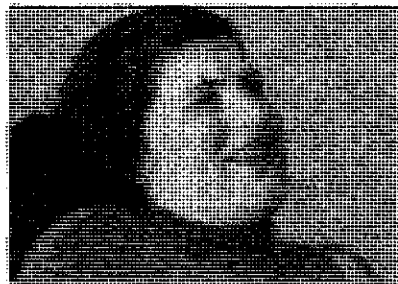


2/27
**Taking proactive steps
 to prevent cancer**

HEALTH, PAGE C6



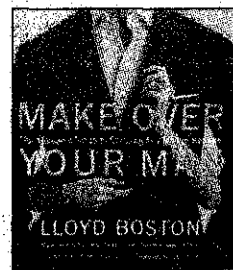
WILLIAM P. FAUST
 Public Library of Westland
Going mobile

Lift gives Livonia woman greater independence

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C

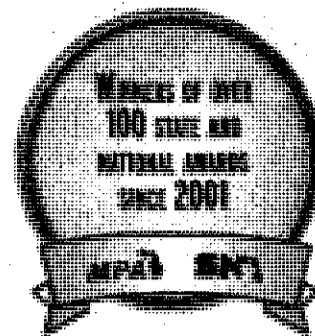
**Dressing
 your guy**

THE PINK PAGE, C8



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SUNDAY
 February 27, 2005
 75 cents

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 79

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City realizes savings on dismantling incinerator

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 STAFF WRITER

Financially, things are going pretty well for the five-community sanitation authority - tipping fees are down, the equipment sale was a success and demolition costs are coming in far less than expected at the now shuttered incinerator. "It's a very nice difference - it's not what we are used to.

Usually, we have to cut or stretch dollars to pay for things," said Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

The first savings came when the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority entered a landfilling agreement with Waste Management after waste-to-energy operation failed financially and the incinerator closed in August 2003. Tipping fees paid by the

member communities dropped from \$63 per ton to \$49 per ton and are expected to be reduced another \$2 per ton after July 1. When the bond debt service is paid off in 2007, the tipping fee should drop to about \$33 per ton.

An online auction was held to sell off equipment at the incinerator facility on Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights. After paying expenses, includ-

ing a commission for the auctioneers, CWCSA netted just over \$500,000.

"All the sales were completed around Dec. 20 or so. All the parties have removed the equipment except the turbine generator," said CWCSA Director Steven Aynes. "They have until March 15 to move that. It's a big piece on the site."

Nearly a year ago, Waste

Management paid \$4 million to the authority for the incinerator equipment, with those funds earmarked for leasing and restoring the 33-acre site in preparation for it being sold. The \$500,000 from the equipment sale would be used for demolition costs, Aynes said, with additional expenses billed to the authority.

Waste Management has awarded a contract for demoli-

tion of the Inkster Road facility to Brandenburg, a demolition company with a local office in Lincoln Park.

The authority board had budgeted \$4 million for the demolition, but recently modified the budget, Aynes said, since it now appears the project costs will be under \$2 million.

PLEASE SEE INCINERATOR, A5



HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Margaret Harlow (right), president of the Westland Rotary Club, and Ann Orozco of the Westland club look over a display of some of the community projects the local organization has done during the centennial celebration. Westland Rotary meets 12:15 p.m. each Thursday at Joy Manor, on Joy east of Middlebelt.

In a grand style

Rotary clubs celebrate organization's centennial year

BY RUSS HAMMOND
 CORRESPONDENT

It was a night of celebration at the Summit in Canton as local Rotary clubs from around the metro area gathered on Wednesday night to mark the centennial year of the organization.

The lobby was filled with Rotary members in suits and ties and formal gowns laughing and joking with one another. The dining room was decorated with balloons and Rotary regalia. It looked and sounded like a giant birthday party - the only thing missing were mountains of gifts.

"I'm excited about the centennial celebration," Scott Wilson, president of the Livonia Rotary said. "It's great being club president during the centennial year."

Twelve Rotary clubs were involved in the festivities. They were Canton, Dearborn Heights, Fairlane Sunrise, Garden City, Huron Township, Livonia, Livonia A.M., Northville, Redford,

Romulus, Wayne and Westland.

According to Wendy Fichter, president of the Dearborn Heights club, presidents from all of the clubs formed a committee to set up the centennial celebration. Beginning in August 2004, they met monthly to plan and organize the event.

"We needed a spot that would hold a big crowd; we sold 217 tickets," Fichter said. "We also got the best deal in Canton."

The Rotary Club was founded on Feb. 23, 1905, by Paul Harris, an attorney from Chicago. Harris was looking to create a club where there was "friendly spirit" similar to what he had experienced as a youth growing up in a small town. The name Rotary derived from the fact that the meetings rotated from one member's house to another.

Over the last 100 years, Rotary International has grown. According to Wilson, of Livonia, there are 1.2 million members in 170 countries.

The Rotary works on both the local and international levels. They provide food

baskets for local seniors during the holiday season, sponsor exchange students, renovate and refurbish run-down parks and provide medical and dental assistance to people in third world countries. For example, in 1985, Rotary International decided that it would muster all of its effort and work toward eradicating polio from the face of the earth.

