

# DOWNTOWN MONITOR

## Greater Detroit's First-Ever Home Expo at Fairgrounds

By Paul Arlon



1878



2008



2015

*HGTV Restored the 1878 Ransom Gillis House in Brush Park (the First Pewabic Pottery Studio). An Example of How a Neglected Property can be Rehabbed...*

A half a century ago, Detroit was a city of family-owned houses, with a population high of just under 2 million, but upon sustaining multiple tears in its social and economic fabric, the number of people, and livable houses and buildings, declined precipitously. The physical state of the City was such that a new genre of internet 'art photos' flew rampant across the wired world - 'Detroit Ruin Porn.' And, economically, Detroit became the largest municipality in U.S. history to declare bankruptcy.

That was then...and, this is now.

Last year saw over 4,000 houses sold in Detroit proper and the demand for rehabbed housing in the city has never been stronger. The influx of people wanting to live in the city and thus enjoy one of the world's most under-rated cultural centers, has become a steady drumbeat of progress.

Now, to accelerate the business of revitalizing the City's housing stock, the first annual

*Metro Detroit Home Expo* will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse, on the old State Fairgrounds on 8 Mile, in Detroit. It's \$5 to get in. Some of the sponsors of this first-ever event are PNC Bank, Sherwin Williams paints, a number of the State's building unions and associations, and the Detroit Land Bank's Rehabbed & Ready program, among others.

This initial Detroit-based Home Expo, long a standard event in other venues in Greater Detroit, will gather the local home improvement industry under one roof, for one day, to connect with the legions of homeowners, building owners and investors working hard to rehab, improve and eventually dwell in the region's spectacular, yet sorely neglected housing stock.

Things are looking up.

Here are some of the DIY sessions that will be offered by some of the housing rehab experts:

11 a.m. *Home Fire Safety 101* by Chief Dale

Bradley, Detroit Fire Department

11:30 a.m. *Yes, You Can. DIY With Split Face Veneer* by EcoGranite

12 noon *Make The Most Of Your Side Lot* by Shari Williams, Detroit Future City

12:30 p.m. *How To Make A Felted Bowl* by Mandisa, Detroit Fiber Works

1 p.m. *Save Energy, Save \$\$: Make Your Home Energy Efficient* by DTE Energy Efficiency Program

2 p.m. *From Restoration To Repair To Replacement: Options For Your Home's Windows with Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Amy Swift of Building Hugger and Renewal* by Andersen

3 p.m. *Michigan And Solar-Does It Make Cent.\$?* by Mark Hagerty, Michigan Solar Solutions

For information, see [detroithomeexpo.com](http://detroithomeexpo.com). The *Metro Detroit Home Expo* will be held at the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse, located on the old State Fairgrounds on 20601 Ralston Street, off of 8 Mile, in Detroit.

## SHOWINGS

### Spectacular, Historically Significant Puppets on Display at DIA

Focused primarily on American theatrical puppets from 1850 to 1950, the DIA's Paul McPharlin Puppetry Collection is one of the most significant collections of historical puppets in the United States. The Collection's depth represents primitive and folk art, music hall and vaudeville, avant-garde and experimental, cabaret, and film and television puppets. The collection also features examples of stages and production sets, detailed records of American puppet troupes, and rare books tracing the ancient history of the puppet theater.

A special display of puppets from the Collection is now on view through Oct. 2. Three separate vignettes, including some of the best examples of American avant-garde marionettes and rod puppets, show the versatility of puppets to express character and emotion.

One case features 13 puppets from a 1929 production of *Noël* (The Mystery of the Nativity) written by Maurice Bouchor in 1895. Among the puppets are Mary Holding her Baby Jesus (pictured), The Angel Gabriel, whose wings are made of bird



*Mary Holding Baby Jesus, Circa 1929*

feathers, a stable of animals and Chaldean, African and Indian kings. McPharlin created two types of puppets: rod puppets, whose rods fit into the stage so that they could be moved from underneath; and shadow puppets on strings and pulleys that projected shadows of an animal procession

behind the costumed characters.

Another vignette is of a dramatic 1894 play called *The Death of Tintagiles*, which was written specifically for marionettes. Seven puppets created by McPharlin's wife Marjorie, also a very talented puppeteer, are on view. Her innovative techniques were later adopted by puppeteers like Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets.

