



SHELBY TOWNSHIP
Trustees
extend police
chief's contract
through 2021
Page » A6



WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP
Local woman's
first young adult
novel released
Page » B1

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP/UTICA

SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Trustees extend police chief's contract through 2021

By SEAN DELANEY

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Chief Robert Shelide, the top cop in Shelby Township, will remain at his post through 2021.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend Shelide's contract for an additional two years at the Feb. 16 meeting. The revised contract, which was scheduled to expire in January 2019, also includes a \$10,000 salary increase to \$116,590 per year, which became effective upon the sign-



The Shelby Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend Police Chief Robert Shelide's contract for an additional two years at the Feb. 16 meeting. It was scheduled to expire in January 2019.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SHELIDE

ing of the new agreement.

"Overall, the police department has done well under Chief Shelide's leadership," Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. "Morale

in the department is high, and I would like to send a message to our community that our Board of Trustees shares Chief Shelide's vision for a safe and secure township until at least 2021 - and beyond that as well."

Shelide spent the first

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Supervisor Richard Stathakis

seven years of his law enforcement career with the Detroit Police Department before joining the Southfield Police Department in 1994.

In Southfield, Shelide served 10 years as a detective before being promoted to sergeant in 2004, after which he spent five years as a supervisor in both the investigations and patrol divisions.

In 2009, Shelide was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served three years as a watch commander. In 2012, he was selected as the coordinator of the patrol division, where he was placed in charge of

the department's specialized units, including the crime prevention and community policing unit, traffic safety bureau, school resource officers and tactical crime suppression unit.

In July 2013, Shelide was named acting deputy chief and placed in charge of the department's patrol division. In June 2014, he was formally promoted to the rank of deputy chief while also continuing to serve as division commander of the patrol division.

Shelide retired from the Southfield Police Department in January 2015 after agreeing to the terms of a four-year contract offered by the Shelby Township Board of Trustees.

"When we looked to fill our vacant police chief position a year ago, I had two areas that I personally wanted the chief to tackle - community outreach and narcotics," Stathakis said. "In both

of these areas, I am proud to report that Chief Shelide has performed above and beyond my expectations."

Stathakis praised the police chief for his professionalism and sincerity while interacting with residents, noting that more than 8,000 local Facebook users that have 'liked' the Police Department's Facebook page since Shelide took office.

"Perhaps more importantly, Chief Shelide has shown the same enthusiasm and success in tackling narcotics in our township," Stathakis said. "Since his arrival, we have seen multiple, large-scale narcotic busts that culminated in charges and sent a clear message to anyone looking to sell illicit drugs in our community.

"Chief Shelide also took our fight against drugs a step further as he formed strategic partnerships between the Shelby Town-

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Shelide

FROM PAGE A6

ship Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI to ensure our officers are at the forefront in the fight against drugs in and around our township.”

Shelide said he plans to continue cultivating partnerships with other law enforcement agencies over the next few years.

“We recently formed a strategic partnership with the Royal Oak and Troy police departments to bring ‘fair and impartial policing’ training to our three agencies,” he said. “The training will be done at the Troy police training facility, and personnel from all three agencies will be intermingled for the training. There will be eight instructors from the three departments, including two from our agency - Officers Kevin Bailey and Brandon Dowty. The training is specifically anti-bias training and will give our officers clear direction of what is expected of them when dealing with minorities and those who have a different sexual orientation, skin color, gender, culture, etc.”