Working in conjunction with others and giving back to the community were common themes expressed by those at the celebration when asked why they got involved with Rotary.

"I joined the Rotary to give something back to the community," said Lisa Kennedy, president of Canton Rotary. "What I love about the Rotary is the passion and compassion that all of the members show. These people are amazing spirits."

Wilson from Livonia echoed her statement.

"I joined the Rotary in 1989," said Wilson, who is the owner of Livonia Trophy. "It's good fulfillment for me - I can give back to the community."

Medications to go
 New pharmacy offers seniors home delivery

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

With giant drugstore chains locked in a fierce battle for customers, Westland will be home to a new, independent pharmacy that will provide home delivery of prescriptions.

Choice Pharmacy is expected to open in April in Marquette Mall, a small commercial center on Newburgh south of Marquette.

"We deliver prescriptions, especially to seniors," said part-owner Belief Emadamerho Atori, a Westland resident.

Choice Pharmacy will become only the second truly independent drugstore in Westland, said city Planning Director Bruce Thompson.

Atori appeared before the Westland City Council on Tuesday and won sweeping approval for his proposal. Some residents commended Atori for opening the pharmacy in a vacant storefront rather than trying - like the drugstore chains - to gobble up another prominent corner of land.

Councilman Richard LeBlanc welcomed news that Choice Pharmacy will provide prescription deliveries.

"I think that's great," he said, noting that Atori's drugstore will be near the senior citizen Taylor

PLEASE SEE PHARMACY, A5

**Junior Misses vie
 for state honors**

BY SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITER

Lauren Perry and Emily Brennan hope to find time to do some homework this week. But between rehearsals, luncheons and assorted visits around Alpena, the two Michigan Junior Miss contestants admit it will be difficult at best.

"I dread the homework," said Perry who with Brennan are in the northern Michigan community preparing for Saturday evening's Michigan Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

"They have a lot of activities everyday after rehearsals. We get to go to the fire station and go to an elementary school to read our favorite book to children."

Perry is the 2005 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, and Brennan is the 2005 Westland Junior Miss. In all 20 young



Lauren Perry



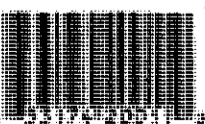
Emily Brennan

women from around the state will vie for the right to represent the state at America's Junior Miss in

PLEASE SEE JUNIOR MISS, A5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

**Who is Cinderella
 really?**

21st-century take on
 the fairy tale going up
 at Detroit Opera House
 explores the question.



Army reservists welcomed back home at area center

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Four U.S. Army reservists returned home to Livonia's U.S. Army Reserve Center this week after dedicating the past two years to service in Fort Benning, Ga.

The reservists - representing the 2nd Battalion, 330th Regiment - voluntarily stayed on duty for an extra year. They include: Sgt. 1st Class Daniel C. Ertle of Grand Rapids, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Schultz of Ferndale, Master Sgt. Clarence Womack of Detroit, and Staff Sgt. Michael Zdunowski of Lansing.

While on active duty in Georgia, the reservists trained civilians to become soldiers. "We were not in a life-threat-

ening situation," said Ertle. But they worked seven days a week.

Members of American Legion Post 32 were on hand to welcome the men home - and they brought baked goods. Diane Bush, Legion member, said she got the call and came - it was as simple as that.

"This is a good group of guys," she said. "They decided to stay an extra year."

Maj. Miles Davis arranged for the homecoming celebration, and said "there is good reason to be proud of their dedication."

"They have done a great job representing their unit," he said.

Ertle called it "very rewarding work." He saw firsthand the progress and transforma-

tion that took shape among the civilians who entered Fort Benning. "These are young men stepping out into the world," Ertle said. "They don't know anything about life."

His role there took many shapes. He served as a teacher, a brother, a father, and a coach to those in training. "That's a lot wrapped into one," he said. "The rewards are there."

Schultz said the experience allowed him to prepare future soldiers "for today's modern battlefield."

"I got the opportunity to train them, and get them prepared. I got the chance to see them go from civilian to soldier."

He returned Sunday, Feb. 20, and was glad to have time with his family.

For Womack, "it was the opportunity of a lifetime."

As reservists, he said, they train and gain skills they sometimes don't get to use. At Fort Benning, those skills were being used daily, often for 15 hours at a time.

Of course, Womack said he was looking forward to returning to his job as a firefighter in Detroit.

"I love active duty," said Zdunowski.

"There's nothing better than turning a civilian into a soldier. I'm glad to be home."

He was also thankful for the Army's support over the past two years, he said.

During their time at Fort Benning, the reservists had the opportunity to take classes



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Major Miles Davis welcomes area soldiers back from a two-year deployment to Ft. Benning, Ga. The soldiers are Master Sgt. Clarence Womack, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Schultz, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ertle, and Staff Sgt. Michael Zdunowski.



American Legion Post 32 Color Guard member Dick Merrill of Plymouth talks with returned soldiers Staff Sgt. Michael Zdunowski, and Master Sgt. Clarence Womack.

not available to them closer to home, including airborne training and combat techniques.

