YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO AGING WITH GRACE, PURPOSE AND WELL-BEING

ON YOUR FEET Daily walks can extend your life, study says

PAGE 18

SOCIAL & WELL-BEING The secret to friend groups that last for decades

PAGE 10

work & purpose After 70 years of teaching music, local senior still going strong

PAGE 14

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Index

MONEY & SECURITY SAk the financial doctor:

What are the downsides of a timeshare?

Real estate: Age-in-place or downsize? PAGE 5

WORK & PURPOSE

No stopping: After 70 years of teaching music, Macomb County senior going strong PAGE 14

New beginning: Repurposing my adult child's bedroom was a lesson in letting go PAGE 4

Voting support: Poll workers are key to a smooth election. Here's how you can help PAGE 15

SOCIAL & WELL-BEING

Memories: Local seniors treated to private showing of Boblo Boat documentary PAGE 14

Staying together: The secret to friend groups that last for decades PAGE 18

HEALTH & FITNESS

Safe thinking: Stay prepared for emergencies with these tips for older adults PAGE 8

CALENDAR Recreation and Event Listings

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On the cover: Greg, 67, and Linda Barrows, 68, enjoy walking both indoors and outdoors. The pair plans their vacations around hiking and try to walk daily for the health benefits.

PHOTO BY DEBRA KASZUBSKI - FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

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WORK & PURPOSE

Repurposing my adult child's bedroom was a lesson in letting go

By Cindy La Ferle For MediaNews Group

My only child, Nate, was six years old when we moved to our current family home.

Like many little ones in the 1980s, Nate was a devoted fan of Thomas the Tank Engine on PBS's Shining Times Station. Not surprisingly, when we shopped for wallpaper to decorate his new bedroom, he chose a brightly colored pattern with a steam locomotive, freight cars, and a caboose chugging around the border.

Best of all, since our house is located three blocks from a welltraveled railway line, Nate could hear the deep rumble of passing freight cars from his bedroom window.

By the start of his middle school years, my boy's train obsession was usurped by his passion for computer technology.

Soon after, his locomotive décor was striped away and the walls of his room were painted a cool shade of industrial greyblue. Toy storage was exchanged for a computer desk, while lamps with vintage railroad motifs were traded for sleek brushed-nickel track lighting. Just as Nate had planned, the room could have passed for an office if it weren't for his bed taking up space in the corner.

After high school, when he left home for an out-of-state university, Nate's vacant bedroom remained unusually clean and quiet, echoing the sudden change in our household.

As new empty nesters, my husband and I were thrilled that our son was thriving at the school of his choice. We understood that our job as parents was to encourage his independence. But I missed the noisy teen-age energy that had occupied his old room along with a pile of size 13 athletic off-season clothes.

Sometimes I kept the door closed.

shoes.

Other parents we knew didn't waste a minute turning their college students' bedrooms into craft studios or home offices. But we left Nate's undisturbed. I think he enjoyed coming back to the familiar comfort of his boyhood furniture, most of it still stuffed with favorite sweatshirts, yearbooks, and other high school souvenirs.

Or, at least that's what I told myself.

Later, when Nate married, I swore I'd finally redecorate that bedroom. I even entertained pipe dreams of a walk-in closet for my

Instead, the room became provisional storage space for anything Nate couldn't fit in the small condo he shared with his wife, Andrea, in Chicago. At the same time. Nate occasionally traveled solo to Detroit on business, so his old room at home still welcomed him back.

We were thrilled when Nate and Andrea announced they were moving back to Michigan – just 45 minutes away from our hometown. We enjoyed watching them settle into a new townhouse, and were secretly envious of all the spacious closets they acquired. That's when it finally hit me that my son no longer needed his boy-

hood bedroom for interim storage or lodging during business trips.

It was time for a complete makeover. It was time to let go of the past.

So I browsed through magazines for fresh color schemes, then filled several cardboard boxes with all the souvenirs my son had left behind. Once I got started, the project was surprisingly liberating.

In the process, I remembered how important it is to savor the milestones that parenthood brings at every turn, whether we're wallpapering a preschooler's bedroom or moving a teenager to a college dormitory. And how, when it's time to let go, we must do so with ease and grace.

All said and done, the newly cleared space sparkled with possibilities. Dusting off the window seat where Nate once stored his treasures, I recalled the small boy who'd listen for trains whistling through the suburb en route to another destination.

Today, I'm proud of the man he's become - a family man with a little boy who also happens to love trains.

Cindy La Ferle is a nationally published lifestyles columnist in Royal Oak and author of a memoir, "Writing Home." Visit her daily blog at laferle.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

leave it be.

While some empty nesters may not hesitate to turn their college students' bedrooms into craft studios or home offices, others may prefer to



MONEY & SECURITY

Real estate: Age-in-place or time to downsize?

Q : My husband and I have been discussing selling our home of 42 years. We live in a 2,300-squarefoot colonial with the laundry in the basement. Being in our early 70's some days those stairs are like climbing a mountain. I want to move to a ranch condo with a first-floor laundry and no yard work. My hus-

band likes our home and does not want to move at this time. He says that when it gets to be too much then we'll move. What are your thoughts and can you please convince my husband to move?

