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Moody on The Market

Pat **Moody**

City Hall Ponders the Future of Tiscornia Park

What's the future of St. Joseph's Tiscornia Park—the city's 'other' beach, the one that's sometimes not crowded and has a more 'natural' feel to it? Is 'improvement' in Tiscornia's future? Or, is it more about 'preservation'? These are questions that are wrapped up in consideration of 'master plans' for all the City's parks that are under discussion at several levels of city government.

Our colleague, WSJM News Director Ken Lundberg has been talking to city officials and residents about Tiscornia Park, and shared this in-depth report with MoodyOnTheMarket.com:

When locals think of Tiscornia Park, they often refer to it as a family beach and the area's last remaining hidden gem of beach access whose character hasn't changed significantly since the 1970s. Tiscornia's 16-acres of natural dunes and wildlife are an attractive resting place for migrating birds, butterflies, and the occasional family of deer. It doesn't include the same traits that come with the large crowds regularly seen at Silver Beach and it offers easy access to the North Pier Lighthouse.

Tiscornia has a relatively modest parking area (130 spaces), a humble picnic venue with a million-dollar view of the lake (the structure was donated by the local Lions Club), and park visitors are just a dune's climb away from the beach.

Except for a few Saturdays during the peak of summer, beachgoers will often find easy parking and access to the beach and pier and little in the way of raucous activity. **Concerns Over Change**

The qualities of what Tiscornia Park is today and what people will find in the future are up for debate. What's there now could change when a new Tiscornia Master Plan recommendation is presented to the members of the St. Joseph City Commission, as early as late August/early September. With the approval of the city commission, the Parks Advisory Board has been developing a master plan for Tiscornia and proposed recommendations call on the city to budget for a larger parking lot; a new, higher capacity gathering pavilion; a maintenance shed; a paved nature

Continued on page 6

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Marcy **Simpson**

Executive Director, Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

Join Family Hike 'n Play at Love Creek Nature Center for more green, less screen! Take some time to unplug and bring your family out for a naturalist-guided nature walk on Saturday, August 12 at 10:00 a.m. On this laid-back stroll through the woods, you'll visit a few fun locations like the marsh and the creek. Afterward, stick around to play in the new Nature Play area located next to the Nature Center.

Run, walk, and enjoy wine – it's the only way to 5k! Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m. for a fun morning of exercise, camaraderie, wine, and socializing. It's the Round Barn Estate and Mt. Tabor Trails' 2nd annual fun run!

Continued on page 2

Page 2 August 12, 2023 MailMax

Simpson *Continued from cover*

Calling all Princes and Princesses! Join The Little Things Play Cafe for the cutest dance class around - in partnership with Miss Natalie's Rhythm and Dance. This fairytale dance class includes 45 minutes of instruction PLUS one full hour of play at the cafe. Intended for toddlers aged 2-6 years old. The classes are Tuesday, August 15 and 22 at 9:00 a.m.

New this summer is Michigan Maritime Museum's Lunch & Learn. It's a one-hour lecture with amazing presenters. August's Lunch & Learn will present "Friends Good Will: History on the Water by Administration & Curatorial Specialist Eric Harmsen. Join them at noon on Thursday, August 17 to learn more about the famous tall ship in the Museum's on-water fleet!

Hailing from Chicago, Bowmanville will be at the Acorn Friday, August 18 at 8:00 p.m. Bowmanville strives to bring the hip sensibilities of Hot Club Jazz from 1930s Paris minaled with the influences born of Chicago's global crossroads to a wider audience. Led by violinist Ethan Adelsman, with Graham Nelson on harmonica/vocals, Noah Plotkin on drums. Oliver Horton on bass and Mason Jiller on guitar, the group draws inspiration from diverse musical backgrounds to push the boundaries of their craft, thrilling audiences nationally. Creating a simmering synergy of vibrant bouncing sound that crackles with electric energy, Bowmanville leaves listeners always hungry for more.

You won't want to miss the 2nd Annual Sister Lakes Brewing Company Charity Soapbox Derby Saturday, August 19 at 3:00 p.m. This is a charity event in collaboration between Sister Lakes Brewing Company & The Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Michigan. Come out and show your support for ending child abuse and exploitation by building and entering your own handmade derby car or by using one of the cars provided. Gather your family, business, organization, or group of friends and get creative for this cause!