It wasn't a tough decision for those who chose to stay. In fact, three of the reservists are

in the process of relocating to Georgia. Only Womack plans to remain a Michigan resident.

"I'm moving back down to Georgia," said Zdunowski. "Seventy-degree weather in February, you can't beat it."

Ertle will also move to Georgia, and is planning to wed. Schultz and his wife are also relocating there.

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- ★ Thursday 3/17/05 at 2:00pm
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Rec department, Hoop Stars hosts 'Night Out'

Parents looking for an evening out should circle Friday, April 22, and June 3. Those nights the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, the Westland Jaycees and Hoop Stars Basketball and Academic Tutoring will offer Parents' Night Off.

Parents can leave their children at the Bailey Recreation Center 6-10 p.m. both evenings and enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy a pizza dinner (chips and a beverage included) and two activities. The choices include basketball, cheerleading, math games and arts and crafts, and kids can choose the same activity for both sessions.

The event is for children in first through eighth grades and cost \$20 for one child per night off or \$35 per child for both. Register by April 19 for the first night off and by May 30 for the June 30 program at the Bailey Recreation Center, 3351 Ford.

For more information, call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

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THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS
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PARDON US WHILE WE TOOT OUR OWN HORN.

We grabbed our horn because we've just received the results of the 2004 Suburban Newspapers of America's (SNA) annual competition. Our staff received nine awards for excellence in journalism in 2004. What makes this even more exciting is that of the 2,246 entries, we brought home more awards than any other non-daily newspaper in the state. And here they are:

Best Editorial Writing Second Place - Troy Eccentric "Stop Recall, Insure Freedom, Don't Mess With Charter"

Best Column Writing Third Place - Sandy Armbruster, Troy Eccentric

Best Editorial Page Cartoon Second Place, Geof Brooks "Budget Cartoon."

Best Opinion Column First Place - Brad Kadrich, Plymouth Community Editor

Best Sports Writing First Place, Jim Toth, Troy/Rochester Special Editor Sports "Court Ruling."

Best Sports Writing Second Place - Ed Wright, Plymouth/Canton Special Editor/Sports "Aluminum Bat Usage Spurs Debate."

Journalist of the Year Third Place - Kurt Kuban, Canton Community Editor

Best Lifestyle Section Susan Steinnmueller - Second Place, Birmingham Eccentric

Best Entertainment Section Third Place - Filter, Keely Schramm, Nicole Stafford, Lana Mini, Stephanie Tardy, Megan Penniefather, Randy Masters, Dan Dean

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wisdom of (the) Solomons

At 70, twins spent lives passing on knowledge

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

From the time they were youngsters, Warren and William Solomon were pretty well-known around Garden City.

"There was about 5,000 people in town - you couldn't get away with anything," said Warren, who like his twin brother recently turned 70. "If you did something on the west side of town, by the time you got home your parents knew about it."

"Everyone knew the twins - the good stuff and the bad stuff," adds William.

The twins had moved to Garden City with their family about 1942 and graduated from the new Garden City High School in 1953. Besides living in a small town, their father, William Solomon, knew a lot of people - he was a local mail carrier.

CAREER CHOICE

Over the years, the two didn't go far - both became local teachers.

"You make a lot of friends as teachers," said Warren, who retired after 34 years teaching seventh-eighth-grade science and mathematics at Vogel and

Radcliff junior high schools and later Garden City Junior High School.

William retired after 35 years with Wayne-Westland Community Schools, where he spent five years at Marshall Junior High and 30 years at John Glenn High School.

"I taught English for 11 years. I was a guidance counselor for 24 years, which means I didn't work," William said with a laugh.

Teaching was the family profession - the Solomons' younger sister, Beverly Edwards, retired after teaching her entire career at Douglas Elementary School.

Born in a farmhouse on what is now the University of Michigan north campus, neither of the Solomon brothers had started out to be teachers.

Warren was attending the General Motors Institute to become an industrial engineer.

"GM made some cutbacks. I wasn't a yes man - I had new ideas. I didn't perform as they wanted me to," said Warren. "I helped other students so much sometimes I'd neglect my own work, so I became a teacher."

"I always said teaching was better than working. I loved teaching," added William, who

was going to major in music and theology but decided he didn't want to be a minister.

William and Warren also were both Sunday school teachers in their younger days.

"We loved it. I'd recommend that to anyone who might like to teach or work with youths," said William.

The brothers both eventually attended Eastern Michigan University and moved into teaching. Warren describes himself as being shy during his younger days although both brothers are pretty gregarious.