: I receive questions like this one of-A ten. When is the right time to move is a question that confronts a lot of senior homeowners. Too often seniors delay the decision to make a move for many different reasons (or excuses). This procrastination can lead to major turmoil in one's life when something unexpected happens. Your husband says that when it gets to be too much then he will move. The truth is that when it gets to be too much it's usually already too late to make a leisurely, stress-free, well planned, un-rushed, financially sound move. It's a fact that we all go through the aging process. Those stairs are not going to magically disappear one day. They will only become more difficult. The big house is not going to get smaller to clean. You cannot easily move the full bath from the second floor down to the first floor in place of the half-bath. Why wait for a broken hip, knee replacement, surgery, arthritis, etc... to hap-

Market Update

Did you know that a balanced market between Buyers and Sellers is when there is a 6-month supply of inventory? Inventory has been going up the last few months but has stalled out at a 2-month supply. August's market update for Macomb County and Oakland County's housing market is as follows. In Macomb County prices were up by more than 2% and Oakland County prices were up by more than 3% for the month. Macomb County's on market inventory was up by more than 7% and Oakland County's on market inventory was down by more than 11%. Macomb County average days on market was 20 days and Oakland County average days on market was 19 days. Closed sales in Macomb County were down by almost 13% and closed sales in Oakland County were down by almost 9%. (All comparisons are month to month, year to year.)

pen and then have to scramble to make a change? Why not plan ahead? Often, I receive calls after something major happens and then the homeowner(s) is/are in a position that they have to rush. Two things normally happen in this situation: They sell their home at a lower price because they need to sell it fast, or they buy something fast because they don't have the time to shop so sometimes what they buy isn't always what they really wanted. Remember, with age comes wisdom; plan ahead and don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

: My husband and I are selling our house. He may be out of town on a business trip for the closing. We asked if he could sign the closing documents before he leaves and I could sign at closing but we were told that the closing documents would not be ready before he leaves. Any ideas?

A : The title company or an attorney can draw up a power of attorney so that you can sign on behalf of your husband at closing. If you both are not comfortable with a full power of attorney then have it written so that it is limited only to that real estate transaction.

Steve Meyers is a Real Estate Agent/ Realtor at RE/MAX Metropolitan located in Shelby Twp. and is a member of the RE/MAX Hall of Fame. He can be contacted with questions at 586-997-5480 (voicemail) or email him at steve@answerstorealestatequestions. com. You can also visit his website, answerstorealestatequestions.com.



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MONEY & SECURITY

Ask the Financial Doctor: What are the downsides of a timeshare?

: What are Ibonds? Why are these bonds paying over 9%?

: I-bonds A are savings Richard bonds backed by **Rysiewski** the U.S. govern-Columnist ment and are reset every six

months on May 1 and November 1. The interest rate is high because the inflation rate is high. The new rate effective May 1 is 9.62%. An investor cannot find a safer investment. If you buy Ibonds before the reset date on November 1, you will earn 9.62% for six months and the new rate for the next six months. One negative is you can only invest \$10,000 per year per person. For more information go to the site treasurydirect.gov.

: I am 68 years old and

plan to work till age 73. I

Will working past age 70 increase my Social Security benefits? Should I apply for Social Security benefits after age 70?

> A : Working past age 70 will increase your annual Social Security benefits, however you should apply for your Social Security benefits at age 70. The Social Security Administration uses the 35 years with the highest wage record. Each year of your earnings is multiplied by an inflation factor to arrive at an indexed earning for that year. After age 60, the inflation factor is always one. A year with no earnings will always be zero for the indexed earnings. By replacing the years with zero earnings, you will increase your Social Security benefits.

have quite a few years with zero

wages because of raising kids.

: I filed for an extension but was not able to pay by the

due date, April 18, 2022. What should I do?

: Estimate your tax liabil-A : Estimate your tax management ity and send a check. Finish vour tax return as soon as possible to avoid additional IRS penalties.

: My husband is retiring and has about \$95,000 in his 401(k). When he draws money from his 401(k) can two checks be sent, one with my name and one with his name?

: No, the trustee will only A issue one check. The funds belong to your husband. If you want access to the funds consider a direct deposit to a joint banking account.

: Can I receive a tax refund if I am currently making payments under an installment agreement or payment plan for a prior year's federal taxes?

A : No, as a condition of your installment agreement, any refund due to you in a future year will be applied against the amount that you owe. Regardless of whether you are participating in an installment agreement or payment plan with the IRS, you may not get all of your refund if you owe certain pastdue amounts, such as federal tax, state tax, a student loan, or child support.

: My son bought some bitcoins and sold them for a \$18,000 gain. Does he have to report this gain on his tax return?

A : Yes, he has to report the gain on his tax return, using schedule D. Trading in bitcoin is considered a capital asset and is taxed as a capital gain or loss. Bitcoin miners must report the virtual currency as taxable income with no favorable capital gains rate.

• My uncle is considering a timeshare in Florida. What are some negatives with a timeshare?

A : Buyer beware, timeshares are sold at inflated prices with limited resale value. Many people are not able to sell their timeshares and even have difficulty giving them away. The annual fee for your timeshare increases each year and some timeshares have additional nuisance fees. There will be some years that you will not be able to use your timeshare due to circumstances beyond your control.

Richard Rysiewski, a Certified Financial Planner[®], welcomes all questions on tax and financial matters. Please send to Richard Rysiewski, Financial Doctor, 3001 Hartford Lane, Shelby Twp., MI 48316 or call (248) 651-7710.



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Stay prepared for emergencies with these tips for older adults

wildfires and massive snowstorms, which have devastated other parts of the U.S. with regularity.

But we still have to deal with gross stuff like base- clude: ment flooding caused by pounding rainstorms, power outages, and water medicines. If medications main breaks – events that need to be kept cold, have a can be catastrophic for cooler and ice packs availolder adults.

The Centers for Disease Control has plenty of good advice for weathering emergencies. The main point is to be prepared for circumor your loved one.

Here are some tips from the CDC on how to safe during an emergency:

Plan for an Emergency

Put together an emer- clude it in the kit.

