



Enjoy the February Health Digest

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No Tax Rebate Until You File a 2007 Tax Return

IRS Will Send Stimulus Payments Automatically Starting in May; Eligible Taxpayers Must File a 2007 Tax Return to Receive Rebate

The Internal Revenue Service today advised taxpayers that in most cases they will not have to do anything extra this year to get the economic stimulus payments beginning in May.

"It's simple," said IRS Spokesperson, Luis

D. Garcia. "If you have a payment headed your way just file your 2007 tax return and sit tight, we at the IRS will do the rest."

The IRS will use information on the 2007 tax return filed by the taxpayer to determine eligibility and calculate the amount of the stimulus payments.

The IRS will begin sending more than 130 million taxpayers their payments beginning in early May after the current tax season con-

cludes. Payments will continue over several weeks during the spring and summer. IRS will announce a payment schedule for taxpayers in the near future.

Stimulus payments will be direct deposited for taxpayers selecting that option when filing their 2007 tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed with direct deposit won't

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Our 28th Year Serving Troy's Business Community Every Monday

Monday, Feb. 18, 2008
Vol. 28, No. 25

Troy Community Center Offers Mid-Winter Break Specials

Don't let boredom get the best of you during your mid-winter break. Spend your free time at the Troy Community Center as they offer special prices for all Troy students. From February 18-22, students can purchase a day pass for only \$3. Passes must be purchased before 5 p.m. and students must show a valid school identification card. Regular rates apply after 5 p.m.

The Troy Community Center will also be offering special open swim times all week. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the pool will be open from 11 a.m. - 8:45 p.m. On Tuesday and Thursday, open swimming will take place from 11 a.m - 6:45 pm. For more information, call 248-526-2655.

Troy People Concerned Hosts Annual Pasta Dinner

The Pasta Dinner and Live Auction Fundraiser will take place at Big Beaver United Methodist Church 3753 John R. Rd, Troy, Saturday, March 8th, from 5pm to 8 p.m. The live auction begins at 6:30 p.m. with wonderful items donated by Troy businesses. The event will benefit residents of Troy who find themselves in a crisis situation, by providing information, referrals to other agencies and when available emergency financial assistance. TPC also provides qualified residents with food, clothing, school supplies, and holiday baskets. Join us in supporting your community. Tickets for the fundraiser are Adults \$15.00 Children \$5.00. For details and tickets please contact Troy People Concerned at 248-589-9199 or email them at: tpcto-help@sbcglobal.net

Make Summer Plans

Troy Parks and Rec is now taking reservations for Picnic Shelters. Call 248-524-1147 for fees and complete details.

"I bet after seeing us, George Washington would sue us for calling him "father."
— Will Rogers



Kiwanis Takes a Country Road to Fundraising

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF TROY has raised thousands of dollars over the past 40 years for other Troy non-profits, as well as scholarship recipients. This year they gathered at Petruzzello's for some good old country fun at the annual gala. Learning a few new square dance moves were Rebecca and Jeff Scott. For more pictures, see page 16.

Spiteri Honored as Troy's Teacher of the Year

YOU MIGHT NOTICE Bemis second grade teacher Gayle Spiteri tooling around Troy this week in a new, red Saturn Sky. It's her reward from The Suburban Collection for being named Troy's Teacher of the Year. She was surprised with the news last Tuesday in her classroom, with her proud husband and son looking on. Her second graders were very excited, too. She was selected for her many activities to further the education of her children, and enhance the standing of her profession. Gayle Spiteri is pictured at right surrounded by, in back row, her husband Joseph Spiteri, son Jason Spiteri, Ron MacEachern of the The Suburban Collection, Troy Superintendent Dr. Barbara Fowler and Roberta Masters, president of the Troy Education Association...and her kids.



Council in Deadlock Over Control of Mayoral Choices

by JIM KUFTA

Mayor Claims Obstructionism Council: Mayor Isn't Team Player

The majority on City Council has apparently decided not to approve any more Mayoral appointments to the City's nine-member Planning

Commission until the Mayor also appoints a former councilman they favor. But the Mayor won't budge and said she does not plan to make the appointment the Council members desire — creating a deadlock.

This back-story began sometime after the November election when former Councilman David Lambert, who had decided not to run again for City Council again, applied for a position on the City Planning Commission. Lambert often voted in opposition to the Mayor, as do those currently seeking his appointment to the Commission.