TORP will thrill you with fits of laughter, amaze you with daring hilarity, and wow you with impressive feats of strength. OK, not so much with the feats of strength, but definitely the other two. Whether you prefer to chuckle, guffaw, giggle, snicker, or outright belly laugh, be at The Oak Room at The Citadel – in the heart of the Benton Harbor Arts District on Friday, August 25, at 7:00 p.m. to laugh out loud with TORP. More fun than mere mortals should be allowed to have.

Join Eden Springs Park for the 115th anniversary of the historic amusement park on Saturday, August 26 at 12:00 p.m. Three steam engines will be on display or running on the track for train rides. Enjoy the vintage car show, tour the park, take a train ride, and enjoy food from the concession stand and food trucks. The park museum will be open with House of David items on display. Guided tours of the back shops are available upon request. It's free and open to the public and all vintage cars are welcome.

If you would like more information on these and many more events and activities in the area, please visit our website at swmichigan.org.

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Photo of the Week



Row Row Row of Boats Photo by Bob Thomas

Please email your favorite photo with a brief description to **<u>Photos@MailMaxOnline.com</u>** Photos must be horizontal orientation to be considered for Photo of the Week.

Water resources to help City of Benton Harbor residents.

Learn what they are and how to access them.

The State of Michigan, City of Benton Harbor and partners are working to help keep you and your family healthy. To support residents, free, easy-to-access resources are being offered, including:

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It's a Guideline, Not a Rule

Dave Says

Dear Dave,

Is there any flexibility in your rule about not spending more than 25% of your takehome pay on rent or monthly mortgage payments? I live downtown in Washington, D.C., and I'm finding it's pretty hard to do here. I make about \$90,000 a year, but I'm spending a little over \$2,000 a month in rent. Rent is my largest expense by far, and I don't spend a lot of other money, so I'm still able to save a little and do other things. Can you give me your opinion about this approach? - Tanner

Dear Tanner,

True, I advise people to spend no more than 25% of their take-home pay on housing. Math still works in every city and state in the country. You don't get a pass on math just because you live in Washington, D.C., even though Congress and a lot of other people there think you do.

But there's really nothing magical about 25%. The purpose behind it is, I don't want you to be house poor. If you find yourself still able to save and invest because you keep other financial aspects of your lifestyle so low, then you're okay. The problem with most people starts when they've got a high cost

of housing, and those payments put a real squeeze on their budgets. It doesn't leave them enough room to save up to buy the next car, so that car becomes debt. The same thing happens with Christmas and vacations and everything else. They don't have enough extra money to save for things because a huge chunk of their income is flying out the door every month wrapped up in rent or a house payment.

Now, you're telling me your situation works for you because you've made room in your budget and live a very frugal lifestyle by choice. That's cool. I'm not mad at you about that. But here's the thing: Whatever you spend on rent disappears. And the more money you burn, the less you've got on hand for other things.

I'm not exactly sure how you adjust that in your situation. Maybe you move outside the city and commute, or perhaps you add a roommate into the equation. Or, maybe you're fine with how things are and that's the way you want to live. That's okay too. But my reasoning behind the 25% figure—which is actually more of a guideline than a rule—is so you don't become house poor. I want you to be able to save, invest and give generously. Plus, I want you to own your own home one day.

And you won't be able to do that if everything you make is going toward big payments! - Dave

Description automatically generated * Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions.

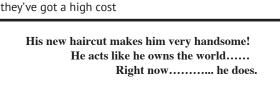




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Glenn Rosenbaum

Pastor

God Revives Dead Dirt

[Jesus said] "The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." ~ Matthew 13:23

In the novel The Martian, an astronaut named Mark Watney is stranded on Mars all by himself. To survive until help can arrive, he has to find a way to grow food for himself. The problem is nothing can grow in the dead Martian soil. But Watney engineers a way to revive the dead Martian dirt and turn it into soil rich enough for growing potatoes. The potatoes he grows sustain him long enough for help to arrive. Remarkably, Watney was able to provide a climate in his greenhouse so that even the dead dirt of Mars could be cultivated into life-sustaining soil.