Thank goodness Mich- gency preparedness plan igan is free of natural di- that includes an emergency sasters like hurricanes, supply kit with essentials such as hearing aid batteries and documents with contact information for family and doctors.

The kit should also in- imal)

Medical supplies

• A three-day supply of able.

 Glasses and/or contacts vice animal and contact solution

 Medical supplies like syringes and hearing aids

 Information about medstances that could hurt you ical devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, and oxygen including model numbers and vendor

> • Consider including a care plan. You can print out the form, fill it out, and in

Food and water

Your kit should include: • Bottled water, or gallons of water (one gallon per person per day for three days, plus at least a gallon for your pet or service an-

nonperishable (canned) food

Can opener

ware

• Food for your pet or ser-

 Miscellaneous items Battery-operated or

hand-cranked radio • A charger for your

phone and laptop Face masks

• Face and hand wipes

- Flashlight and batteries
- First-aid kit

 Garbage bags for personal waste in case there is no running water

 Whistle Medical and legal documents

• Include a list of important contacts and how to reach them - including your pharmacy and doctors. You may also want to put a • A three-day supply of copy of the list in your wallet and in a visible place in vour kitchen.

 Include copies of your Silverware or plastic health insurance/Medicare/Medicaid card, photo documents in a sealed plastic bag for the kit. It's a good idea to have photos of everything in case you lose them.

you take food or medicine

• If you go for regular medical treatments like dialysis or infusions, have a plan in place to make sure

FIRST AID KIT

emergency.

Find a Friend

Choose someone – your • A list of medications caregiver, a neighbor, a home, have a plan for where good friend – who is will-• A list of your allergies to ing to check on you in the case of an emergency. Decide how you'll connect, procedures in case of emerwhether by phone or in gencies. person. Give that person a spare key to your home, and *Content courtesy of the* you can get to those ap- let them know where they Area Agency on Aging I-B

Putting together an emergency preparedness plan that includes an emergency supply kit with essentials can make all the difference during an emergency situation. PHOTO COURTESY OF AREA AGENCY ON AGING 1-B

mation and medicine.

Create an Exit Plan

If you need to leave your you are going to go. If you live in senior housing, familiarize yourself with exit

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SOCIAL & WELL-BEING

The secret to friend groups that last for decades

By Randi Mazzella For Next Avenue

Recently my mom Helen of Jericho, N.Y., called me crying. Through tears, she told me that her friend Linda had passed away.

Linda was a member of my mom's longtime friend group, the CHATTs. My mother and four other women worked together for when my mom initially told me many years as teachers in a New York public school. Over time the acronym goofy and I didn't their relationships transitioned understand why they needed to from casual colleagues to close confidants.

As they approached retirement, the women worried they might drift apart without daily lunches in the teachers' lounge and school-sponsored social events. To avoid that fate, they made a promise that they would get together several times a year. They gave their group a name to cement their commitment to con-

tinuing their friendship. And that is how the CHATTs, which stands for Chicks Having a Terrific Time, were created.

Most of these "chicks" are now in their late 70s, and they genuinely have been having a terrific time together for almost twenty vears.

I feel badly now, but I laughed about their group name. I found give themselves a name. I joked that they thought they were like "The Pink Ladies" from the musical "Grease." I teasingly asked if they were getting matching jackets, too.

But now that I am in my 50s (around the same age my mom and her friends were when they created the group), I admire how they have kept their friendship going. Most of these "chicks" are



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDI MAZZELLA

Three members of the CHATTs gather for lunch.

now in their late 70s, and they friendships are for a reason, some genuinely have been having a terrific time together for almost 20 years.

As the saying goes, "Some decades?

www.abbeypark.com

for a season and some for a lifetime." But what exactly is the secret of friend groups that last for nomad currently in Ireland, is

Connecting to the Past

One of the unique parts of a longtime friendship is that these people "knew you when" (i.e., when you were a child or when you worked in an office together). Old friends connect you to the past and to your former self, something that can't be replicated with new friends.

Joan Stommen, 78, of Kalamazoo, met some of her best friends when she was a child. "We grew up together in the same neighborhoods," says Stommen. "Our memories and stories go way back. We knew each other's parents. We had no idea when we met that our friendship would last into our seventies. We just loved and cared about each other then and we still do.'

Chris Englert, 55, a full-time FRIEND » PAGE 12

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Friend

FROM PAGE 10

still close friends with a group of men and women she met 40 years ago while attending high school in Arizona.

"We grew up together at a private boarding school. We learned to communicate, mature, survive, and thrive on a 40.000acre ranch away from our parents in the middle of the desert," says Englert. "We became each other's family members and support networks."

Now in her 60s, Donna Micozzi, of Milford, N.H., recalls some crazy times with her college friends back in the '70s. Legend has it that the group's nickname, The Animals, was given to them by a resident advisor at SUNY-Potsdam who was sick a longtime friendship to survive. Accordof their antics.

Micozzi says: "My first year of college, I went to a party called 'Morning Sickness' that was held the morning of the first Saturday of February 1979. I had never in my life had such a wild time as I did at that party."

"Around 40 of us who met at that party wound up hanging out together the remainder of college," she continues. "We roomed together, ate all our meals together, dated amongst each other and then a hat. " during senior year in college, we started to couple up." Of the original group, seven for helping their group stay connected. of the couples married (including Donna She explains, "Giving the group a name and her late husband Joe) and have stayed friends.

Micozzi admits that she didn't realize at the time how special these friendships would be. She says, "These friendships were also the basis of my relationwho would get custody of The Animals if remained a part of each other's lives." we got divorced (me, of course)."