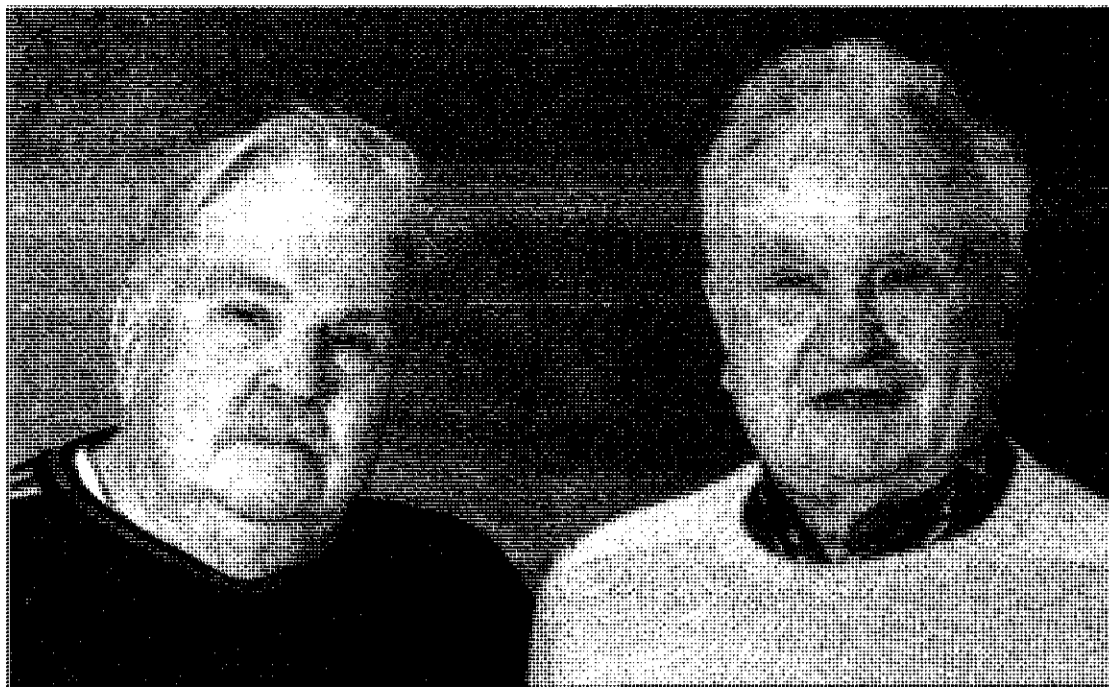
"I was scared to death to talk when I started teaching," said Warren. "(Principal) Charlie Gumina said he couldn't get me to talk in class (as a student) and then couldn't get me to shut up (after he was a teacher)."

YOUNG TEACHER

As a young teacher, Warren said he had students who knew him by his first name - he had gone to school with their older brothers and sisters.

When they were youngsters, the Solomons both were paper boys and later did some work for the post office to supplement their incomes.

"We got scholarships



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Twins Warren (left) and William Solomon, who recently turned 70, met a lot of people growing up in Garden City and through their long careers as teachers.

because we were poor and they needed teachers," said William. "We were smart, too - too smart."

William put his experiences getting through college to use when he was a teacher.

"We were poor. I was an expert at getting money for the kids at school. We had no counselors then," he said.

Garden City has changed from the town it was when the Solomons were growing up.

"Garden City was a small town," said Warren.

The brothers recall wearing the first uniforms bought for

the new Garden City High School band - Warren played trombone while William played trumpet.

"The best thing about growing up in Garden City was the hunting. There were pheasants and rabbits all over - our mom would cook them," said William. "We'd hunt for pheasants year around with power rifles and catch rabbits."

"We'd protect the crops," added Warren.

The brothers are still avid hunters. Like their sister, the

brothers had moved to Grass Lake where they had attended church camp as youngsters.

Warren got tired of driving 50 miles each way to work and moved back to the area, living today in Westland. He and his wife, Beatrice, have four sons and one daughter.

William and his wife, Nicki, have two children, named Nicki and William.

"We quit having kids when we ran out of names," said William.

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Council says no to 24-hour gas station

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Neighbors have won a battle to keep a gas station owner from starting a 24-hour business on the southwest corner of Joy and Middlebelt roads, on Westland's north side.

In a show of solidarity, residents attended a Westland City Council meeting Tuesday as neighborhood spokesman Dennis Collier urged elected officials to reject the 24-hour proposal.

Collier voiced concerns that late hours could bring in customers after bars close, leading

to possible fights and loud car stereos in their otherwise quiet neighborhood.

"We want it denied," he told the council.

Elected officials sided with neighbors, who also said the late-night hours would result in the Sunoco station's lights illuminating their yards.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt, who lives on the north side, said the area already has a 7-Eleven that's open 24 hours.

"We just don't need it," she said of the late-night gas station hours.

Station owner Hassan

Harajli already owns a 24-hour station just one mile away at Middlebelt and Ann Arbor Trail, but city officials said that business isn't as close to neighboring homes. Harajli will have to settle for keeping his Middlebelt-Joy station open from 6 a.m. until midnight, following a council decision Tuesday.

In a related vote, the council gave sweeping approval to Harajli's plans to eliminate the mechanic work areas at his two stations so that he can expand the convenience store portion of his businesses.

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DEATHS

A
John Paul Andree Sr., 86, died.

C
Michael Frederick Childress, 32, of Fowlerville, died Feb. 17.

F
Florence Fraser died Feb. 22.

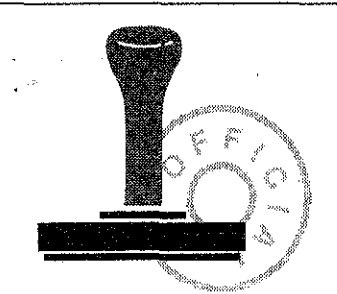
G
Elizabeth Gates, 90, of Crestwood, Ky., died Feb. 20.