Jesus once told a story to illustrate God's ability to do something even more remarkable. God is able to make unbe-

lieving, sinful hearts trust in him. We are all essentially a pile of dead dirt, spiritually speaking, until God gets a hold of us. God uses his Word to make the seed of faith grow even in hearts that are dead in sin. God has the power to take the dead dirt of our hearts and revive it to life by the message of Christ. He never gives up on us, even when we look hopeless.

The faith that God causes to grow in us supports and nourishes us our whole lives. God alone gives us faith to get through the rocky and thorny times of our lives when our faith is threatened. We thank the Lord that he has allowed us to hear his word and understand it.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for reviving my heart to live by the power of your Word. Grow me daily in the greenhouse of your Word. Amen.

Submitted by Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum Administrative Pastor Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: www.What AboutJesus.com





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Moody Continued from cover

path; boundary markers; and an area for food trucks.

One indication of the negative response to the draft plan, lapel buttons have started proliferating around town with green letters on a white background that simply state Keep Tiscornia Natural. Area residents are upset that the character of the park would change significantly under the Parks Advisory Board proposal and they're wondering what's driving the city to consider the projects. Further, they're wondering who will pay for the costly additions.

Public Testimony

A special public meeting to take testimony on the matter was held June 8. Dozens of people turned out from the greater St. Joe area. While there is broad support for minor updates like providing Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access and hiding the beach-cleanup dumpster, every person testifying expressed opposition to the rest of the draft plans.

Among those testifying was Thomas Steele of Shoreham, who said he speaks for hundreds of bird watchers.

"Birders throughout Berrien County and St. Joseph treasure Tiscornia. It's probably well-known throughout the country as a hotspot for migratory birds. Any disruption of the natural environment there, it's going to cause (that to) diminish the migratory use," said Steele.

"No one wants this. I haven't talked to anyone that said, 'I can't wait till they redo the pavilion," said St. Joseph resident Mike Wilson. "The only woman that I talked to in depth (about the proposal) said, 'If they want to spend some money, fix the bathrooms. The bathrooms were horrible in the eighties."

Leading much of the Tiscornia neighborhood opposition effort is Carol Vondale. Vondale and her husband are retired attorneys who live next to the park.

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"Many of the things they're proposing really aren't necessary," said Vondale. "Why are we spending these extraordinary amounts of money, why are we hiring all these consultants to change a park where there's high satisfaction?

The city hired O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. (OCBA) out of Kalamazoo to design the master plans for Tiscornia and Paddler parks for \$22,500.

Vondale also raised the question of whether the parks board was sincerely taking citizen concerns into consideration for the plan.

"The city, I think, believes that it can do pretty much whatever it wants to do and I don't believe that it's really listening to the public on this."

Mapping a Plan for the Future

As part of the effort to outline the vision for what Tiscornia should evolve to in the coming years and decades, the City of St. Joseph's Parks Advisory Board, a seven-member volunteer body, has taken inputs from city staff, the landscape consultant (OCBA), and the general public. The outlined improvements have changed from their inception. No longer part of the plan is adding a playground area. Another change is reducing the size of the proposed new pavilion. Still in question are the other recommendations, including the nature path, whether to demolish the existing pavilion, and the location of the maintenance structures.

Parks Advisory Board Chairperson Jeanne Strine said the plan is still in the "tweaking process" and a proposal is expected to be finalized as early as August and submitted to the city commission for approval.

"I've always liked Tiscornia because it is quiet, it is peaceful, it is a place you can put vour feet in the sand. I don't see the changes being made changing that element of this peaceful space in any way, shape, or form," said Strine. "These changes are meant to enhance the property as it exists today and

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Information on the VA PACT ACT, Health Care and Compensation Claims will be available from the Berrien County Veteran Services.

> DATE: Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 TIME: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

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keep it fresh and hopefully maintained well with a vision for the future."

Asked about those who say the Parks Advisory Board is not listening to public input, Strine said the Board is doing all it can to let people know they're being heard.

"I sense that there's many people who would feel they've been heard if we completely walked away from this at this point in time, but because it's something that we've been tasked with doing through the city commission's approval, we're doing our job (by) moving forward," said Strine.