Bringing the Friendship to the Present

Life gets hectic and pulls people in different directions. It is hard to hold onto friendships, even ones you once treasured. How can these relationships continue as attend the reunion for several years, you get older and lose what once connected vou?

state and we all have other tribes through our lives, communities and careers, our calls. Then email came along and it helped us to grow closer."

It's important to allow the relationships past. My mom says, "When we first retired a mother of three living in New Jersey and met for lunch, we still talked a lot with her husband and teenage son. Read about our memories of teaching together. more of her work on randimazzella.com.

But as we got older, we talked less about school stuff and more about the present day. When we worked together, we all had kids living at home. These same kids are all grown up and married with their own kids. It's nice to share what is going on in our lives now with people who have been there for the ride."

Email, Facebook and Zoom have kept Micozzi connected with The Animals. "We did Zoom celebrations when people turned 60 during the pandemic," she said. They also try to get together in person when possible, including holding an annual reunion

Commitment Combined with Compassion

Everyone needs to put in the effort for ing to Eckert, you don't have to talk to each other daily to be close.

"I loved all these people when I was at my best and living life to its fullest. They bring out the best in me."

"We talk a few times a year, keep in touch through social media and keep track of each other virtually," she says. "There's just a connection that keeps us loyal. Even though we live far apart, we will help each other at the drop of

My mom Helen credits the silly name made it easier than saying everyone's name individually. When we said, 'The CHATTs,' we knew who was included in the plan. Having a name for our group solidified that we were all invested in our friendships continuing and we're going ship with my husband, Joe. We used to joke to all put effort into ensuring that we

Along with commitment, long-term friendships require compassion. Everyone's lives, schedules and finances are different. Friends need to be understanding if someone cannot participate in an event or not become upset if some members get together without others.

Micozzi and her husband Joe couldn't but their friends still continued to invite them. "Fifteen years ago, they con-"Even though some people moved out of vinced us to come back," she says, adding they continued to attend.

"We started going on an annual threehigh school group is definitely our longest day reunion," says Stommen. "Even friendship," Stommen says. "At first, we though we all try to make it a priority, kept in touch by mail and through phone not everyone can make it every time. But we journal and take photos to share, so no one feels left out."

to grow and not stay solely focused on the Randi Mazzella is a freelance writer and

Frant that we may not be consoled as to console. understood as to understand." - St. Francis of Assisi WUJEK-CALCATERRA





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WORK & PURPOSE

After 70 years of teaching music, Macomb County senior still going strong

By Debra Kaszubski For MediaNews Group

It's hard to imagine a business operating for almost 70 years under the original owner, but yet, that's exactly what musician Dick Renock has managed to accomplish.

Renock, 85, established A1 Music Studios in 1953 because he wanted to share his musical abilities and love of music with others. Although he can't say for sure, the Washington Township resident is certain "hundreds" of students of all ages have learned how to play accordion, guitar, organ, piano, and drums under his watchful eye. A number of those musicians have gone on to enjoy careers in the music industry themselves, both as performers and teachers, he said.

"I'm proud of all of my students. Most of these kids, I call them kids even though most of them are adults, have gone on to do very well in their careers, whether musical or not," he said.

A gifted young musician, Renock started with the accordion at age 5. He continued to take private lessons for the next 12 years, learning from several big-name musicians including jazz virtuoso Tony Dannon.

As a teenager, he started a band that would play at a wide range of events in cert. Detroit, from birthday



PHOTOS BY DEBRA KASZUBSKI - FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

After years of teaching students in person, Renock was forced to find a new way during the pandemic due to COVID-19 restrictions.

parties to nightclubs. He old, Renock married his performing. He was a reg- tinue through the bulk of amazing. And to do it on- musical abilities, he's also played solo at Music Hall wife Joyce and about three ular on the schedules at these years, both in the line is really kind of neat," in Detroit and a couple of years later they started the Sterling Heights, Oak community and through said Cheryl Littleton, 54, of years later, at age 18, he led their family, which would Park, Harper Woods, Algo- private lessons. In 2019, Sterling Heights, who has about classes with Renock, his students as they per- include two boys and two nac, and Shelby Township Renock's life changed been taking piano lessons visit his website at Almuformed in a televised con-girls. Throughout this Parks and Recreation cal- when his wife of more with Renock since 2006. sicstudios.com.

time, Renock supported endars. When he was 20 years his family by teaching and



Dick Renock, 85, of Washington Township, teaches music classes online from his home.

Renock continued teaching.

a person retires, what do they have to look forward to?" he said. "Being retired much from Dick. It's been isn't all it's cracked up to a pleasure to have been his be. You gotta have something to look forward to. she said. You gotta have something to do every day."

Even the pandemic didn't stop Renock. After years of teaching students in person, Renock was forced to find a new due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead of retiring, he invested in equipment, learned new technologies, and then began offering music lessons online.

"He has guite a history and the fact that he Teaching would con- still likes to teach today is

than 60 years died. Even Her son, Justin, a student during this turbulent time, at Michigan State University, is also one of Renock's longtime students. Justin "Let's be honest, when is a gifted drummer, Littleton said.

> "We have all learned so student for so many years,"

Renock teaches three days a week, offering classes virtually from the spare room of his Washington Township condo. He has recently started offering online classes way during the pandemic through the Shelby Township Senior Center.

"I teach everyone from age 8-80," he said with a laugh. "Seriously, though, I will work with anyone who wants to learn."

He has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition to his a gifted photographer.

For more information

WORK & PURPOSE

Poll workers are key to a smooth election. Here's how you can help.

