Are you living your best life? Then we want to hear about it! We are celebrating people living self-determined lives at our Annual Meeting this May. If you would like to be featured, please send us your name, a brief update about you (five sentences or less), and a photo doing your most favorite thing whether that’s work, school, travel, or hobbies.

Submissions and questions can be sent to Wendy Ernzen at wernzen@thearcnw.org. We can't wait to learn about your amazing life!

(See above to share your submissions.)
There have been some interesting developments in our state government since our new governor, Gretchen Whitmer, took office on January 1, 2019. Aside from having a terrific first name, she has initiated some changes that may impact those of us touched by intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Gov. Whitmer appointed Robert Gordon as the new Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). MDHHS oversees Medicaid insurance, food assistance, and human services. Director Gordon most recently held a leadership position for College Board helping students prepare for college. He also worked in quality evaluation as part of the Obama Administration. You can read more about Mr. Gordon under Executive Staff Bios on the MDHHS website [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs). The Arc will be closely observing the direction this new leadership will take MDHHS and how it might impact those with disabilities in Michigan.

Gov. Whitmer gave her State of the State address on February 12, 2019. One issue she highlighted was protecting access to healthcare. She is pursuing changes to the Healthy Michigan Plan work requirements, seeking to provide healthcare coverage to all those who need it. This is important as work requirement rules don’t fit everyone’s situation, ability, or disability, and could limit coverage. The Arc will continue to advocate for healthcare coverage for all Michigan residents.

The Disability Policy Seminar will be held in Washington DC on April 8-10, 2019. I will be attending, along with Jean Walsh from our Board. The group from Michigan plans to visit our legislators on Capitol Hill to advocate for the rights of Michiganders with disabilities and to lobby for positive change in the future. I am grateful for all of you who are impactful advocates in your daily lives!
Available from The Arc Michigan: 2019 income tax guide for persons supporting children and/or adults with intellectual impairment and/or related developmental disabilities.

You can find it on The Arc Michigan website: https://arcmi.org

2019 INCOME TAX GUIDE
45th Year of Publication
The Arc Michigan

We’ll be sharing pictures - and more - from the 2019 Dinner Dance in the April edition of our newsletter.

In the meantime, we’ll also be sharing pictures on our Facebook page, so consider this notice as a reminder to tag us (or email us) with pictures you might like to share. Thank you!

ARC NW CLOSINGS DURING BAD WEATHER

The Arc NW may close the office when area schools are closed, and roads are impassable due to winter weather. The closing will be posted early in the morning on The Arc NW Facebook page and website. Thank you for your understanding as we seek to keep our staff and members safe!

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 19, 2019
Arc NW Golf Outing

Fox Creek Golf Course
36000 Seven Mile Rd.
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Our Valentine’s Dance was held on Friday, February 8, at Thurston High School. Our D.J. Randy played a lot of fun rock and roll songs to dance to. There were lots of Valentine goodies (heart necklaces, stuffed animals, headbands) for everyone to choose from.

Our raffle winners were: **John Beck, Brian Brandt, Carl Solak, Sue Clay, Nicole Brey, Janie Vermeulen, Pat Shonberg, Tony Samborski, Jonathon Bolton, Kory Porter, Craig Pytlak.**

**IMPORTANT JFC Calendar of Events:**

**St. Patrick’s Dance,** $3.00 at the door, March 15, 7:00-9:30, Thurston High School, front door entrance

**Chicken Dinner/Dance,** April 12, 6:30-9:30, Canton High School, MUST pre-pay $5.00 at the Arc by Wednesday, April 3, 2019

**Ice Cream Social/Dance,** May 10, 6:30-9:30, Canton High School, MUST pre-pay at The Arc by Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Happy Spring,

Jackie Norris

Get your bowlers together for the upcoming annual bowling fundraiser for the Sport Program on Friday May 3rd at the **NEW LOCATION – WESTLAND BOWL.** Price will remain the same at $20 per person. April’s newsletter will contain the bowling flyer.

**Basketball** season is winding down; **March 2nd is Northville District tournament** for the men’s team. If you win both games you’ll be advancing to the **State Finals at Calvin College on March 15 & 16.** The Ladies Hot Shots will be attending. Good luck to all the teams!!

**Swimming and Field & Track** practices have started. Remember coaches to check the expiration dates of your assistant coaches, volunteers, & athletes forms. **The forms must not expire before June 3, 2019.** Your GMS rosters are due to me ASAP but no later than March 18th.

**Coaches of all sports:** Once a roster is submitted to me and there is a change, even if it’s an alternate or volunteer, let me know right away. I might be able to update GMS before it closes. Remember to drop me a line if a player does not attend an AREA event & the reason for not attending. I’ll be able to reply to Area Director’s questions about the athlete.

