributions."

Schimmel added, "In three of the last six years, you would have had zero (from the pension fund) to transfer over (to health care)."

The plan to set aside retiree health care altogether is Plan B, Schimmel said, after the pension board would not vote to dissolve and join the state Municipal Employees’ Retirement System, buying in at a 120 percent funding level and using the remainder of its surplus to fund retiree health care. He’s twice tried to cut the number of trustees on the board in half.

"For various reasons, that local board refuses to go out of business and turn the assets over to the State of Michigan,” he said. "It involves such things as travel, various perks, investment counselors and lawyers who don’t want to lose their jobs."

Contact staff writer Dustin Blitchok at 248-745-4685 or dustin.blitchok@oakpress.com. Follow him on Twitter @SincerelyDustin.
'Time is of the essence,' as state panel reviews Pontiac schools’ finances

Thursday, July 4, 2013 12:32 AM EDT

By DIANA DILLABER MURRAY
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A high-level review team has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to review the Pontiac school district’s financial records and interview personnel to determine whether the district needs an emergency manager or another remedy for its deficit situation.

"They’ll be looking to get started as soon as possible," said Sara Wurfel, spokeswoman for the governor’s office.

“They will be visiting the district and doing interviews and will have 60 days as of this announcement” to complete the review, said Wurfel. However, they could ask for a 30-day extension if needed.

"Time is of the essence," she said, considering the new school year will start after Labor Day.

The financial review team includes representatives selected by directors of key state departments and the speaker of the House and Senate majority leader.

Members, all of whom have expertise in financial operations, include John Baritone, director of the authority finance division of the Department of Treasury; Doug Ringer, chief executive auditor and director of the Department of Technology, Management and Budget’s Office of Internal Audit Services; Carol Wollenberg, deputy state school superintendent; Max Chiddister, the nominee of the speaker of the House and president of Chiddister and Associates, and former director of Detroit Public Safety Foundation; John Axe, president of Axe and Ecklund, nominee of the Senate majority leader, who specializes as bond counsel to local units of government and school districts; and finally, Fred Headen, legal advisor for the Michigan Department of Treasury and former director of Treasury’s Local Government Services Bureau, who represents other state officials with relevant professional experience.

Under the new state Emergency Manager Act, the governor appointed the review team after the state Department of Treasury Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board found “probable financial stress” exists within the Pontiac school district after reviewing a report from state school Superintendent Michael Flanagan.

Under the new emergency manager act, the finding requires the Governor to appoint a financial review team.

If a financial emergency is eventually found to exist in a local unit of government, local officials determine how the crisis is remedied by selecting one of four options: a consent agreement; an emergency manager; a neutral evaluation process; or Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

Flanagan's findings came from a preliminary review of the Michigan Department of Education, which found many
problems, including the fact that the deficit has increased by millions to $37.7 million by the end of 2012 even while the district was supposed to be following a state-approved deficit elimination plan.

Also, Flanagan noted the fact that the district had not paid employee health insurance premiums amounting to $7.8 million and now taxpayers have been ordered to pay that bill off over a 10-year period.

Pontiac school district's interim Superintendent Kelley Williams and Board President Caroll Turpin were not available for comment Wednesday afternoon.

The announcement of the financial review team came the day after Snyder signed a bill approved by the Legislature that provides for dissolving of districts of 2,500 students or less if they do not have enough money to operate through the school year.

Legislators were also planning to include the 5,000-student Pontiac school district in the bill, but decided against including larger districts after hearing testimony from Oakland Schools Superintendent Vickie Markavitch, who proposed that intermediate school districts operate larger districts that are in trouble for a few years until they are turned around and can operate on their own again.

It is unclear whether legislation will be proposed to create this type of interim takeover when the Legislature is back in session.

In an effort to be proactive, Snyder on Tuesday announced the creation of the Advisory Work Group on Financial Accountability for Schools to examine and better identify early warning signs of problems in districts, Wurfer said.

"The overwhelming majority of Michigan's school districts are managed well, but a handful aren't," Snyder said at a news conference.

"When a school district no longer is able to do its job and educate our children, then we must be able to act quickly to get those students in other classrooms," the governor said.