By Patricia Cosner Kubic For MediaNews Group

If you're looking for a way to support your community while also serving an important role in our election process, consider becoming a poll worker at your local precinct this November.

According to Michigan.gov, local election clerks across the state are seeking individuals skilled in technology and project management to serve as election inspectors and precinct chairpersons.

"We couldn't have a smooth election," said Adam Wit, Harrison Township Clerk, when asked what would happen if nobody volunteered to work an election. "Well, we'd have an election, but it would not run smoothly, and the result would be losing some of the trust of our citizens."

Thankfully, Wit has never had to face such a dire situation.

The State of Michigan requires each county to have at least three poll workers, and most have many more. Per Wit, poll workers are essential in ensuring residents feel confident that their vote is being securely handled and accurately counted. Poll workers are trained to ensure that each vote is handled to the letter of the law.

Several of those steps are never seen by the average voter, but if not done, they may impact the accuracy of the vote count. For instance, at each precinct, there are three levels of poll workers: a chair/co-chairperson, E-poll worker (electronic poll book), and a general precinct worker. After the precinct closes, one representative from opposing parties will confirm the ballot numbers that the poll workers so carefully handled on election day. They work together to seal the votes in a secure box, seal election day records and take the ballots to the Clerk's office.

But there is another group of poll workers whose impact continues to increase. "The percentage of absentee ballots has increased 2 to 1 in the last few elections," said Wit. So the poll workers assigned to counting absentee ballots play an increasingly vital role. Per Wit, none of the ballots are processed until election day. The poll workers do not stop counting those ballots until each vote is counted, even if that means counting until the wee hours.

workers from opposing parties take turns reach out to their local clerk's office. For completing each step to count the absen- more information about becoming an electee ballots. For instance, the democrat rep will confirm the ballot number, the repub- sos/resources/initiatives/democracy-mvp.



MARK CAVITT - MEDIANEWS GROUP

Workers count ballots during the 2020 primary election in Oakland County.

lican rep will remove the ballot, the democrat will flatten the ballot and together they will scan each ballot making sure each vote is counted. "Our poll workers are extremely dedicated to making sure every step is fully completed on every single vote," he said.

But what does it take to be a poll worker?

"First off, there is no such thing as an election volunteer because poll workers are paid for their work," Wit says, correcting a common misconception. A poll worker's skills are matched to an Election Day job. For instance, a person with an outgoing personality will be a greeter at a precinct, confirming the voter is at the correct precinct. A person who is comfortable with software will run the Electronic Poll Book. And finally, someone on the quiet side can help count the absentee ballots. "We have a place for everyone who wants to help run an election," Wit said.

Wit's mother, Susan, who regularly serves as a poll worker, says the job provides a huge sense of pride knowing they made a hands-on contribution in putting our democracy into action. This feeling is significant to some poll workers who were not part of our country's military and are looking to serve the country another way.

Wit, as with most city or township clerks, is grateful for the required handson work to take care of every single vote. "It's a heavy thing to have a vote in your hands. But, because it is so important, poll workers have that solid sense of accomplishment which is especially rewarding."

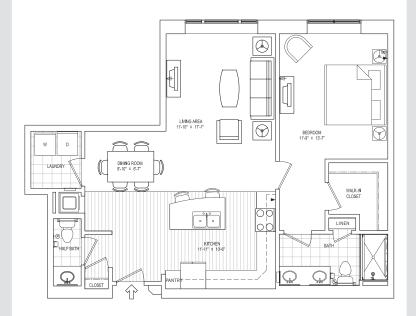
Wit encourages anyone interested in learning more about participating in the In a township conference room, poll next general election as a poll worker to tion worker in Michigan, visit michigan.gov/

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SOCIAL & WELL-BEING 'Boblo Boats' documentary takes local seniors down memory lane

By Terry Jacoby For MediaNews Group

Aaron Schillinger was living in NYC making videos for nonprofit companies when he set sail for Toledo to create a fundraising video for "an old boat" he knew nothing about. That trip turned out to be a seven-year voyage through some challenging waters before eventually docking with an award-winning documentary on the rise, fall and hopefully rebirth of the Boblo Boat and Boblo Island."Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale," made its theatrical debut last month after winning the Hometown Talent Award in last year's Freep Film Festival.

"I went out to Toledo to see SS Columbia in dry dock and my first thought was why don't you just get a new boat because this one is fall-

ing apart," says Schillinger, 39, who now lives in Michigan. "They explained that it's the oldest steamboat in America, what it means to a lot of people in this area and told me about a psychic named Gloria (the late Gloria Davis) who can communicate with the boat. It all became very interesting to me."

Schillinger also discovered that the Boblo Boats and Boblo Island stood for so much more than a fun time, none more meaningful and important than in 1945 when Detroiter Sarah E. Ray forced the integration of the island.

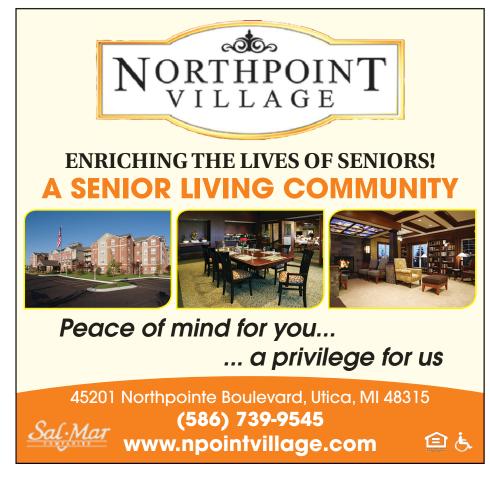
"Before the movie there was no Sarah Elizabeth Ray Wikipedia page and no one talked about her but we were able to share her story and what a pioneer she was in the civil rights movement," Schillinger said. "She was black and she convinced the



PHOTOS BY TERRY JACOBY - FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Motown legend Martha Reeves (left), who narrated the Boblo Boat film, attended the special screening for Baldwin House seniors and their families last month at Emagine Theater in Rochester Hills, along with Rob Gillette and Tina Abbate Marzolf of Baldwin House.