**Health Form to Lana** – Parents & coaches, before you submit a health form to Lana to email to SOMI, please review it first to makes sure it is **completely filled out** & all signatures were obtained from doctor, parent, guardian, or athlete. Thank you coaches & volunteers for all you do.

Janice
Hip Hop Tots Comes to The Arc NW

The Michigan State University Community Music School in Detroit, in partnership with The Arc NW, is proud to present a weekly music program for kids called Hip Hop Tots starting in April. Music classes will expose children to many different kinds of music and movement through an evidence-based curriculum proven to encourage musical, cognitive, social and emotional development. Sessions will be held on Saturdays, April 6th through June 1st (no session on May 25th), from 2:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. at The Arc NW office in Redford. This program is appropriate for children ages birth through 6 years, but children of other ages are also welcome. Contact Lana Richardson to sign up at lrichardson@thearcnw.org. Space is limited so sign up today!

*Hip Hop Tots is led by Christie Lower, who earned her Bachelor of Music Education from MSU. She holds certifications in Music Learning Theory, Early Childhood and Elementary Music.*

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JFC
Friday, March 15

7:00 - 9:30pm
Thurston High School
Redford
$3 at the door - Front Door Entrance

DANCE

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GUYS & DOLLS
SATURDAY AFTERNOON BOWLING

OAK LANES.
Afternoon bowling continues as scheduled!
For more info please contact:
Jim Gallas 248-318-8856 (cell) or jagallas@comcast.net

Last day of bowling: Saturday, May 11
End of Season Banquet/Awards Ceremony
Saturday, May 18, Joy Manor Noon - 4:00pm

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The Arc Early Birds Bowling League

We bowl every other Saturday morning at 9:00 at Oak Lanes on Middlebelt in Livonia. It's a fun league made up of bowlers with a variety of skill levels. If you want to join, please call Vicki Soto at 734-422-3732.
Donations

Victoria Peplin
Ted and Donna Krese
Kathleen Cafferty

Memorials

In Memory of Mary Larkin
Yvonne and Carol Burdziak
In Memory of Mr. James Leonard
Connie DiPonio

Won't you join & support
The Arc NW as a member?

The Arc NW provides advocacy, support and information on disability-related issues across the lifespan.
We seek - and work - to build a more inclusive community.

See the Membership Application on the back page of this newsletter or join us online at www.thearcnw.org

Achieve with us.

Interested in Serving on The Board of Directors of The Arc NW?

We’re seeking individuals wishing to contribute their time, experience, and resources to furthering The Arc NW’s mission of “support, information and advocacy” on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
We’ve come a long way - and there is still much to be done!

Contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Rebecca Wenglinski at beckpolska@gmail.com or call her at 313-378-9876.

Call The Arc NW office at 313-532-7915

Northwest Wayne County

Achieve with us.
## March 2019

**Northwest Wayne County**

### Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

**CHECK IT OUT!**

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County’s Web Site

[thearcnw.org](http://thearcnw.org)

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### Calendar

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- **3**
  - Swimming Schoolcraft
  - 4 - 5pm Beginners
  - 5 - 6pm Advanced

- **4**
  - Wolverines
    - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
    - Cooper

- **5**
  - Pistons
    - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
    - Riley North Gym

- **6**
  - Cooper
    - Hotshots
      - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
    - Lightning
      - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

- **7**
  - Field & Track
    - Franklin HS
    - Fieldhouse 7:00pm

- **8**
  - Field & Track
    - Franklin HS
    - Fieldhouse 7:00pm

- **9**
  - Basketball
    - State Tournament
    - Franklin HS
    - 15th & 16th

- **10**
  - NO Swimming Schoolcraft
  - Spring Break

- **11**
  - Wolverines
    - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
    - Cooper

- **12**
  - Pistons
    - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
    - Riley North Gym

- **13**
  - Cooper
    - Hotshots
      - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
    - Lightning
      - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

- **14**
  - JFC
    - St. Patrick’s Dance
    - 7:00 - 9:30
    - Thurston HS

- **15**
  - AIG
    - Beyond Group Homes
    - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

- **16**
  - AIG
    - Estate Planning for Your Future
    - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

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**Friends on Facebook**

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County

[Facebook](https://facebook.com)
Membership Application

Name __________________________________________

Email Address ___________________________ Daytime Phone________________________

Address ________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____________ Zip__________________

Name ____________________________________________ Birth Date______________

(Name line above for member(s) with intellectual and developmental disability)

Address (if different) __________________________________________________________

Telephone (if different) __________________________________________________________

Welcome!

Membership Dues

☐ New Member       ☐ Renewing Member       ☐ Associate Member

☐ $35 Annual Family or Group Home Membership

☐ $25 Individual Membership

☐ $25 Associate Membership

DONATIONS ☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ ________ Other