

## Okemos Schools asking for bond in May 7 election

In 2017, the Okemos Public Schools began an extensive and collaborative process to assess the current technology, security, capital outlay, transportation and facility needs throughout our district.

After a two-year process, the Board of Education voted to address the highest priority needs by calling for an election on a \$24.9 million dollar bond proposal for consideration by our voters. On May 7, voters in the Okemos community will weigh in on this comprehensive ballot proposal which impacts many areas of need across our district. If approved, major projects in the proposal would:

- replace student "1 to 1" learning devices and classroom technology
- increase and upgrade security measures in our schools
- install new fire alarm systems
- purchase flexible learning furniture in classrooms
- eliminate inequity by providing air conditioning to all students
- gradually replace our aging bus fleet and allow us to add route(s)
- renovate common area bathrooms across the district
- expand capacity at the elementary level, by adding classrooms to Bennett Woods
- replace and upgrade technology for our community Senior Center
- and allow the district to meet these needs, while preserving the district's limited general fund for student programming.

For additional information on the proposal, visit the district's website at [okemosk12.net](http://okemosk12.net), and click on the "Bond Proposal" link at the top of the page. The website contains an informational video that provides greater detail of the bond proposal, answers to other frequently asked questions, and background information for our community.

Okemos Public Schools



Librarian Tom Shiels leads one of the many programs for kids offered by CADL Okemos. COURTESY

## Library programs offer community service



**Betsy Hull**  
CADL Okemos  
Columnist

I could not have planned this testimonial any better if I had planned it.

At a recent meeting of the Meridian Area Business Association, all the members introduced themselves. "Hi, I am Betsy Hull, head librarian at the Okemos branch," deep breath, "of Capital Area District Libraries." This is a formal and

long introduction, but I never know where my marketing director is lurking and listening. I follow the branding protocol.

As the meeting ends, members may talk about the great service they received at another business. It's called a testimonial. That's when Katie Krick from Liberty Mutual in Okemos stood up and said something to the effect of, "I am so excited to meet someone from the library. My kids attend a lot of programs with their sitter, at all the different branches. This is a wonderful community resource that we all

should use and be proud of."

I told the crowd I had never met Katie before and her sincere remarks were unscripted. She made me feel like a rock star. There was added fling to my disposal of plastic materials into MSU's recycling bins later that morning.

So much for the glamour of being a rock star.

*Capital Area District Libraries' Okemos branch is located at 4321 Okemos Road in Okemos. For more information, call 517-347-2021 or visit [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).*

## McCurdy Park cleanup set to highlight Camporee

McCurdy Park in Corunna will get a major makeover courtesy of about 200 Boy Scouts and 100 adult volunteers with the Water and Woods Field Service Council.

Their cleanup effort, now in its fourth year, is the major focus of an Earth Day Camporee April 26-28. The Water and Woods FSC is managed by the Michigan Crossroads Council which is the state's Scouting organization.

"It will be a true camporee and they'll be spending two nights out there," said Pam Howd, chairperson of the Camporee and an Environmental Education Specialist with Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality. "It will be one part community service, one part Merit Badges, and there will also be trainings for Scouts and adults."

The park clean-up will take place on Saturday morning. Howd said the public is welcome to join with Scouts and adult volunteers to rake; pick up twigs; remove garlic mustard; do maintenance work on trails; mulch; and weed a hillside garden.

The 35-acre park is a former fairgrounds site and Howd said there are many unique elements there.

Corunna Mayor Chuck Kerridge said during the past couple of months he has been asked if the Boy Scouts would be coming back to do the cleanup again. He said the community appreciates what they do and looks forward to having them back. "They save us a lot of money by cleaning up that 35 acres," Kerridge said. "They go through in a matter of four to five hours and get things done and we enjoy having

them.

"I was never a Boy Scout, but I enjoy working with them."

Howd said it is important for Scouts to learn to care about their environment. She said the Camporee is designed to do that. "We need Scouts to learn more about the outdoor code and learn how to respect that," Howd said. "The Camporee is something that helps Scouts to be good conservators and stewards of the earth."