The Advisory Work Group primarily will be comprised of representatives from educational organizations and groups and schools.

"We're bringing together people from across the state. Their assignment is to identify the early signs that a district is having issues that could develop into serious problems and affect the education of students.

"From there, we'll be able to work together and find tools and ways to help these kids and districts," the governor said.

The group is expected to begin meeting in mid-July and finish its work and recommendations by the beginning of the new school year, Sept. 3.

Meetings will be open to media and public. Public comment will also be taken at edsentinel@michigan.gov.

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Pontiac summer tax bills include school district judgment, letter from mayor

Wednesday, July 3, 2013 5:27 PM EDT

By DUSTIN BLITCHOK
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Pontiac’s mayor has attached a letter to summer tax bills informing residents of a levy for a Pontiac school district debt that’s included — and other possible judgment levies in the future.

City residents are paying $2.1 million of a court-ordered $7.8 million judgment against the struggling Pontiac school district for unpaid teacher's health care premiums. The city has spread the judgment over 10 years to lessen its impact, at a rate of .3071 mils each summer for a decade.

Mayor Leon Jukowski’s letter warns residents that health care costs for about 1,000 city retirees could end up being paid by taxpayers, too, and it suggests than a city pension plan’s surplus should pay for retiree health care to avoid future lawsuits and tax levies.

"There have been a tremendous number of questions about both the school levy and the issue of retiree health care, and I felt the need to put them in perspective and tell people what is and what isn’t out there," Jukowski said Wednesday.

“I think the taxpayers deserve to have a heads-up before these things hit them.”

Emergency Manager Lou Schimmel has asked the Michigan Department of Treasury to allow health care for nearly 1,000 retirees to be set aside for two years or whenever the city exits receivership, whichever comes first, in order to wipe out the city’s $6 million annual structural deficit. His plan includes a one-year, $400 per month pension benefit increase.

“The cost of retiree health care for (general retirees) is currently about $5 million per year, and if not paid for by the city, would result in a judgment levy potentially three times larger than the one you and other taxpayers must pay for the school district on the bill,” Jukowski wrote in the letter included with summer tax bills.

Claudia Filler, the president of the City of Pontiac Retired Employees Association, said Jukowski’s letter is “a cynical move to mislead taxpayers about the city’s obligation to fund retiree health care. Mayor Jukowski attempts to place the obligation for retiree health care squarely on the General Employees Retirement System.”

Health care is a separate benefit from pensions, Filler said.

“Now, Mayor Jukowski is indicating that the retirees should jeopardize their future pension benefits to pay for the health care that is solely the city’s obligation,” she said. “Mayor Jukowski has no shame in now trying to pit taxpayers against
the retirees who gave their working lives to make life better in Pontiac."

Schimmel's plan suggests that the pension fund vote to join the state Municipal Employees' Retirement System and buy in at a 120 percent funding level, leaving a funding cushion and directing the remainder of its assets toward retiree health care.

The council's counterproposal pitches what's known as a "420 transfer," named for a section of the Internal Revenue Service code, from a city pension fund to pay for retiree health care.

A 420 transfer allows the use of 50 percent of a pension fund's earnings each year over and above projected returns to pay for retiree health care, per state law. Federal law dictates that the transfer can't bring the pension plan beneath a 125 percent funding level.

The mayor's letter states that the pension fund has not earned enough in three of the last six years to pay for retiree health care using the 420 transfer formula.

The state is expected to choose either Schimmel's or the council's plan within the coming week.

The Pontiac General Employees Retirement System has $423.5 million in assets and is 149.1 percent funded.

"The end game, of course, is that if a bunch of these lawsuits came back adverse to the city," he'd be right back to where we started, and we probably would go back under an emergency manager and would perhaps proceed to bankruptcy, or whatever solution was available to us," Jukowski said.

The City of Pontiac Retired Employees Association has several lawsuits pending against the city related to benefit cutbacks.

"Eventually, everybody has to sort of sit around the table and say, 'Gee, what would happen if we (won or lost) these lawsuits?" the mayor said.