Strine said the plan has evolved from the original consultant's recommendation and that it was public input that drove the changes.

"If you could go back and see the (master plan recommendation) boards that were presented in January, the concepts that we're working through now, to make a final recommendation to the consultant to create the final concept, you can see how it has evolved over time."

Master Plan Components Under Consideration

Seasonal accessible mat to the beach
 Refresh of restroom; addition of railing
 on rooftop to match existing railing

• Defined nature path highlighting ecosystem components such as native plants, butterflies, and migratory birds; proposed path follows primary existing path, with ~4' width cleared trail with occasional logs and boulders for resting

• Learning pockets with native plants, interpretive sign, and cluster of logs and/or boulders for informal play and climbing

• Local hardwood boundary posts, approx. 2' height at 20' intervals to subtly demarcate park property bounds without disturbing habitat or becoming an aesthetic distraction

• Two additional picnic areas with (2) picnic tables and (1) grill

• Regrade swale to improve parking lot drainage

Enlargement 1A: Picnic Pavilion
Enlargement 2A: Maintenance area and

potential parking • River Overlook; remove existing pavilion and portions of concrete pad, install benches, interpretive sign, and bat house

• Food truck location; 20'x20' pad for food trucks, with electrical pedestal

When All Else Is Said, Quote the Beatles Jim Jeschke, a well-known and well-re-



garded resident of St. Joseph for 77 years, summed up his views by saying the issue was important enough for him to attend and testify just six weeks after he had open-heart surgery. His testimony echoed those who spoke before him asking the Board to reconsider the changes.

"The Beatles even made a song about Tiscornia Beach, 'Let It Be, Let It Be, Let It Be." With that, Jeschke walked away from the podium to a round of extended applause.

The St. Joseph City Commission is expected to consider whether to approve, reject, or request modifications to the master plan proposal as early as this September.

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Sarah Spoonholtz Regional

Director. SMR Chamber

"If Vines Could Talk" focuses on the great wines of Southwest Michigan

As we wind down summer, the alluring aroma of grapes will soon fill the air in Southwest Michigan. Second only to Napa Valley for our agricultural diversity, Michigan Wine, specifically Southwest Michigan Wine, is something that has evolved and developed much like our taste buds do over time. I thought this week I'd introduce you to local wine connoisseur Steve Salisbury, who has launched his own business based on his love and roots in our local wine country.

No stranger to the southwestern Michigan wine industry, in the late 1960s and 1970s his family were among the pioneers in growing French hybrid and French Vinifera vines in the soils of Berrien County. His father was the first to plant vinifera - Chardonnay - in southwest Michigan in 1968 just before Len Olson established the first commercial Chardonnay vineyard at Tabor Hill in 1969.

Growing up neighboring Len, he and Steve's dad collaborated frequently; they discussed soil types, vines and root stocks, canopy care, fertilizing, harvesting, and of course wine making. At their peak, the Salisbury's had over 15 acres of vines on their property, but they never made wine commercially. Most of the juice grapes were sold to processors while the wine grapes were sold to the local trendsetters who were home winemakers.

It should come as no surprise that Steve's first job in high school was at Tabor Hill, starting out cleaning barrels and tanks before eventually moving to the bottling line, and ultimately to the tasting room where he conducted tours and tastings. After Tabor Hill, Steve moved to the now defunct Banholzer Winecellars, just across the border in Indiana, south of Three Oaks. In his two years there, he was the cellar master and assistant winemaker. In 1976 his Rose' won first place in the Indiana wine competition.

With the foreboding economy of the late 1970s, Steve decided to exit the wine industry and opt for a more secure future working in corporate America. He spent 30 years at Whirlpool Corporation before moving to business consulting where he worked for another 15 years before entering semi-retirement. With more free time on his hands Steve decided to go back to his roots. Recognizing that Michigan makes great wine and that it is also underappreciated on the world stage, he began doing more to promote that which he saw start 50 years earlier.

In early 2021 Steve won his WSET Level Two award in wine and began "If Vines Could Talk." His social media presence was devoted to writing reviews of wines from all over the world, but with a specific focus on Michigan, and in particular The Lake Michigan Shore AVA which encompasses most of Southwestern Michigan.