H
Rosetta Mae Heath, 88, of Farmington, died Feb. 20.
James Huffman Hisey, 85, of Charlevoix, died Feb. 19.
George W. Hoenicke, of Westland, died Feb. 22.

L
William F. Lamers, 53, of Clarkston, died Feb. 19.

M
Elizabeth McGuffie, 76, of Bloomfield Hills, died Feb. 19.
Fred Morantes, 83, of Wayne, died Feb. 22.
Mildred C. Murdoch, 89, of Plymouth, died Feb. 18.
Renita R. Murray, of Westland, died Feb. 16.

N
Gail Ann Napier, 70, died Jan. 31.



For the Record appears in every edition of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in Passages on page C5.

R
Joseph Rowe, 104, of Chatham, Ill., formerly of Garden City, died Feb. 23.

W
Herman Weiss, 94, died Feb. 22.
John Charles Wright Jr., 90, of Williamsburg, Va., died Feb. 15.

CRIME WATCH

NORTH END SHOOTING
A Westland man was ordered

Thursday to stand trial for charges of driving by a north end couple's house and firing shots at their parked vehicles.

Robert Mark Green, 35, faces trial after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

He faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of malicious destruction of property over \$1,000, discharging a firearm from a vehicle and felony firearms.

Police arrested Green amid allegations that ballistics tests linked his .40-caliber handgun to shootings on a residential street near Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail.

Police also confiscated several guns from Green's house. An investigation has indicated that Green and the victims didn't know each other, police Sgt. Chris Benson has said.

Green is accused of randomly firing at two of the couple's vehicles while they were parked in front of their house on Conway on Jan. 21, 23 and 25.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to assist families in Westland.

Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies.

Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to explain the program's services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All services are free to Westland residents.

If the assessment determines that a youth is appropriate for Youth Assistance, the following services may be required for the youth:

- Life Choices classes.
- Drug screens.
- Supervised Community Work Service.
- Jail/prison tour.
- Team Adventure Challenge.
- Mentoring.
- Karate.
- Counseling.

Parents are required to participate in a Parenting Skills and Support Group.

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is funded by the City of Westland with additional funds from Wayne County, the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Target Corporation and North Bros. Ford.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening appointments are available by request. You also can contact the WYAA via e-mail at wyaa@wyaa.org.

For more information, contact Executive Director Ronael Bowman or Deputy Director Paul Motz at (734) 467-7904.

RECYCLING

Westland's Recycling Center, located behind the Economic Growth Center at 37095 Marquette, is open all year for Westland residents only.

Hours of operation through March 31 are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The center accepts:

- Clean newspaper stacked neatly, 6-15 inches high, tied with twine, or packed into paper bags. Papers must be dry, no mold. NO junk mail, catalogs, magazines or phone books, office paper, computer paper or cardboard accepted.

Man faces four new charges in indecent exposure incidents

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man faces four new charges of indecent exposure for allegations he drove by young women and revealed himself to them.

Christopher Hardy, 20, faces a court hearing March 3 amid accusations he exposed himself on four occasions since Feb. 11.

The latest incidents came after Hardy was released from an Isabella jail, where he served part of a 30-day sentence for earlier exposing himself in Westland and Garden City, police Sgt. Debra Mathews said.

Hardy's latest arrest came Monday outside of the Mervyn's store on Warren west of Wayne Road. Angry that he had violated earlier court orders, Westland District Judge Gail McKnight ordered him jailed on a \$1 million bond.

A not-guilty plea has been placed in Hardy's court file. The indecent exposure charges against him carry a one-year jail term, but, if convicted, he could face a longer sentence because he is charged with a felony of being a sexual delinquent, Mathews said.

In all of the incidents, Hardy is accused of exposing himself while in his vehicle, a 1980 Buick Regal.

What follows is a chronology of Hardy's legal woes:
■ He pleaded guilty Dec. 7

for an incident that happened in September outside of Westland Shopping Center, Mathews said.

■ One day later, he was arrested for an incident outside of the 7-Eleven at Warren and Middlebelt.

■ In January, Hardy was ordered to jail for 30 days by McKnight, who said the Garden City incident violated his probation orders in Westland.

■ Two of the new charges against him stem from incidents in which a man drove by teenage girls and exposed himself on Feb. 11 and 12 near the Farmer Jack store at Merriman and Cherry Hill.

■ A third charge involves allegations he exposed himself Feb. 19 outside of Michael's arts and crafts store near Wayne and Warren. The victims were women in their early 20s.

■ The fourth new charge stems from a similar incident outside of the Mervyn's store, where he is accused of exposing himself to two teenager girls.

The girls notified store security officers, who called police to report that a suspicious man had exposed himself.

"He hung out in the Mervyn's parking lot," Mathews said. "He was still in the lot when the police officers arrived."

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Board gives report cards good marks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools has recognized nearly 40 individuals who over the past five years have devoted time and effort to revamping elementary level report cards.