"If the city doesn't have the money to pay it, simply ordering the city to pay it doesn't fix the problem."

Summer tax bills, which were mailed to residents this week, are due July 31. After that, a 1 percent late fee is assessed each month, and the last day the city can accept payments is Feb. 28, 2014. On March 1, the delinquent tax roll is turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer.

Contact staff writer Dustin Blitchok at 248-745-4685 or dustin.blitchok@oakpress.com. Follow him on Twitter @SincerelyDustin.
Area teen starts healthy vending machine business

By MONICA DRAKE
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Many teenagers are searching for a minimum wage job at a fast food chain or department store this summer.

But Independence Township resident Michael Wayne, 17, didn’t want to do that. Instead, two months ago, Wayne started his own business.

Wayne, who is going into his senior year at Notre Dame Preparatory, bought vending machines from Healthy Vending of Michigan and is planning to install them at businesses across Oakland County.

He decided to start this business when he forgot to bring a snack to school and realized it was nearly impossible to find any healthy food inside a vending machine.

“I’m really into athletics and fitness. I go to the gym four times a week. This seemed to be the best mix of my love for business and my love for health,” said Wayne, who is a member of his school’s varsity baseball team.

“I wanted something I could manage myself, take under my wing, make some good money and also help some people, I think obesity is a big problem in this country and this state. It’s really something I feel like I can make a difference in with something as simple as a vending machine.”

Through the help of his father Mark’s investment, Wayne was able get his company off the ground. “My dad is a great businessman himself... He is my role model, by far,” he said, adding that his dad owned Freedom One Financial Group for 25 years. “That’s definitely where I get it from... I am so grateful, and he’s the reason why I am where I am today.”

Wayne hopes, after graduating from high school, to attend the University of Michigan and major in business.

He installed his first vending machine at Hawthorn Suites on Opdyke Road in Auburn Hills. Through the partnership, businesses get the machine installed free of charge, and Wayne gets the profit from the food sold. He calls it a “win-win.” He stressed that, after going away to college, he will continue his partnerships by either returning home or hire someone to work for him in Oakland County.

His goal is to partner with schools in Oakland County as well.

“I think schools would be a great place to start — starting young, getting kids on the right path of eating, getting them to like the healthy products from a young age,” he said, adding that he would like to start trials where he brings in free samples of the food to students.

He is currently working with Notre Dame Prep’s building manager in hopes to install one of his machines there.

In his vending machines, Wayne sells all-natural and all-organic products, such as Clif bars, Popchips, tea, water and healthy energy drinks, which he buys wholesale from United Natural Foods Incorporated.

“For every traditional product that you would see in a normal vending machine, there’s a healthy version of it. For example, you have a typical Cheeto. Well, Pirate’s Booty (cheese puffs) are like Cheetos with less preservatives and more natural ingredients,” said Wayne. “The easiest way to describe it is taking a Whole Foods store and putting it in a vending machine.”

At least once a week, Wayne will go to the businesses he partners with to fill up the machines. With the credit card reader, he can keep track from home which items were sold and when he needs to return to fill up.

“It’s a pretty low-cost business. Really it’s just the cost of goods. The beauty of it is that the machine just sits there and sells for you 24/7 while I sit at home or go to school,” he said.

Wayne said he thinks people have a preconceived notion that the Snickers, the Cheetos and the Poparts are good, and they don’t want to try the brands they have never heard of before. He hopes to change this notion.

“The healthy version of (the food) too that’s also really good and also better for your body,” he said. “If I can save one child from being obese, if I can help one adult get to a healthy weight, that would be a success for me.”

Any business interested in installing a healthy vending machine, call Wayne at 248-853-4691 or email him at michaelwayne@comcast.net.

Contact Monica Drake at 248-745-4687. Subscribe to her Tout video feed at www.tout.com/umonica_adele.
Paddlers Brave High Waters To Complete Paddlepalooza

by Irena Gannaas

About 80 one- and two-man watercraft braved the high waters and strong currents of the Clinton River June 15 to vie for glory, prizes or just plain adventure during the 2013 Paddlepalooza.