The third puppet display examines the fluidity of motion. Two marionettes—*The Queen and Dancer*—are experimental papier-mâché figures based on Bronze-Age statues and meant to show off movement rather than to act out a particular story. Designed by puppeteer Michael Carr and director Gordon Craig, the marionettes were purposely left unpainted and without costumes to focus on the dancelike motions and dreamlike mood created by skillful manipulation of the strings.

For information, call (313) 833-7900, or see dia.org.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District.



Alliance to Halt Fermi-3, and Swords into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery present a compelling exhibit by photojournalist Gabriela Bulisova "Chernobyl +30: Half-Lives, Half-Truths" showing the affected Chernobyl area and its people 30 years after the April 1986 nuclear disaster.

**OPENING: Friday May 27 - 6 pm at Swords into Plowshares, 33 E. Adams, Detroit.**  
Join us! Free Parking off Elizabeth St.

A 1,000 square mile area around Chernobyl is a permanent exclusion zone. 1,000,000 people may have died as a result of the accident according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. This exhibit will give you pause.

The **Drones Quilt Project** runs concurrently in SIP Lounge until June 30th. Swords into Plowshares Summer Hours: Thursdays, Friday & Saturday 5pm—8pm, as possible or please call for an appointment for your groups private viewing: 313-963-7575

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## COMMUNITY INTEREST



# May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Laydell Harper

"This month, we renew our commitment to ridding our society of the stigma associated with mental illness, encourage those living with mental health conditions to get the help they need and reaffirm our pledge to ensure those who need help have access to the support, acceptance and resources they deserve," stated President Barack Obama in his Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

"This country was founded on the idea that every citizen must take care of each other," said President Obama. "And people take care of each other when they know others who are struggling with mental health issues."

Did you know? According to the National Institute of Mental Health, it is estimated that one in five Adults in the United States – about 43.8 million people or approximately 18.5 percent of the country experience a mental health disorder every year.

According to data from Community Network Services and Northeast Guidance Center, while one in five



Sherry E. McRill

Americans live with mental disorders, estimates indicate that nearly two-third of all people with a diagnosable disorder do not seek treatment, especially people from diverse communities. Why? Lack of knowledge and fear of rejection from members of the public, from friends, family and co-workers, and even at times from the very service systems that they turn to for help – all of which can have a more devastating impact on them than the illness itself.

"We're all responsible in creating a more supportive and healthy community where we can acknowledge that mental health symptoms are the same as other medical

symptoms. The Anti-Stigma Forum brings awareness to mental health issues and helps educate the public on ways to support inclusiveness and end stigma," commented Sherry E. McRill, MA LLP, President & CEO, Northeast Guidance Center.

Northeast Guidance Center (NEGC) is a community-based mental health agency founded by the Junior League of Detroit in 1963 to provide services to children on Detroit's eastside. NEGC's mission is to provide innovative, community-based services to children and adults and their families promoting mental health with an emphasis on total wellness. NEGC serves over 1000 children and 3500 adults annually. In April NEGC held their second annual Anti Stigma Forum.

"Reducing stigma is important for changing how people think, but addressing discrimination, upholding and eliminating structural barriers are critical for changing how people respond to mental health," said Sherry McRill.

It is estimated that one in five Americans experience a mental health disorder every year.

With proper treatment, 80 percent of those with a mental

health disorder recover fully, leading fulfilling and active lives.

Mental health organizations are critical to promoting inclusion for those with mental health disorders.

"At the end of the day we are talking about somebody's mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter. Someone we love. Mental health issues strike everyone and it doesn't matter what zip code you live in; doesn't matter how many degrees you have behind you; whether you're white, black, rural, suburban, urban - it affects us all, said Tom Watkins, President & CEO, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority.

Here are a few important facts to remember: The stigma and lack of awareness of mental illness is costing this country approximately \$193.2 billion each year in potential productivity and lost wages. It impacts our future and our past. The future, if untreated about a third of students with mental health issues drop out of school. Our past, between 18 and 22 U.S. military veterans commit suicide each day. Mental illness awareness is important every month, let's keep up the momentum throughout the year.

### Vietnam Vet Tribute



With Vietnam War 50th anniversary commemorations taking place across the country this year, the Detroit VA will join other groups and individuals in recognizing this incredible group of heroes with an official pinning ceremony in Detroit's Cass Park on Armed Forces Day, May 21, at 10 a.m.

The Detroit VA staff will join the Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion Riders, singer/songwriter, Kelly Trudell, 92.3FM's "Foody", Michigan Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall, and many others, as they salute these veterans.

As part of the ceremony, Vietnam Veterans will be presented with official commemorative pins, to show the nation's gratitude for their service. Currently, there are more than 7 million Vietnam Era Veterans living in the U.S.