24 when she was kicked off NAACP to sue and it went the boat because she was



all the way to the Supreme Court and they won and it became a test case for many other civil rights cases."

The documentary follows the long and historic journey of the SS Columbia and SS Ste. Claire and navigates through the 20th century when the boats were operated by Bob-Lo Excursion Co.

two oldest passenger steamboats in the United States, shuttled passengers to and from Bois Blanc Island in the Detroit River until the end of operations in 1993.

One of the main sponsors

The boats, considered the of the documentary, Bald- the project I thought it was win House Senior Living, reserved the Emagine Theater in Rochester Hills on Sept. 29 for its residents and their families for a special screening of the film.

"When I first heard about

and their families.

such a natural fit for our residents," said Rob Gillette, CEO of Baldwin House. "Our residents and these boats are both a big part of Detroit's history. Our motto is 'fam-BOBLO » PAGE 21

Emagine Theater in Rochester Hills on Sept. 29, for

members of the Baldwin House Senior Living community





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PHOTO BY DEBRA KASZUBSKI — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Bob Martin, 79, walks regularly on an indoor track in order to minimize the impact on his back.

By Debra Kaszubski For MediaNews Group

When Bob Martin started walking for exercise about six years ago, he could barely make it around the indoor walking track at the Rochester Older Persons Commission (OPC) three times. Despite being tired and achy, the 79-year-old Rochester Hills resident stuck with his movement goals because he knew of the health benefits of physical activity. Today, he's at the walking track daily and averages an impressive 72 laps (18 times around the track is equal to one mile).

"I love it (walking). I'd come every day if I could," he said. "I have diabetes and I ache, so I have a lot of things wrong with me, but as long as I keep walking, I get good reports from my doctor."

A brisk 20-minute walk each day could be enough to cut a person's risk of early death, according to a study by the University of Cambridge. The study of more than 334,000 men and women found that twice as many deaths may be attributable to lack of physical activity than to obesity. And a modest boost in activity could make a big difference, the study concluded.

The research suggested that doing just 20 minutes of brisk walking every day or the equivalent (which would burn 90 to 110 calories), would reduce a person's risk of early death.

"Walking has clear benefits on keeping our bodies healthy and minds happy regardless of age and fitness level," said Dr. Asha Shajahan, a family medicine physician with Beaumont Health. "It's the easiest and safest exercise for those who are able to walk. It boosts mental health by releasing endorphins that improve mood and physical health through improving blood flow, stimulating weight loss and strengthening our bones and muscles."

For someone who is new to physical activity, Shajahan recommends walking 10 minutes a day to start and working up to 10 minutes three times a day with a goal of 30 minutes a day. She said some people don't have the stamina or time to walk for a solid 30-45 minutes a day, so she recommends walking in increments.

Cooler temperatures shouldn't keep group or upcomin walkers from moving. Along with the bytwp.org/seniors.

OPC, several senior centers offer organized indoor walking on a climate-controlled track, which may be a good option for some walkers. "On the track, it's like wearing a good pair of tennis shoes because it absorbs some of the shock (verses walking on cement)," said Mandy Mullins, Fitness and Aquatics Manager at the OPC. "Plus, if something happens, we are here. There's also the social aspect."

Although the Rochester Older Persons Commission (OPC) and other area senior centers have indoor walking tracks, walking outside in the fall and winter is a great way to stay physically fit, Shajahan said.

"Walking outdoors for even just 10 minutes a day gives you exposure to the sun which gives you vitamin D which can help fight depression and fatigue. Also, seasonal affective disorder can be improved with getting exposure to sunlight in winter months," Shajahan said.

When walking outdoors in cooler temperatures, be sure to dress in layers so that your body is insulated. Cover your hands and ears, have shoes with a good grip and avoid walking in freezing temperatures. Keep your cell phone on you in case of emergencies and wear bright colors or reflectors if it's dark outside. It's helpful to warm up before going out in the cold by doing a handful of jumping jacks or marching in place, Shajahan said.

Several senior centers and community groups host guided outdoor walking groups, including the Shelby Township Senior Center, where a group of members meet at scenic parks throughout the township to walk together throughout the fall.

"Walking helps clear my mind after a stressful day. I particularly enjoy walking outdoors because I can hear the sounds of nature, enjoy nature's beauty, and breathe in fresh air," said Shajahan, who recently returned from a hiking trip in Zion National Park.

The next walks planned for the Shelby Township Senior Center Walking Group include Whispering Woods Park on Oct. 17, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center on Oct. 24, and River Bends Park on Oct. 31. For more information about the walking group or upcoming meetups, visit shelbytwp.org/seniors.

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Boblo

FROM PAGE 16

ily, friends and happiness,' and the Boblo Boat brought together family and friends and created happiness. It was such a natural fit that I knew we needed to get involved."

Vandella Carthon, 67, was around 8 years old when she first got on the Boblo Boat and headed over to Boblo Island. "I remember the beautiful smooth ride in the boat and the dancing and eating popcorn," says Carthon, who grew up in Detroit, raised her own family in Oak Park and now lives in Baldwin House in Pontiac. "I just loved the island and playing games and going on the rides. It was so much fun."