Shelide said he is also working on forming a tactical team to make moder-

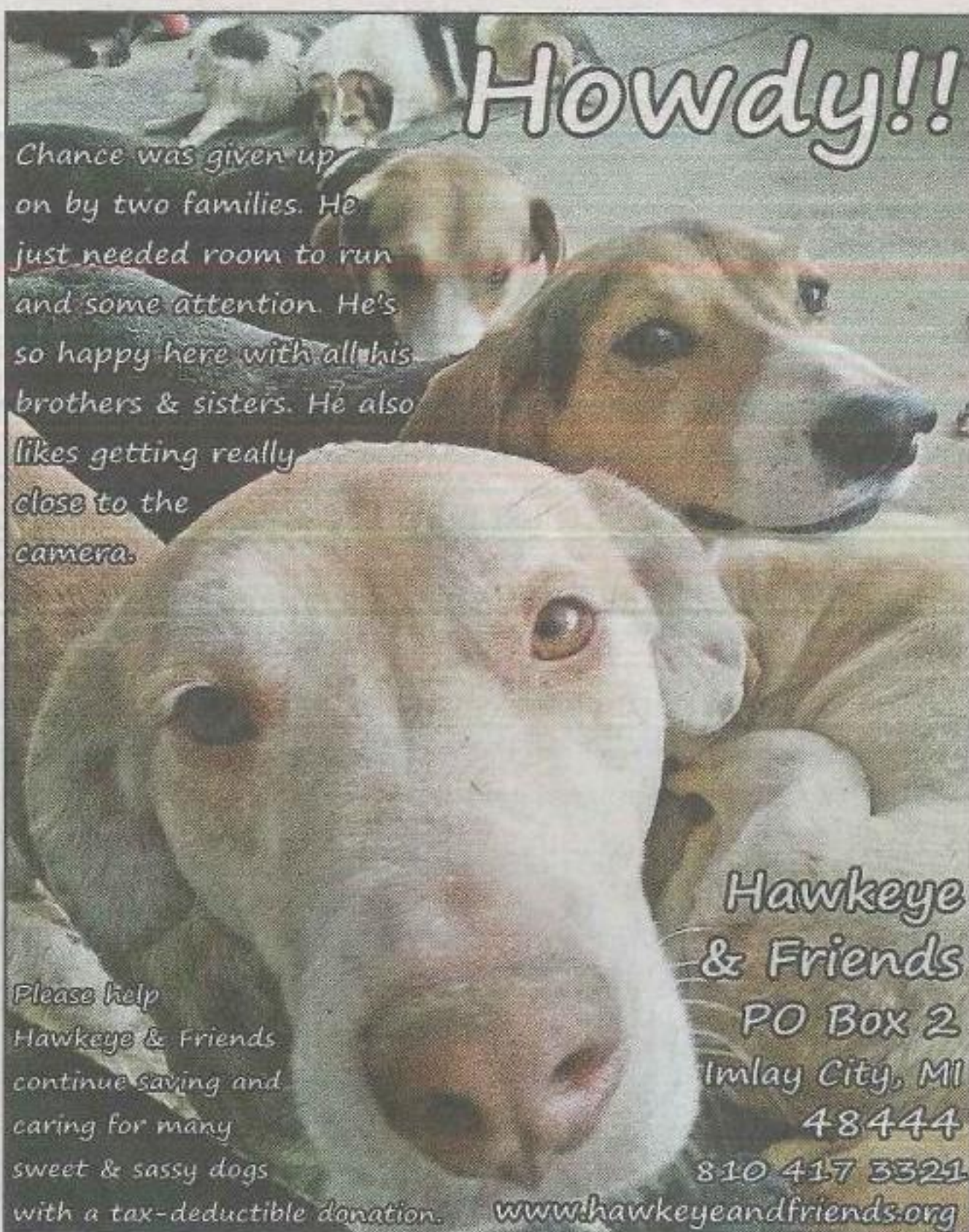
ate risk arrests and execute search warrants for the Detective Bureau.

“Currently, when we have to hit a door, we use officers from all over the building,” he said. “Experience has shown us that this is one of the ways that officers get killed (not having trained together). The expectation is that the team will train monthly and be prepared for extenuating circumstances.”

While he continues to look ahead, Shelide said he feels “humbled and grateful” for the treatment he

has received from residents, members of the department, and the Board of Trustees over the past 14 months.

“Each of them has been a tremendous strategic partner to our Police Department, and I look forward to continuing the great relationship that we have established over the last 14 months,” he said. “As our Vision Statement states, each and every member of our staff is ‘striving to set the standard for law enforcement excellence in Macomb County.’”



Howdy!!

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