The event is open to the public. For more information, call (313) 576-3332.

Detroit's Cass Park is located directly across from the Masonic Temple at Temple and 2nd Ave., in Detroit's Midtown.

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## SYMPHONIC NEWS

### Pro Musica Presents Piano Virtuoso



organization dedicated to providing space and opportunities for contemporary dance in the City and throughout Greater Detroit. The concert will also mark the first time *Ballade*, a composition by Dr. DiChiera, founder of Michigan Opera Theatre and a singular figure for Detroit audiences, will be performed on the Orchestra Hall stage, home of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Moshchuk, who was born in Moscow, Russia, was raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. He was selected as a Gilmore Young Artist in 2010, the first from Michigan.

Recognized for the intelligence, power and beauty of his performances, Ivan Moshchuk is experiencing a meteoric rise in the world of classical music. His concert repertoire reveals a sophisticated appreciation for music history and theory. For Pro Musica of Detroit, the concert program promises to push the limits of the piano as an instrument to produce sound and the physical limits upon the human performer to play it as intended.

Pro Musica of Detroit presents virtuoso pianist and musical theorist, Ivan Moshchuk, in a recital concert performance on Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m., in Orchestra Hall at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center in Detroit.

Moshchuk will perform a concert repertoire that includes works by Alexander Scriabin, Johann Sebastian Bach, Maurice Ravel, David DiChiera and Franz Liszt. The performance also marks the launch of *The Detroit Sessions*, an initiative created by Moshchuk, in collaboration with other artists from various disciplines to explore and redefine the classical music experience by creating one-of-a-kind cultural events. The June 9 performance features special guests, ArtLab J, a Detroit-based

Individual tickets for the Pro Musica performance of Ivan Moshchuk are \$45 and \$25. Box seats are \$90 each. Student tickets are \$10. Tickets are available by calling the Max box office at (313) 576-5111 and online at DSO.org. All tickets include an Afterglow reception with the artist in the Orchestra Hall Atrium at The Max M. Fisher Music Center.

Now in its 87th season, ProMusica of Detroit has introduced many of the world's most eminent names in music, including composers Béla Bartók, Maurice Ravel, and Aaron Copland and performers Joshua Bell, Jessye Norman and the Guarneri String Quartet to the Detroit community. To learn more about Pro Musica of Detroit, see promusicadetroit.com.

### Chamber Music at the Scarab Club Finale

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club presents its Season Finale Concert on Sunday, June 5 at 7 p.m. in the main gallery of Detroit's historic Scarab Club. The evening's program includes a world premiere and two U.S. premiere performances. Harpist Patricia Terry-Ross, violinist Velda Kelly and cellist Nadine Deleury, now known as The Eason Trio, will present a brand new work titled *Water Music* by Cass Tech graduate Sally Lamb McCune. Tenor Drake Dantzler and string quartet will perform *The King of the Golden River* by Sarah Rodgers. The string quartet (pictured) featuring violinists Velda Kelly and Elizabeth Rowin, violist Roman Kosarev and cellist Nadine Deleury will perform a short, highly creative piece by Italian composer Corrado De Marco, *Quartetto*, which is also being performed for the first time in the United States. The concert will be followed by a delicious and friendly reception. Tickets are \$22 at the door, \$18 in advance, and \$10 for students. For tickets and info, call (248) 474-8930, or see [www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic](http://www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic). The Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth, on the corner of John R, and directly across from the DIA, in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District.



## DOWNTOWN MONITOR

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### Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

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**Sunday, May 22, 2016**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

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## Most Holy Trinity's Annual Spring Show

In loving memory of Monsignor Russell Kohler, and in celebration of their 178th year of providing children with a top-quality, well-rounded education, Corktown's Most Holy Trinity School presents *Peaceful Hearts & Minds*, their annual Spring Show at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25. The 172 children from Most Holy Trinity will perform a variety of songs and dances during this colorful, spiritual, and musical event held in the



Wayne State University Community Arts Amphitheatre. The theme of this spring's show will be one that the students hope to share: *Let there be Peace on Earth!*

The show is directed and choreographed by Most Holy Trinity's Lynn Rausch who states that, "It's an all school effort. Our MHT Family works together to make the show a tremendous success. We're excited to have the opportunity of performing in a professional theatre for the 14th year!"