Leading up to this, Steve followed the wine industry in Michigan, and developed relationships with winemakers in the Baroda and Berrien Springs area. This served as a launchpad for him to have conversations with local wineries, winemakers, and owners which provided deeper content for his social media wine reviews.

Recently, Steve expanded the footprint of If Vines could Talk by offering a weekly podcast focused on Michigan and the Lake Michigan shore wine regions. New episodes are released every Thursday. Be sure to listen in to learn more about why Michigan is an up-and-coming wine region. The podcast is available on all major podcast platforms

Steve has also partnered with Local Pour of Sawyer to provide private wine tastings. These can be family events, group gatherings, or events for business meetings. You can select and purchase a variety of packages with Steve's assistance, and then he will attend your event with everything needed to provide a well curated wine tasting event. You can learn more about these private wine tastings at localpourmi.com or by searching "If Vines Could Talk" on Facebook or Instagram.

In a recent interview with Steve, I asked him why this is so important to him. "Michigan makes wine that easily competes on the world stage. I hope that in some small way, I can elevate the awareness and prestige of our great wines. It's a legacy that I attribute to great innovators like Len Olson and my dad."

Learn more about the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber by visiting smrchamber.com or connect with me directly: sspoonholtz@smrchamber.





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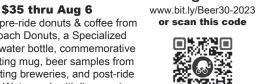
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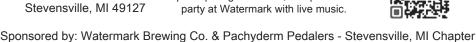
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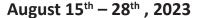
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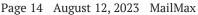


1:15 5(I) COPOF. 2020 FORD F-250 SR <u> IRD</u> BMWXR COUPE CREW CAB MUSTANU RDRIVESUNAWD 7.3 V8 EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 58K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, FX4 Off-Road Package, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Lariat Sport Package, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Auto Climate Control, Power Adjust Pedals, Blind Spot and Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Alert, Pre-Collision Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Destruction and Computer Vision Control and Computer Control Action (2014) 1990 3.7 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 67K Miles, Remote Start, Power Windows and Locks, CD-Player, Limited Slip Axle, Reverse 2.0 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 34K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Moonroof, Climate Control, Blind Spot Detection, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Front Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ruby Red Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Dark Graphite Metallic, C23155A Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, F23091A Metallic, F22225I 17 als **2021** FORD 92017741(OND)AVGRAVA¥XVAWD) 2.3 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 51K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Twin Panel Moorroof, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-1.5 EFI Engine, 1 Speed CVT Transmission, Aluminum Wheels, 43K Miles, Remote Start Power Driver's Seat, Power Sunroof, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spo Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Trafic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, From Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified, Rapid Red Metallic, F22318B Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Burgundy, F23035B E TO BRIDGM **2020 F**ORT [] 1.3 EFI Engine, 1 Speed CVT Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 36K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's 2.3 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels 129K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Set, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Temp Control, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Warning and Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry eated Front Seats. Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats. Twin Panel Moonroof. Climate Control. Adaptive Cruise Control Evasive Steering Assist, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure System, Balance of Factory Warranty, Summit White Roof and Satin Steel Metallic Body, F23106A Varning, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Agate Black Metallic, F23161 UH INT SSAN ROGUE SAWD 6.7 Cummins Turbo DIESEL Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 11K Miles! Bedliner, Remote 3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles, Power 2.5 EFI Engine, 1 Speed CVT Automatic, Styled Wheel Covers, 76K Miles, Power Windows and Start, Navigation, Memory Power Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Driver's Seat, Climate Control, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Locks, CD-Player, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Detection, Rear Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Remote Heated Seats, Power Sliding Rear Window, Parksense Front/Rear Park Assist, Back-Up Camera, 5th Wheel/Gooseneck Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Diamond Black Crystal, C23045A Keyless Entry System, Caspian Blue Metallic, C23073B Towing Prep Group, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Granite Crystal Metallic, C23077A dgman, MI 925-3673 S.NET Dan Zarobsky Alisha Jonathan Jeff Dennis Greg Jim Bob Jon Tim Varo Ingels Miller Kantauskas McLean Weber Place Danneffel Betker

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3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 43K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Heather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Moonroof, 13 Alpine Speakers, Stow 'N Vac eorated Vacuum. Power Slide Side Doors. Blind Soot Monitor. Rear Collision Mitioation. Rear Parkino Aid. Back-U Camera, Hands-Free Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Granite Crystal Metallic, C231394



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Lead Us into Temptations!