The Elementary Report Card Committee, under the supervision of Sheila Alles, director of elementary instruction, received the district-wide Team Effort Award. Trustee Tom Bailey presented certificates to all of the staff and community members who contributed to the effort. Representatives from all of the district's elementary schools were actively involved.

"I have heard very positive comments regarding this new report card," Bailey said. "I think it's right on target. It's time for a change. Thank you for your dedication and all of your effort."

In her nomination, Alles wrote: "Over the past five years, the members have conscientiously attended monthly after-school meetings and bi-

weekly summer meetings to accomplish the goal of creating a new and comprehensive elementary report card."

The committee began the project by researching the various methods of reporting student progress, according to Alles. The group reviewed formats of report cards used in other districts, around the state and country.

New report cards were piloted at the elementary level last year, and put into place during the current school year. The new forms are grade-level specific.

The committee sought public opinion through a parent survey and made changes to ensure the report cards best reflect "the teaching and learning that is occurring in our elementary classrooms," according to Alles.

Trustee Dan Lessard said the work of the Elementary Report Card Committee represents "a tremendous effort."

"It was very nice to see all the folks' dedication and hard work recognized," he said. "I appreciate everything they do."

Young Marines say hooah!

Recruits learn importance of the 'Corps' values

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

The very first graduation ceremony of the Canton Young Marines featured all the pageantry you might expect from a military event. There was a color guard, a bagpipe player, and plenty of reverence for the American flag.

None of that was lost on the 10 pint-sized graduating recruits that were being honored in front of a large group of family and friends. The event marked the culmination of 26 hours of drill instruction over the course of 13 weeks, in which they performed some physical training, but mostly learned about the history of the U.S. Marine Corps and the importance of inner values and respecting others.

The Young Marines is a national organization sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. It is open to children from age 8 to high school seniors. The only requirement is that the recruits be in good standing at school.

According to Commander Charles Volker, a retired Marine who helped organize the unit, the Young Marines is not a recruiting tool for the Marine Corps. Rather, he said, it teaches kids to be respectful of others and to have confidence in themselves. It also teaches them to lead a drug-free lifestyle, he said.

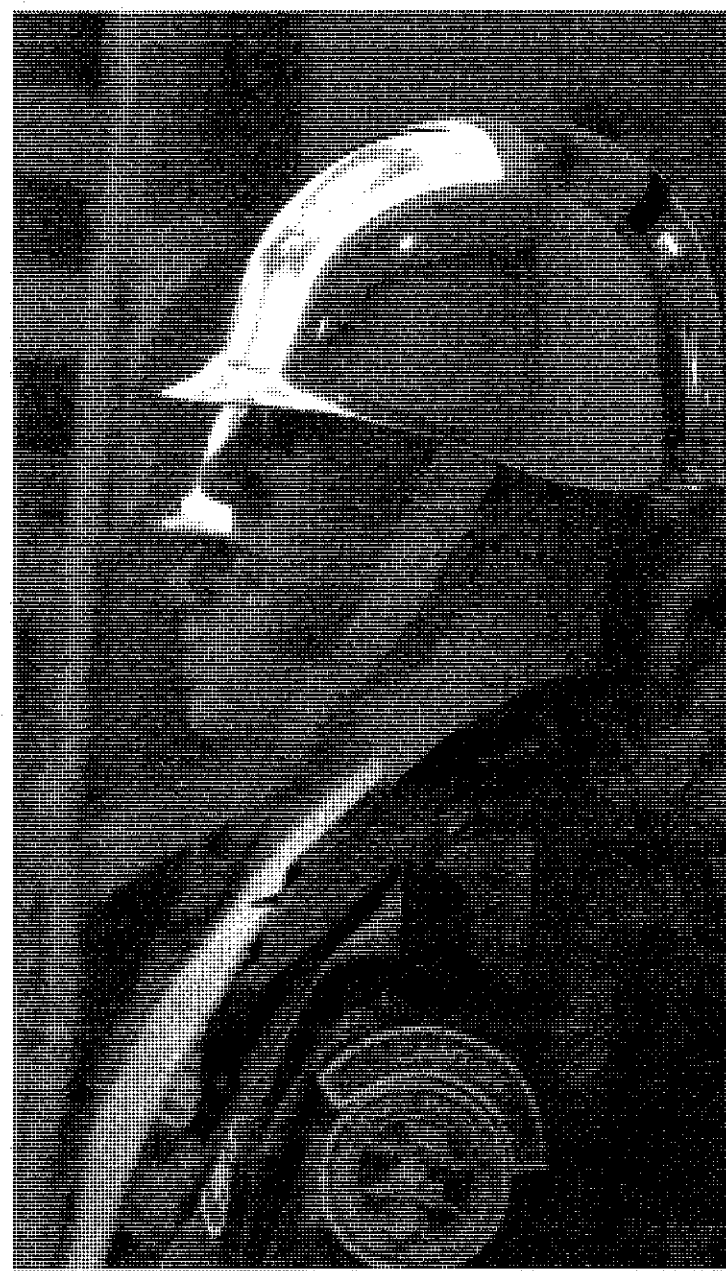


PHOTO BY JOSEPH FARAOANI

Jason Braun, 14, Unit Young Marine Rifleman, stands with the rest of the Honor Guard during the National Anthem during the Canton Young Marines graduation ceremony. Jason was the Honor Recruit and graduated with the rank of private first class.