Advance tickets are \$10 and are available at the school (313) 961-8855. All proceeds go toward MHT's Performing Arts Program and are tax-deductible. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For more information, see [mostholyltrinityschool.org](http://mostholyltrinityschool.org). *Most Holy Trinity's Annual Spring Show* will be held at the Wayne State University Community Arts Amphitheatre, located at 450 Reuther Mall, (on Cass next to the Music Annex) on the WSU campus in Midtown Detroit.

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## Bowling for Rhinos

The Detroit chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) invites bowlers to help save rhinoceroses one pin at a time at Bowling for Rhinos – the annual bowl-a-thon for the conservation of endangered rhinos – taking place on Saturday, May 21, 7 p.m., at Hartfield Lanes Family Fun Center in Berkley.

Bowlers may register individually or form teams of four or five for the event, which features bowling, a silent auction and children's games and crafts. The \$25 registration fee for adults includes shoe rental, two games, pizza, soft drinks and a \$15 donation. The registration fee is \$20 for children ages 12 and under. Participants who raise \$50 or more will receive a Bowling for Rhinos T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at aazkdetroit.org. Anyone who is unable to attend the event but would like to support rhino conservation can visit the AAZK website to make a donation.

Each year, more than 80 AAZK chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada host Bowling for Rhinos bowl-a-thons, having raised more than \$5 million since 1990. The Detroit chapter alone has raised \$211,661 to date. All proceeds directly benefit three rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia.

For information, call (248) 541-5717 or see detroitzoo.org.

Berkley's Hartfield Lanes Family Fun Center is located at 3490 12 Mile Rd., west of Coolidge, in Berkley.



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## LIVE THEATRE



### Premiere of 'Heathers: The Musical' at Ringwald

By Marian Sakalauskas



**Vicious 'Heathers,' L to R, Kelly Eubank, Annie Kordas, Jordan Gagnon & Vince Kelley**

*Heathers: The Musical* is a rock musical that takes us back to all the ups and downs, the trials and tribulations of high school years. We see all the recognizable types: the mean girls, the entitled and over-sexed jocks, the brainiac, the naïve girl who tries too hard, the bad boy. Stir it all together and it makes for a delightful evening at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre.

Veronica Sawyer (Jordan Gagnon) is a somewhat awkward smart girl who decides she wants to cast her lot with the all-powerful clique of Heathers who rule the school. The popular girls issue orders and make or break reputations right and left. Heather Chandler (Vince Kelley) decides Veronica has enviable bone structure and decides to remake her into a popular girl. Of course, this makes Veronica beholden to Heather and she is expected to do her bidding at all times. One of the most apt descriptions of the girls is "the lip-gloss Gestapo."

Heather Chandler is backed up by two other Heathers, Heather McNamara (Annie Kordas) and Heather Duke (Kelly Eubank), and the three Heathers and the ensemble do a rousing number, Candy Store, to highlight all the advantages of being one of the popular crowd.

Just as Veronica is beginning to enjoy being one of the "in crowd," she meets the new kid in school, bad boy Jason "JD" Dean (Chris Morriss). JD is clearly channeling James Dean for anyone old enough to remember that iconic actor. JD has little patience with the posturing of the mean girls and tries to help Veronica see that they are not really her friends. Veronica, at one point, comments, "the Heathers are the people I work with and our job is being popular."

The two football players, Ram Sweeney (Arjun Nagpal) and Kurt Kelly (Jacob Boida) are as obnoxious as self-important, entitled jocks usually are in the high school population. In one confrontation,

Veronica exclaims, "You're a high school has-been waiting to happen."

Martha Dunnstock (Lily Belle Czartorski) is a sweet, smart, naïve girl who becomes a target for the mean girls. They nickname her Martha Dumptruck and play pranks on her.

Based on the film *Heathers*, the musical has book, music, and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy. The production numbers lighten the mood and solos underscore the points being made. Particularly effective is Dead Girl Walking in which Veronica realizes the consequences of failing to kowtow to a Heather dictum.

Jordan Gagnon's Veronica is a complex, torn character. She struggles with the desire to be popular and her own sense of right and wrong. In the end, she realizes "We are all damaged, we are all frightened." She has a lovely, strong voice; I think we can expect to see her on the stage for some time to come.

Vince Kelley does a wonderful impersonation of the self-absorbed and all-powerful Heather Chandler. The spike heels, hair flipping, imperious attitude, and strong voice make the character the center of attention any time she is on stage.

In a nutshell, *Heathers: The Musical* deals with the interplay of personalities in a high school and what happens when reactions spin out of control. It has been described as a hilarious, heartfelt, and homicidal new show based on the greatest teen comedy of all time. As I left the theatre, I heard many audience members discussing how well done this production was.

