



SpinalColumn

WEST OAKLAND'S NEWSWEEKLY

BECAUSE LOCAL MATTERS.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

Check out our e-edition at
spinalcolumnonline.com

Find us on



Spinal Column
Media Group

MAILED TO WHITE LAKE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

VOL 56/ISSUE 44

INSIDE

One Minute Interview, P2 • Public Safety, P4 • Sports, P7 • Legals, P9 • Classified, P10 • Service Directory, P10

Vision for new White Lake library takes shape

BY ALI ARMSTRONG
EDITOR
aliarmstrong@scnmail.com

About a dozen White Lake residents turned out to a January 17 community input session at the White Lake Township Library to discuss their ideal "vision" for the new library, which is expected to begin construction sometime this fall or early 2018, with library planner George Lawson.

For most participants, that vision includes a new library on approximately seven acres of land off Elizabeth Lake road, just south of M-59.

The visioning session was the next step library officials have taken in the planning and development of the new library since the bond proposal was approved by voters in August.

In order to keep up with the community's needs and provide a central community meeting area, the library board placed a new library building proposal on the August 2 ballot. The 0.58-mills will raise \$8.6 million over 20 years and be used to build a new 30,000-square-foot library on the west side of Elizabeth Lake Road near the Kroger grocery store.

Voters approved the proposal in the August 2 primary election. According to initial results, the bond proposal passed by two votes. However, a recount showed it passed by three votes, according to the Oakland County Clerk's Office. An August 29 recount confirmed the win



with 2,623 "yes" votes and 2,620 "no" votes. The approved 0.58-mills, or .58 per \$1,000 of taxable value, will cost \$44 a year for residents who own a \$150,000 home, and \$73 a year for residents with a \$250,000 home.

The library is performing the due diligence on the property they wish to purchase. Environmental studies, surveys and title work are all in process. In the near future, officials will be evaluating proposals from architects who will be

responsible for the design of the interior and exterior of the building.

Lawson, a former 34-year librarian who is now a space-needs consultant, has been hired as the library planner. He focuses on building, strategic and operational planning for libraries. To date, he has done projects for over 300 library buildings in 13 states.

"This is a public library and that means it's your library, and the staff and library board have special insights," he said. "As library members, you're the

touchstone, you're the source."

"If we are, and we are, thinking about planning and building a new and improved White Lake Township Library, what is it that would make it the best library for you? Everything from library services, reference computers to the children's department, all of that is on the table," he continued. "Everybody walks in the door with a different expectation,

Library

Continued on page 3

Keller named White Lake chief of police

There's a new chief in town. Dan Keller has been named Chief of Police of the White Lake Police Department. He was officially sworn into office last week.

"I want to thank the members of the board for this opportunity. I feel humbled and blessed and honored to be in this position," he said. "I will give you my all until the day I retire, and probably then some."

Keller takes over the post from Adam Kline, who retired late last year to be Chief of Police in Lansing Township.

Keller has been with the department since 1998. He worked in the patrol division for seven years, and spent four years assigned to the detective bureau as a detective and the department's school liaison officer. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2013, and successfully



Dan Keller has been named Chief of Police of the White Lake Police Department. He was officially sworn into office last week.



completed the FBI National Academy in 2014.

He graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and attended the university's police academy.

Keller has been a defensive tactics instructor at the Oakland Police Academy since 2006 and the Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy since 2012.

"It's not just about me. It's about the men and women in the back, the officers, the dispatches, the sergeants, the lieutenants and the record clerks," he said. "Without these

men and women, this department is not successful. Their hard work, determination and excellence makes this place better and the quality of life for White Lake residents high."

Following his appointment, Chief Keller hired his first police officer. Kristopher Mesaros, 26, was sworn into office as a police officer during the board of trustees meeting last week.

According to Keller, Mesaros served six years as a military police officer. He also served a tour in Afghanistan. He attended Ferris State University, where he graduated from the police academy.

"I would like to thank the police officers of this community for their duty and dedication," Supervisor Rik Kowall said. "Without them, we would not be the community that we are."

Commerce man charged with impersonating a police officer in White Lake

A 34-year-old Commerce Township man is charged with impersonating an officer after police say he stopped a motorist in White Lake with fake emergency lights on his vehicle, then followed the woman home.

Mark Taylor was recently charged in the 52-2 District Court in Clarkston with impersonating a police officer. He was released on a \$5,000 personal bond with conditions, which include that he not leave Michigan, have no contact with the victim and notify the court of any address change. He is due back in court tomorrow.

The incident began on December 31 when a White Lake woman called 911 following a trip to the local Meijer store.

According to reports, the woman

told police that she observed a Ford F-150 parked nearby with its headlights on when she arrived and was leaving. The woman left the store and began traveling westbound on Highland Road and turned north on Hill Road when she observed red and blue lights flashing behind her. Believing she was being stopped by a police officer, she pulled to the right and began looking for her driver's license.

"The driver stated when she looked out her rearview mirror, she observed a male approaching her vehicle, wearing a white baseball hat, white shirt and blue jeans," White Lake Police Lt. Larry Sheldon said in a news release. "The driver stated she observed the man stumble as he approached her and she became afraid."