For more information about the McCurdy Park cleanup, contact Howd at 810-869-3426. To learn more about Scouting opportunities in Michigan, visit [www.michiganscouting.org](http://www.michiganscouting.org).

Boy Scouts



Eaton County Sheriff's Department released this photo of a woman's shoe from a victim.

## Police ask for tips about Eaton Rapids Twp. homicide

Kara Berg Lansing State Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

EATON RAPIDS TWP. — The Eaton County Sheriff's Department is asking for tips from the public to help identify a homicide victim found in Eaton Rapids Township.

The department released a photo of the woman's shoes, which are a pair of size 10, pink Nike brand tennis shoes. She also was wearing a black "Faded Glory" hooded coat with fur lining the outside of the hood, size XL, and a black or dark gray hooded long sleeve "Vanity" brand shirt.

Her body was found in a wooded area in Eaton Rapids Township on March 27. Police are investigating her death as a homicide. Police said the body was in an advanced state of decomposition. The body was found in the area of Wilbur Highway and Spruce Road at about 6:40 p.m., according to a news release. Detectives have not yet identified the woman and have no official cause of death.

If you have additional information, you can call Detective Rick Buxton at 517-323-8484.

Contact Kara Berg at 517-377-1113 or [kberg@lsj.com](mailto:kberg@lsj.com). Follow her on Twitter @karaberg95.

## EL education foundation plans dinner May 16

The East Lansing Educational Foundation will hold its 19th annual awards dinner at the East Lansing High School Student Union on May 16 with a significant boost from Flynn Wealth Partners as the title sponsor. The event honors outstanding ELHS alums and friends of ELEF in the community while showcasing current students and what the foundation does to improve classroom learning.

ELEF board president Kwafu Adarkwa said the foundation is excited about the collaboration with Flynn Wealth Partners.

"We appreciate that Bill and Nathanael Flynn have made this commitment to help take our event and its fund raising to a new level. Na-

thanael is a 1993 ELHS alum and strongly believes in the value of the education he received and what his children are getting now in our school system."

Flynn, managing partner of Flynn Wealth Partners said, "We are honored to partner with the East Lansing Educational Foundation to enhance ongoing educational opportunities for current and future East Lansing students."

The awards dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16. Tickets will go on sale closer to the event, which will also feature a strolling dinner concept assembling the best food offerings from a variety of local restaurants. More than 200 East Lansing residents will be

on hand for the dinner and program.

Douglas Johnson, ELHS '82, and Rachael Eubanks, ELHS '99, will be the distinguished alumni honorees. Doug is an internationally known jazz pianist and Associate Professor at The Berklee College of Music in Boston. Rachael was appointed as Michigan's State Treasurer in January of this year. Prior to that she served on the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Other honorees are Robert Brown (East Lansing Educational Foundation Award), Nick and Lin Archer (Theda Assiff Award) and Holly Brown (Spartan Village GLOBAL Education Award).

East Lansing Educational Foundation

# COME and Worship

**RIVER TERRACE CHURCH**

1509 RIVER TERRACE DR., EAST LANSING  
(Hagadom at River Terrace, N. of Hannah Plaza)

**Sunday Service Time:**  
**9AM and 11:15AM**

351-9059

[www.riverterrace.org](http://www.riverterrace.org)

**Okemos Community Church**

4734 Okemos Rd., Okemos  
349-4220

[www.OkemosOCC.org](http://www.OkemosOCC.org)  
Home of the OCC Food Pantry

**Sunday Worship 10am**  
Rev. Rick Blunt

**ST. KATHERINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

4650 N. Meridian Rd. - Williamston

**Sunday Worship Service**  
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
Childcare provided  
Adult Daycare Center  
Open Mon-Fri.  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
[www.forsterwoods.org](http://www.forsterwoods.org)  
[www.stkatherines.org](http://www.stkatherines.org)  
349-4120

**Okemos Community Church**

**Easter Worship**

April 21 • 10:00am

Communion • Brass & Choir • Hallelujah Chorus  
Children's Activities & Egg Hunt

4734 Okemos Rd., Okemos  
[www.OkemosOCC.org](http://www.OkemosOCC.org)

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# Risen