*Heathers: The Musical* runs at the Ringwald Theatre through June 13. The Ringwald Theatre is at 22742 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, MI. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, which opens forty-five minutes before performance. For reservations, call (248) 545-5545.

## LIVE THEATER



# Detroit '67 at Detroit Public Theatre

By Paul Arlon

When the inaugural season of the Detroit Public Theatre was announced, I was, of course, interested – a new theatre placed directly at the epicenter of one of Greater Detroit's most prestigious cultural institutions, the venerable DSO's Max M. Fisher Music Center. My being fairly well acquainted with much of the theatre scene in this market, my initial thoughts were that, well, this theatre had better be good. And with every jaded and opinionated eye squarely upon them, the Detroit Public Theatre, the space and their productions thus far, have proven to be much more than simply good.

While the across-the-board standards for live theatre in Greater Detroit are quite high, whether academic, community, fringe or professional, this theatre, in this space, is a scene-changing theatre. Downtown Detroit now has a centerpiece professional stage, which, hopefully, will be a catalyst for its audiences to explore some of the other outstanding productions taking place on working local stages every weekend. Once you start to appreciate live theatre (and this is one place where you will), you may want to see what's happening at other venues and most assuredly, other big cities have nothing on Greater Detroit's theatre scene.

So, let's take a look at *Detroit '67*, onstage now at the Detroit Public



Jessica Frances Dukes as Bunny

Theatre. Anyone on the planet probably knows the backdrop for the play, written by award-winning playwright and native Detroiter, Dominique Morisseau – the 12 Street Riot, of July 1967.

The setting is the basement 'blind pig,' or, after-hours bar, run

by two siblings, Chelle (Michelle Wilson) and her younger brother Lank (Amari Cheatom). Chelle and Lank live in the 12th Street and Clairmount house left to them by their deceased parents. To make ends meet, they've ventured into the illegal world of unlicensed parties fueled by cheap after-hours drinks and Motown 45's on a tinny record player. And, things are just okay. They're little players in the scene. Not like Duke's, another 'blind pig' down the street. Lately, though, the police have been prowling the neighborhood, and as the summer heats up, so does the tension between partygoers and the law.

Lank's best friend, Sly (Brian Marable), is always scheming with Lank to improve their lot in life, and Chelle, along with her best friend Bunny (Jessica Frances Dukes), are content to stay as they are, and deal with the realities of their station in society.



Brian Marable, Sarah Nealis, Amari Cheatom and Michelle Wilson

Lank and Sly are ambitious risk-takers, the serious Chelle and the flamboyant Bunny are cautious, yet content. Lank and Sly have big plans to become their own men, not beholden to anyone, and their first overture towards financial freedom is to bring into Chelle's party basement a new sound system – an 8-track player. The 8-track is a symbol of their plan to own a legitimate business and it leads Chelle and Lank into an argument about their place in the economic foodchain. Can a black man and woman ever make something of themselves when the system seems to be dead-set against them? Especially now, as the police are using any excuse to exert power and use force against their neighborhood.

And, then, after a night out surveying their competition, Lank and Sly bring home a beat-up white girl, Caroline (Sarah Nealis). What was interesting before is even more interesting now. These are intelligent characters involved in critical situations of their own making, and embroiled in a bigger drama outside of their control.

Yes, there are some political issues that are touched upon in the play. Of course there are the subjects of race, economic

disparity and injustice, police and the legal system. It does, after all, take place during one of the worst riots of the last century. Some will look at the play as written and see a world that has changed very little in the fifty years past. Others will see Morriseau's play as being just one point of view about a tragically sad chapter in the city's history.

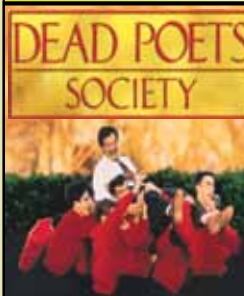
All politics aside, *Detroit '67*, directed by Kamilah Forbes, evokes the era of the Swingin' Sixties very well: Fashion, music, and the vibrancy of the most fragile, ferocious, fantastic, and funky city in the world. But in that sense alone, I guess nothing really has changed...

Detroit Public Theatre is a terrific space. And, *Detroit '67* is well worth seeing.