As the man approached the vehicle, the driver noticed that the man had "scruffy facial hair" and believed that he was intoxicated. The woman then asked if the

man was an officer, and he said he was. However, he then grabbed the woman's left arm. The woman told police she was looking in her purse for mace when the man said, "Do I need to get my gun? What are you going to do, shoot me?"

The man then walked back to his vehicle and the victim drove away. The woman drove to her residence and the subject followed her. Upon arrival, the woman told the man she was on the phone with 911 and the suspect drove away.

White Lake Police located the suspect's vehicle at a residence on Hill Road. Officer's observed the F-150 had white and orange lights in the windshield, and the lights had a red and blue hue to them. Police arrested Taylor for false impersonation of a police officer and driving while license suspended.



Mark Taylor, a 34-year-old Commerce man, was arrested for false impersonation of a police officer in White Lake last month.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROYAL OAK, MI
48068
PERMIT #792
EGRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
EDDM

Library

Continued from page 1

so it has to do all those things all the time for everybody and ends up being a bunch of different spaces.”

Initial plans for the new library include larger children, teen and adult areas; community meeting rooms; a larger collection of materials; and more study areas. Officials are also planning on a “comfortable, efficient and enhanced layout that will be flexible and adaptable to future changes in desired library service.”

Most of the discussion at last week’s public input session focused on a “want list” of services and accommodations residents would like to see offered at a new facility. An accessible public meeting space and increased space for children’s programs were among the topics raised for discussion.

Additionally, residents mentioned innovation resources for tech-minded visitors, private study rooms, programs for seniors and teens, and implementation of a children’s educational community event

through a community garden located on-site.

Lawson said it’s important for the library staff to plan for the library of the future, and not the library of the past. “We’re planning for a space that we know will change over time,” he said. “It’s more about people space than inventory. It’s all about space for people as much as inventory these days.”

In addition to the two visioning sessions that were held last week, residents are encouraged to give their input online at www.whitelakelibrary.org or via a suggestion box at any of the library’s three service desks.

Following the meeting, Deputy Director Denise Stefanick said it confirmed feedback she has already heard from residents and staff.

“We had a variety of meetings before this process. Through that process we knew what people wanted and we’re hearing it again,” she said. “We’re getting confirmation about meeting space etc. We want to have a community space for everyone.”

Career opportunities available at Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Oakland County Parks and Recreation is seeking employees for a variety of jobs throughout the parks system.

Applications are currently being accepted for seasonal program specialist, parks & recreation program leader, parks helper, lifeguard, parks & recreation attendant and seasonal laborer.

Positions pay above minimum wage. Shifts include weekends, evenings and holidays. Workers may be assigned to campgrounds, dog parks, day-use facilities, nature centers, golf courses and waterparks throughout 10 Oakland

County parks. Flexible schedules are available and training is offered for all positions.

“In addition to working outside, enjoying the summer while getting paid, these positions offer the chance to learn from industry experts,” OCP Executive Officer Dan Stencil said. “We have many seasonal employees that return year after year.”

Applicants must be 16 years or older. To view job descriptions, salary ranges and application requirements and qualifications, visit OakGov.com/jobs. For more information, call 248-858-0530.



2500 MARTIN PARKWAY, COMMERCE TOWNSHIP, MI 48390 | WWW.FIRSTANDMAIN.US



Introducing First & Main of Commerce Township

First & Main communities are designed to provide seniors an active, independent lifestyle, just like home. With Assisted Living & Memory Care apartments,

First & Main of Commerce Township allows for the lifestyle you seek, the care & security you need and the dignity you deserve.

WELCOME CENTER NOW OPEN!

PLACE YOUR PRIORITY DEPOSIT AND JOIN OUR VIP CLUB!

Call and schedule your personal consultation today. 248-915-1025

People you know.
People you trust.
People you can bank on.



As a full service community bank we stand behind the products we deliver. From youth savings accounts to business lending, our staff provides exceptional customer service while creating a financial relationship that’s tailored to your unique needs. Be sure to ask us about our residential mortgage program!

HVSB **Huron Valley State Bank**
Customer Focused, Community Based

	Milford Branch 130 S. Milford Rd. Milford, MI 48381 248.684.9626	Highland Branch 2920 E. Highland Rd. Highland, MI 48356 248.887.9900	Loan Center 522 N. Main St. Milford, MI 48381 248.387.6080
---	--	--	--

www.hvsb.com




CELEBRATE Valentine's Day



AT HOFFMAN FARMS WINERY & TASTING ROOM!



Make your reservation now for a horse drawn carriage ride on Saturday, February 11th or Sunday, February 12th. Rides may be scheduled from 3:30 pm to 8 pm each day.

Valentine's Day offerings include:
Romantic carriage ride for two, a bottle of wine, two wine glasses and dark chocolate

\$70 PER COUPLE

~ or ~

Carriage ride for up to six people-\$10 per person (Carriage rides are contingent on favorable weather conditions)

To reserve your preferred time, please call 248-820-6292

Walk-Ins are welcome
Hours: Wed and Thurs 4-7 pm Fri. 1-7 pm and Sat and Sun. 1-8 pm
2521 Rose Center Rd. ~ Highland 48356