Sharron Webber, 81, was born in Detroit and lived in Lake Orion for 54 years. Her first ride on the Boblo Boat was her senior trip in high school and she went numerous other times. "I loved going on the boats," she says. "We would run around all four decks and there was dancing. It was so much fun."

The film – narrated by Motown legend Martha Reeves - features newly discovered archival footage of the boats in operation and the many characters who regularly sailed on or worked on the boats, digitized formation, visit bobloboatsfilm.com.

by the Detroit Historical Society.

"Almost every Motown act played on Boblo Island or on the Boblo boats and it was like a vacation," Reeves said. "It was so much fun. It was like a fairyland. It was magic."

Reeves, who attended the Emagine Theater screening, said she enjoyed doing the narration and even learned a few things about the boat and the island. "I felt like I was the perfect person to narrate it because I experienced it, I lived it," she said.

The SS Ste. Claire, which suffered a devastating fire in 2018, is docked at Riverside Marina in Detroit while restoration efforts continue. The SS Columbia is currently being restored as a traveling nautical museum in Buffalo, destined for the Hudson River.

Tina Abbate Marzolf, COO for Baldwin House Seniors, said they were "very proud" to have this opportunity for all of their residents and family members to attend the special showing.

"This is a great chance for our residents to go out and see a movie and a movie that includes some really special memories for them as well," she said. "It's very near and dear to the heart of a lot of us who remember the Boblo boat and Boblo Island."

The documentary will be showing at The Henry Ford museum Oct. 14-23. For additional upcoming screenings and more in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSH HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The film, "Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale," features newly discovered archival footage of the boats, digitized by the Detroit Historical Society.



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Oct. 25: Fall Fling with lunch at Genitti's Holein-the-Wall Sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community Education, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., interactive comedy show and a stop at the cider mill for a donut and cider. Bus departs from 45400 Marketplace Blvd, Chesterfield. Cost is \$79. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps. ce.eleyo.com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-

Oct. 25: Ordinary People by Extraordinary Artists at the Roseville Public Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 1:30



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p.m. Presented by the Detroit Institute of Arts. No registration required. Some of the most important French artists of the 19th century resisted the elitist aesthetic of the academic art tradition by emphasizing the people around them and the human experience as subject matter during a transitioning moment in the modernist era. The lecture will highlight artwork in the Detroit Institute of Art's collections by Degas, Renoir, Manet, and more. Presented by Connie Corrigan of the Detroit Institute of Arts as part of their Behind the Seen series. For more information, call 586-445-5407 or visit rsvlibraryservice@ roseville-mi.gov

Oct. 27: Haunted Trivia Night at the Roseville Public Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Get your team together and join us for some terrifying trivia. We will be scaring up some pizza and prizes to go with those questions. It's

going to be a scream. Registration is required and this program fills up very quickly so make sure to register early. Don't worry if you don't have a team; we'll find one for you. For more information, call 586-445-5407 or visit rsvlibraryservice@ roseville-mi.gov

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3: Special Exhibit at the Henry Ford — Heroes & villains: The Art of the Disney Costume, trip sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community Education, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. See more than 70 costumes spanning decades of Disney's on-screen magic. You will have time to explore the special exhibit and more. Price also includes \$10 Fun Money, which can be used in the gift shop or at one of the museum's eateries. Bus departs from 45400 Marketplace Blvd, Chesterfield. Cost is \$69. Tickets can be

purchased online at Lc-ps. ce.elevo.com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-6330.

Nov. 17: Dinner at the Marine City Fish company and then The Sound of Music at the Riverbank Theatre in Marine City, from 4:45-10:45 p.m. Trip sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community Education. Bus departs from 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd. Clinton Twp. Cost is \$97. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps. ce.eleyo.com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-6330.

Nov: 18: Coffee and donuts at the DSO featuring Sci-Fi Spectacular - travel to new worlds, distant galaxies, and back to the future with music from your favorite sci-fi movies including Star Wars, Star Trek, Alien and more, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Trip sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community Education. Bus departs from 45400 Marketplace Blvd, Chesterfield. Cost is \$60. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps.ce.eleyo. com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-6330.

DECEMBER

Dec. 6: Van Gogh Exhibit at tion at 586-783-6330. the DIA — 65 of Van Gogh's original works from museums and private collectors from around the world will be displayed, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bus departs from 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd, Clinton Twp. Cost is \$48. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps. ce.elevo.com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-6330.

Dec. 16: Coffee and donuts at the DSO featuring Home for the Holidays - share Detroit's favorite holiday musical tradition with

family and friends and thrill to the spectacle of the season, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Trip sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community EducationBus departs from 45400 Marketplace Blvd, Chesterfield. Cost is \$60. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps.ce.eleyo. com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Educa-

Dec. 21: Les Miserables at the Fisher Theatre, from 11:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Trip sponsored by the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community Education. Bus departs from 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd, Clinton Twp. Cost is \$97. Tickets can be purchased online at Lc-ps.ce.eleyo.com or calling L'Anse Creuse Community Education at 586-783-6330.

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Breakfast Sponsored by Widowed Friends Ministries: Breakfast (3rd Tuesday of each) at 10:30 a.m., Pancake Factory, 1369323 Mile Rd, NE corner of 23 Mile & Schoenherr, Shelby Twp. Sponsored by Widowed Friends Ministries. Contact Ellen 586-781-5781.

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Poetry Page



Set Tribute Page

BUMPER & SHADOW

Bumper and Shadow Always together, chasing geese in all kinds of weather. Just Australian Shepherds, doing their job. Rescued and loved, they had many friends along the way. They confronted a coyote, who had this to say: "Thanks" for your job, I have nothing to do but walk the shore edges, no game to pursue. Bumper got seizures Lasted nine months more, before "Rainbow Bridge" came knocking at his door. Shadow followed from grief three months to the day. As many would say, what a great pair passed away.