Tickets on Wed, Thu, Sun. are \$35, Fri. and Sat. are \$45, students (must show ID), are \$20 and seniors are \$30, on sale at [detroitpublictheatre.org](http://detroitpublictheatre.org), by phone at (313) 576-5111, or in person at the DSO box office. Detroit Public Theatre is located in the Robert A. and Maggie Allesee Rehearsal Hall inside the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center at 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural District.

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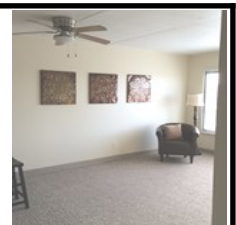
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## The Sporting Life



### Detroit Tigers Woes Can Be Righted

George B. Eichorn

All that optimism from the festive *Opening Day* has been dashed at Comerica Park as the Detroit Tigers make their anxious fans wait for winning ways. A recent 2-11 slump left the Tigers closer to last place than first place in the competitive American League Central and leaving a bitter taste in the mouths

of Tigers Nation. At press time, fans and the media were calling for manager Brad Ausmus to be fired. Heck, maybe half the team should be fired, too!

After a winning and quite successful training camp in Lakeland, Florida, most local observers predicted the Tigers would be in the thick of the Central race at this juncture. Yet bad starting and relief pitching, a cooler-than-expected start by 4-time AL bat-

ting champ Miguel Cabrera, and equally slow sluggish starts by outfielder Justin Upton, catcher James McCann, shortstop Jose Iglesias, right fielder J.D. Martinez and center fielder Anthony Gose - has befuddled everyone.

Ausmus is not the one who is striking out at the plate (like Upton and his teammates), serving up gopher balls (Anibal Sanchez, Mike Pelfrey and others), missing the cutoff man with errant throws (Steven Moya) or running like a turtle on the basepaths (name your Tiger)! Ausmus must share in the club's overall lackluster performance, mismanagement of the batting order (especially during inter-league play) and the failure to know when to pull a starting pitcher or to switch out a reliever.

The Tigers are not "stuck" with Ausmus seeing as he's in the final year of his original three-year contract. They can make



Old Pro Ron Gardenhire

the change at any point and only have to pay him through the end of this year, however, will that really shake the Tigers out of their doldrums?

In recent team history, Tigers mid-season managerial changes have failed to produce winning outcomes. Remember Joe Schultz, Luis Pujols and Larry Parrish? The exception, of course, is the bold move by then-GM Jim Campbell when he fired Les Moss in 1979 and signed George Lee "Sparky" Anderson to a long-term contract after the skipper won consecutive World Championships with the Big Red Machine in Cincinnati (1975-1976).

There is only one man this reporter would want to replace

Ausmus now. That man is Ron Gardenhire, the wily veteran bench boss who last called the Minnesota Twins his home. He's out there for the taking. Al Avila, Tigers GM, and Mike Ilitch, the owner, need to go after Gardenhire and bring him on board to lead this team. He was 2010 AL Manager of the Year and won the 1991 World Series with the Twins. From 2002-2014, he led the low-payroll Twins to 1,068 victories. His clubs gave the Tigers' fits in head-to-head competition.

Gardenhire's hiring would calm the fans and media, and bring a knowledgeable and respected clubhouse demeanor to a collection of cagy veterans and youngsters who comprise the Tigers roster. Maybe his hiring will result in kicking some behinds and motivating Detroit players into performing for what they are earning (millions of dollars). The last thing the Tigers want is a continued second-division showing and dwindling attendance at the ballpark. Now is time for a bold move and a kick-start to the 2016 season.

Reach George Eichorn at geichorn@yahoo.com.



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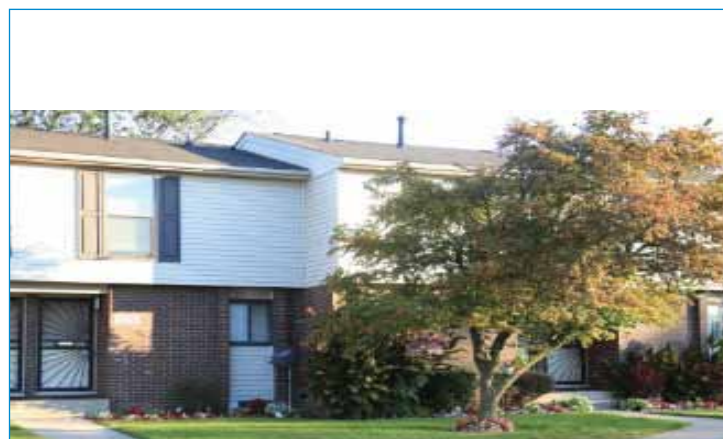


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