“Paddlers” had the choice of three events:

- Two timed races – the single-person kayak race and the two-person canoe race, both eight miles long.
- The non-competitive Adventure River Paddle, an eight-mile, four-hour paddle.

All events started on the Clinton River from Auburn Hills’ Riverside Park, and finished at the River Crest Banquet Center in Rochester Hills.

Winner of the one-person kayak race was Bob Olsbeck from Pontiac with a winning time of 1:31:01.

Winners of the two-person canoe race were Dave Fiddis and Violet Fiddis from Lake Orion. Their reported winning time was 1:16:31.

“Everybody finished,” reported Auburn Hills Recreation Director Brian Marzolf.

“The water was higher than normal but that made things a little interesting.”

Participants won trophies for first, second and third place for each race class, and the winning craft for both the Kayak and the Canoe races received a $100 gift certificate to Summit Shops. Gifts and prizes were given throughout the day as paddlers reached the finish line.

“Most of the people walked away with raffle prizes, courtesy of our generous sponsors,” said Marzolf.

The two cities, Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills, partnered on the event, but are also friendly rivals.

One of the newer elements to the annual Paddlepalooza is the Mayor’s Cup Challenge, in which each city has a two-person canoe team vying to come in first for the Mayor’s Cup trophy.

“This year the cup went back to Rochester Hills,” conceded Marzolf.

Event sponsors included GenIsys Credit Union, Whole Foods Market, Bass Pro Shops, the U.S. Army, Clinton River Canoe & Kayak, River Crest Banquet Facility, the Clinton River Watershed Council, Summit Sports, Moosejaw, Noodles & Company, Simple Adventures and the cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills.

“We look forward to the 2014 Paddlepalooza,” added Marzolf. “We’re pretty confident the Mayor’s Cup will be coming back to Auburn Hills.”

Kayakers set out on the race course on Saturday.

Photo by Kevin Lent
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Genisys Sponsors Clinton River Race
8 Mile Canoe and Kayak Race Spanning Auburn Hills, Rochester, and Rochester Hills

Photo Cut Line: Racers brave the Clinton River

Auburn Hills, Mich. – July 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2013 -- Genisys Credit Union, which provides services to anyone who lives or works in the Lower Peninsula, recently sponsored Paddlepalooza, an 8-mile canoe and kayak race, which started at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills and ended at Rivercrest Banquet Center in Rochester Hills.

“Paddlepalooza 2013 was another great chance for people in our area to get outside and experience the Clinton River first hand,” said Brian Marzolf, Recreation Director for the City of Auburn Hills. “The river is a great recreational resource and it’s right in our backyard!”

84 paddlers and 20 volunteers made the event possible. Participants had a chance to win various items donated by sponsors and supporters, such as duffle bags, paddle floats, waist packs, water bottles, apparel, and gift cards.

“Auburn Hills really enjoys partnering with Rochester Hills for this community event and looks forward to many more in the future,” Marzolf said.

“It is great to see the Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills communities come together to create a wonderful event on the river,” said Jackie Buchanan, President/CEO.
For additional information, please call the City of Auburn Hills Parks & Recreation Department at 248-370-9353 or visit the City of Auburn Hills website, www.auburnhills.org, or visit the Rochester Hills website at www.rochesterhills.org.

**About Genisys Credit Union:**
Genisys Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial institution that has been committed to helping its members financially since 1936. Based out of Auburn Hills, MI, Genisys is one of the largest credit unions in Michigan, with over 138,000 members and 24 branch locations. Anyone who lives or works anywhere in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan can open an account at Genisys Credit Union. They are proud to be making a difference in their communities, and truly believe that Genisys is “where you come first”. Connect with Genisys on Facebook and Twitter by following “GenisysCU”. For convenient access to your account, download the Genisys iPhone App in the iTunes Store and Android App in the Google Play Store. For more information or a calendar of events, visit Genisys online at www.genisyscu.org.

Make a splash with a Genisys Summer Loan! Borrow up to $5,000 for as low as 7.75% APR for 48 months & kick-start your summer. This special offer is available through August 31, 2013, but now is the time to make your plans. Visit our website at http://www.genisyscu.org to get your summer fun started!

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