At the time Lambert said his decision not to run for council was based on a desire to spend more time with his family. The Mayor has latched on to this statement.

"The work on the Planning Commission is just as hard and perhaps even harder than that on

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Patterson Optimistic and Upbeat in State of the County Address

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was in a positive frame of mind as he told the more than 450 invited guests who attended his annual State of the County Address that Oakland County was "ready" to lead the state and the region back to prosperity.

In his nearly 60-minute speech to an overflow audience at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy, Patterson said Oakland County

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"George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles."
— Author Unknown

"Posterity will talk of Washington as the founder of a great empire, when my name shall be lost in the vortex of revolution."
— Napoleon I

No New Planners as Council Deadlocks

CITY COUNCIL, from page 1

Council," the Mayor recently said justifying her decision not to appoint Lambert. And "I felt therefore I could not justify appointing Lambert to the Planning Commission."

The Planning Commission meets two or three times a month with outside duties studying City issues.

The Mayor also accused council members of "obstructing" the prerogative given to her as Mayor by state law and the City Charter to decide appointments to the Planning Commission. Council has responded that the Mayor is not being a "team player" in recognizing Lambert as an obvious choice — and whom they have been quietly lobbying for behind the scene.

Lambert for his part is having no part in this.

"I applied for the Planning Commission in November and I told the Mayor and Council I am not going to become involved in this controversy. It is for them to work out. I applied for the Planning Commission, as an alternate I put down the Board of Zoning Appeals. I am willing to serve wherever people want to put me,"

Lambert said.

"The biggest obstacle (to running for reelection) had been the illness of my mother, but the issue resolved itself last October when she recovered. I did not feel I had the time to raise the money for a campaign with the election less than a month away," Lambert said.

In normal practice, Council members feel obliged to approve the Mayor's choice in the absence of a disqualifying factor. Unlike Council appointments, an appointment to the Planning Commission is the sole prerogative of the Mayor by state law and the City Charter and not a recommendation to City Council.

Still, according to City Attorney Lori Grigg Bluhm, while the Mayor has the authority to appoint the members of the Commission, Council has the authority to approve or disapprove of the appointment — end of story. There is no procedural way to resolve an intransigent disagreement. Council simply remains deadlocked until they aren't.

Meanwhile the chair of Planning Commission, Wayne Wright, is growing concerned.

"(The council deadlock) affects the Commission very seriously. We require five affirmative votes to pass anything and six for the City's Master Plan," Wright said. And when combined with a normal unavoidable absentee there could be times when we will not be able to function, he said.

Currently there are two vacancies on the Commission to be filled and a third not too far distant in the future. This comes at a critical time when the Planning Commission is required by law to fully review, adjust and re-approve the City's Master Plan.

"I believe Council has already passed up a couple of very good candidates — including Tom Krent, (Don Edmonds) and Mark Maxwell. They have a lot of good ideas and could have contributed enormously to the Planning Commission," Wright said.

All three were nominated by the Mayor since January, but denied by the majority on Council (Wade Fleming, David Eisenbacher, Cristina Broomfield and Martin Howrylak). Councilman Fleming has told the Gazette, however, that if Lambert is added to the Mayor's current motion to appoint Mark Maxwell the measure will pass with both candidates.

The Mayor's reasoning just doesn't track with the facts and Lambert's full availability for the job. Had the Mayor given more attention to the qualifications and attributes of Dave Lambert and the quiet behind the scene diplomatic requests by Council this conflict could have been avoided — a conflict that will no doubt reverberate into the future and on to other matters. A chance to build a working relationship has been missed.

At the same time Council is setting a very bad precedent in blocking the Mayor's appointments without cause.
Jameskufta@msn.com

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TO BENEFIT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TROY



Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues" Provides Break from Winter at Meadow Brook Theatre

THE THEATRE ENSEMBLE presents Neil Simon's self-inspired play, "Biloxi Blues" at Meadow Brook Theatre running through March 9. Making his Meadow Brook directorial debut is Christopher Bremer. Bremer is the managing director of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$22-\$38 and are available by calling the box office at 248-377-3300 or through TicketMaster at www.ticketmaster.com. Groups should call 248-370-3316. The schedule includes an American Sign Language interpreted performance on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 8:00 p.m.

Event/Venue Sponsor: San Marino Club

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No strollers. No refunds.

For tickets, call the Boys & Girls Club of Troy at 248.689.1687