When I finished writing last week's column about Mick Jagger, I still had enough leftover factoids to construct a whole 'nutha column. I considered foisting that on you but was saved from that temptation by...the Temptations!

I just saw the hit stage show "Ain't Too Proud," based on the history of the Temptations. Afterward I googled all about for interesting info about them, and I hereby save you the trouble of googling all that yourself with this compendium of Tempt(ing)ations treats!

I fell head over heels in love with the Temptations when I was a kid – bought a bunch of their albums, sang along with all their songs, the whole bit. Well, except for the choreography; I'm not uncoordinated,

mind you, but man, I could NEVER do the Tempts nifty moves – AND sing at the same time!; I always wound up a ball of confusion.

Another thing: when I became a Temptations fan, about age 10 or 11, the Classic Five was a thing of the past. Big-time Temptations fans know what mean; the quintet that produced the group's first No. 1 hit, "My Girl," and many others, are considered the Classic Five: Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin, Paul Williams, Eddie Kendricks and David Ruffin. But the group went through a Ruffin spell, you could say, in the mid 1960s; Ruffin left, and was replaced by Dennis Edwards. When the Tempts music found me, Ruffin was a solo artist whom I didn't realize was relevant.

One of the sticking points was that Ruffin wanted to change the name of the group. He felt he was the key to their "sound," and – a la Diana Ross and the Supremes, lobbied for a new identity as "David Ruffin and the Temptations." This was after establishing immense success and renown as simply the Temptations. What's a modern-day analogy? - like Kansas City's NFL team deciding to call themselves Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs?

It's interesting to me that the Temptations as we know them teetered on the edge of never coming to be, TWICE.

The second hurdle was that the Motown hierarchy wasn't convinced that the group should include Franklin, a bass singer. I guess because no one else had a bass. But Otis Williams convinced them that Franklin was indispensable to the Temptations sound, and this is utterly indisputable, especially when you hear his low, LOW growl in "Ball of Confusion" - "And the band played on."

Now you might be saying, "Hey, you skipped the first hurdle!" Well, here's that story: In 1958, Otis Williams formed a singing group with some classmates at Detroit's Northwestern High School.

August 12, 2023 MailMax Page 17 They were just about to get a recording contract when their bass singer dropped out. (Of the band, that is. And, good on him - he did so in order to finish high school.) To replace him, Williams remembered Melvin Franklin, a guy whose bass he'd heard and liked. One day, Williams saw Franklin on the street, rushed up to him and asked him to join. Franklin answered, "Well, I don't know. You have to ask my momma." Williams proposed the idea to Rose Franklin. After some hesitation, she agreed – Melvin could join the group. On one condition!: they MUST keep him FAR AWAY from temptations!

TakeFiveT5@yahoo.com



Shari's Cell: 269-470-8201



She started her real estate career over 15 years ago with a tenacious work ethic and possesses the emotional understanding and professional poise needed to help clients navigate through the current real estate market. She continually goes above and beyond the Realtor call of duty when assisting her clients through the entire process of buying or selling.

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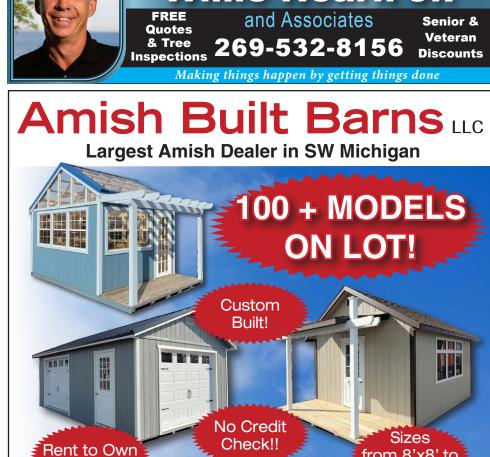
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