> By Margherita J. Wiszowaty of St. Clair Shores, MI



BUMPER & SHADOW



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Poetry Page

LONG AGO

When We Were Young We Either Walked Or Rode The Bus We Never Thought It Was Too Tough For Us If We Had A Bike We Would Be Gone For The Day Mother Would Always Say Be Home Before The Sun Goes Away There Was No Tv Or Cell Phone We Learned To Communicate With Everyone We Listened To Our Father And Mother And Always Respected Each Other We Would Meet At The Playground With Other Kids From All Around We Played Many Different Games Football And Baseball We Did It All For A Nickel We Could Go To The Show And Learned So Much More That We Didn't Know There Was Movies And News Cartoons And Worldly Views On The Way Home We Might See A Truck With Ice A Sliver Of Frozen Water Would Be Nice Those Times Are Forever Gone

But In Our Minds Those Memories Belong

By Steve Pankewicz of Sterling Heights, MI

Do you have a creative side that you would like to share with your community readers? We are looking for original, unpublished poetry. This will be your time to shine in our Poetry Corner. Please keep poems and letters of appreciation to 300 words or less and print clearly. Next Issue will be November 10, 2022.

FIRST & LAST NAME: ADDRESS:	PHONE NUMBER:
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	
MAIL TO: Vitality Poetry And Letters of Appreciation Dawn Emke 53239 Settimo Crt Chesterfield, MI 48047	If you chose to submit your poem or letter of appreciation through email, please include your first and last name along with your phone number and the city, state you reside in. You will not be solicited and all information will be kept confidential. Email Poems to: demke@medianewsgroup.com

Thank you for your interest in sharing your creativity. We look forward to reading your poems and letters of appreciation.

CHARLIE OR ME

Have A Buddy Named Charlie Never Seem To Agree Who is Prettier Charlie Or Me.

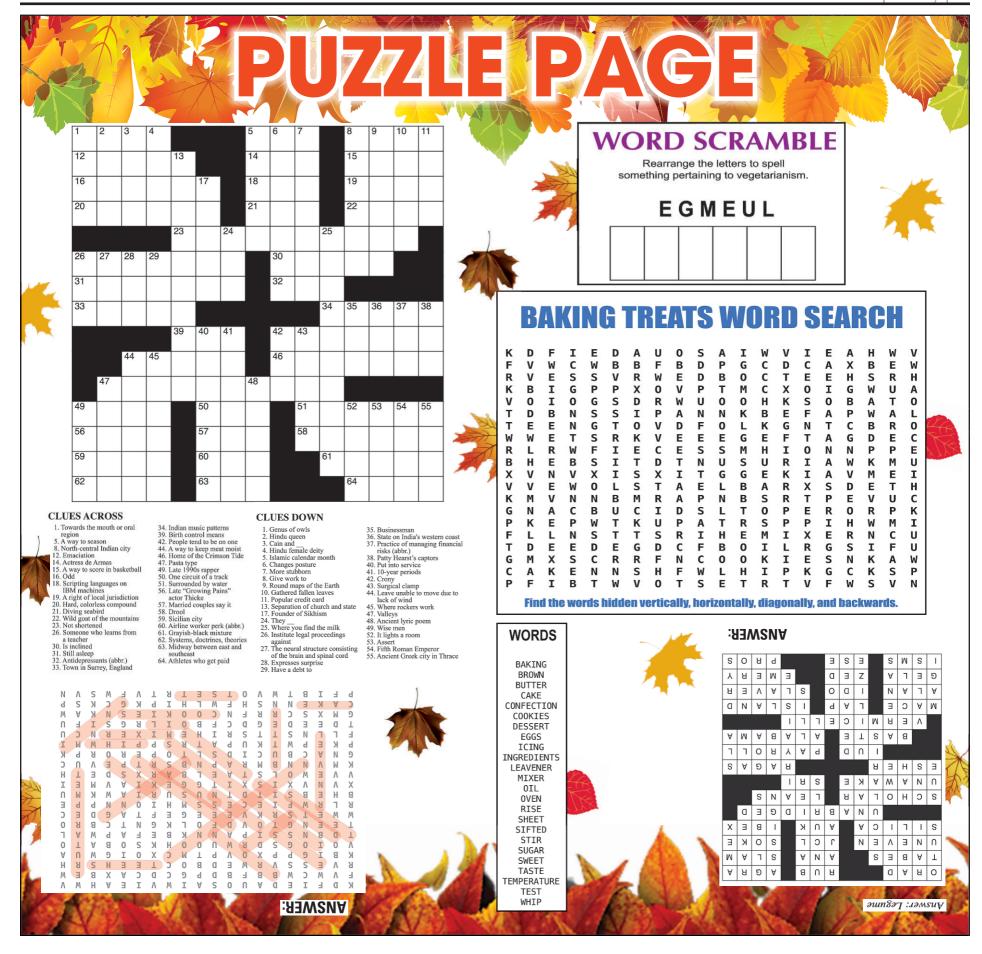
Charlie Married A Girl Named Marie Has Two Beautiful Daughters Susan And Sherri.

Left Home For California Where The Weather Is Warm And "O" So Sunny Have To Admit Miss My Mommie.

Charlie And I **Both Crowding Ninety Now** Still Can't Agree Who is Prettier Charlie Or Me.

By John Cameron of Shelby Township, MI

OCTOBER 2022



Wanda loves to smile and laugh with her residents. The feeling is mutual.



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