BUILDS CONFIDENCE

"This program gives the kids confidence. It builds up their morale," said Volker, one of five former Marines who acted as drill instructors for the group. "We make them go home and clean the dishes for their moms, and make sure they say 'sir' and 'ma'am' when talking to adults. It's a great program. We're really proud of this group."

John Santomauro, Canton Township's director of public

safety, said he was honored to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony. He served as a platoon sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He said the Young Marines is a great organization, because the graduates learn the same kind

of values taught in the real Marines.

"The defining moment of my life was my time in the Marine Corps. Maybe all these kids won't go on to become Marines, but they have developed core values, which carry with you all your

life," he said.

Canton resident Michael Murray, a Marine who is currently on active duty, also attended the ceremony and was impressed by the dedication and commitment shown by kids who graduated.

"They have learned the importance of courage, honor, and commitment. The important step is for them to take it out of this arena and practice it in the schools and at home," he said.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

That is already happening with at least one of the Young Marines - Daniel Wetter - according to his mother, Carolyn Wetter. She said she has seen a big difference in her 14-year-old son, who is an eighth-grader at All Saints Catholic School in Canton, since he began the program.

"He has been more confident in himself, and more respectful to us. And his teachers have even noticed it," she said.

The program was a great learning experience, according to Amanda Tripp, a 10-year-old Livonia resident, who joined with her brother Matthew, because she likes military history.

"I think the most important thing we learned was self-encouragement, and not to give up," she said.

Volker, a Canton resident, said the next Young Marines class will probably begin in March. He said this is the only chapter in Southeast Michigan, so he is trying to draw recruits from the entire area.

"I'm hoping to build this big enough to have 40 to 50 graduates during a session," he said.

For more information about the Young Marines, contact Volker at (734) 981-5059.

kkuban@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 10, 2005

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2005, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Re-zoning:

RZ 04-017, Proposed re-zoning of Lots 390-400, Parcel ID #'s 35-015-04-0390-001 (Northwest corner of Inkster and Florence) from C-1 Local Business to C-3 General Business.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

G. PALMER,
Community Development Dir.

Publish: February 27, 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
2005 BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 8, 2005	9:00 a.m.
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The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the 2005 assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 14, 2005	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 15, 2005	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 16, 2005	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Thursday	March 17, 2005	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 18, 2005	9:00am -5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 14, 2005.

Tentative ratios and factors for the 2005 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	48.15 %	1.0384
Industrial	45.34 %	1.1028
Residential	49.08 %	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE** value, which is the lower assessed value or capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which will increase only 2.3% for 2005. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase only 2.3% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2005 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 8, 2005 through March 11, 2005 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 27, March 3, and 6, 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 10, 2005

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2005, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Special Land Use:

SLU 04-016, Carry-Out Restaurant proposed on a vacant parcel located on the East side of Middlebelt, north of Ford (between the Middlebelt Autozone and the Senior Towers). The subject property is zoned C-2, Community Business District. Restaurants are permitted in the C-2 District after Special Use Approval.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

G. PALMER, Community Development Dir.

Publish: February 27, 2005

School offers career session for girls, 9-13

Gibson School for the Gifted in Redford is pleased to invite young girls, ages 9 to 13, to participate in its ninth annual conference specially designed for them. The conference will be held at the school on Saturday, March 12.

Women professionals representing many different careers will offer a variety of workshops and hands-on activities throughout the day. Each girl will be able to participate in four different workshops during the conference. This year's keynote speaker is Julie Brown, president and CEO of Plastech Engineered Products, Inc.

Presenters will include a museum curator, journalist, photographer, veterinarian, dentist, nurse, and many other career choices.

Pre-registration for the conference is recommended due to limited space availability. Workshop registration for girls will begin at 8:30 a.m. The conference will conclude at 3 p.m. The cost of the conference is \$15 per person and includes lunch and refreshments.

Call (313) 537-8688 for further information or to pre-register for the conference.

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TITLES & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:30
- CURSED (PG-13) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS (SAT/SUN 11:15, 11:50) 1:15, 1:50, 3:15, 3:50, 5:10, 5:50, 7:15, 7:55, 9:10, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:05, 11:50
- DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (SAT/SUN 11:40) 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
- COACH CARTER (PG-13) 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55
- POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) (Fri Feb 25th through Sat Feb 26th) (SAT/SUN 11:25) 1:00, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40
- HIDE AND SEEK (R) 7:10, 9:15 FRI/SAT LS 11:20
- RACING STRIPES (PG) (SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00
- PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) LIMITED ENGAGEMENT 6:50, 9:40

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Race is the big issue that no one wants to address

Lon Johnson, a young political organizer who has worked for Democratic candidates across the country, thinks there is something troublingly unique about the culture in Michigan.

"I've never seen anywhere where everything was so divided along racial lines," he said, adding that sooner or later, nearly every statewide issue was affected, if not decided, by some aspect of the racial divide.

That, he believes, may be Michigan's biggest challenge - greater than the transition from a manufacturing to an intellectual skills-based economy; greater than the state budget problem or the education crisis.

"We are asking the kids to be ready for a world economy. Yet, too often, they don't even know each other's cultures that are just separated by a few miles," Johnson said, as his rat terrier puppy, Jack Johnson, named for the great black

heavyweight champion, yipped furiously in the background.

His views are worth considering because of his own background. Now 33, Johnson grew up largely in working-class blue-collar Detroit suburbs before moving to Arizona for college. Afterward, he bounced around the country, working for former Vice President Al Gore in Washington and finally returning to his home state to successfully run a tough campaign for U.S. Rep. John Dingell in 2002. Now he's decided to stay put, opening an office in Royal Oak.

And he worries about the future of a state that was once seen as a national trend-setter. He knows that, thanks to the global economy, today's school kids will emerge into a world in which "they will be working with Asian, South American, African and European cultures."

How will they compete?

And can Michigan ever bridge the racial divide?

Global competition is something that has been endlessly chattered about in Michigan ever since Japanese cars began to sell in the 1970s. Yet race has become the elephant in the living room that nobody wants to face. Every February, during Black History Month, newspapers and schoolteachers trot out stories of black pioneers, including even a sanitized Malcolm X. Yet serious political discussion tiptoes around the real issue.

Nobody is willing to tackle the continuing problem of race. For white politicians in general and for white Democrats in particular, criticizing the shortcomings of black politicians is seen as potential political suicide. Though everyone knows, for example, that one famous longtime black office holder is mentally not quite right, nobody dares mention it.

Though everyone knows that the city may be

facing receivership, Gov. Jennifer Granholm does not want to even think about the idea. She fears alienating Detroiters, and she knows she cannot be re-elected next year if the city's virtually all-black electorate turns against her.

Though the schools in the city of Detroit are worse than failures, though the government is dysfunctional and some of the office holders incompetent or openly corrupt, there is seldom a peep from the political leadership of the state.

On the other hand, there is a shameful lack of willingness in Lansing to address serious problems that are perceived as having a racial component.

The city of Detroit looks in many places like either a Third World country, or a town devastated by fighting in World War II. When East and West Germany merged in 1990, East Berlin was largely a dilapidated disaster. West Berlin was glittering, modern and affluent. Yet a united Germany immediately - and virtually without argument - set about rebuilding the run-down portions of its nation.

Yet there is no willingness on the part of Michigan to tackle the mess that is Detroit. Nobody is willing to help the city economically or fight to reform a city charter that rewards inefficiency and prevents accountability.

That is largely due to the racial divide. Experts know that Detroit's decline is rooted, not in race, but in the fact that the city could not annex surrounding territory. Starting when the expressways were built in the 1950s, people and businesses left for greener pastures, with cheaper land and less taxes. That meant the city had to begin a vicious circle of raising taxes and cutting services to those left.

Today, only those who can't afford to escape remain. Whites pretend the city's condition is the fault of shiftless blacks. Blacks blame racism. What's needed is metropolitan government. But that would cost whites money and cost blacks political power. And neither side is willing to sacrifice for the greater good.

Incredibly, perhaps, Lon Johnson sees hope. He thinks people in each generation are becoming more comfortable with diversity. "It all starts by exposure - in schools, work, social activities and churches," he says.

Yet he pauses. "In too many cities within the Detroit metro area, meaningful exposure to races and cultures other than our own is difficult because of segregation." Like it or not, Detroit is the most segregated city in the nation.

Someday, perhaps, Michigan will overcome. But if it doesn't soon, the state seriously risks becoming an economic backwater. Once, we were home to the Motor City and the Arsenal of Democracy. Today, we instead seem to be evolving into sort of a Mississippi with ice storms. And if that happens, it will be no one's fault but our own.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

One man's vision transformed Stratford into cultural jewel

Every year busloads of local school children and thousands of adults make a pilgrimage to a small town in Ontario to experience theatrical excellence of the highest order.

The Stratford Festival is both a Canadian national treasure and an eagerly anticipated annual event for thousands in Metro Detroit. It is also an example of what a little vision, community spirit and hard work can accomplish, even in a remote little town that time was passing by.

Last week the festival's founder Tom Patterson died at the age of 84. It was Patterson's vision, enthusiasm and dogged determination that brought world-class theater to a rural town in south Ontario.

Patterson was working as a tradé journalist in Toronto when he got the idea of bringing Shakespearean theater to the town named after the Bard's hometown and situated along its own winding Avon River.

"The notion of trying to do what Tom was suggesting certainly must have seemed crazy for this little town in the early 1950s, and yet, he didn't give up on it," said Antoni Cimolino, the Festival's Executive Director in a press release. "His commitment and enthusiasm were infectious."

Patterson was able to convince local politicians that his "crazy idea" was good for the town's economy. He was also able to attract the renowned director Tyrone Guthrie and the great actor Alec Guinness in 1953 to perform *Richard III* and *All's Well That Ends Well* in a tent.

That tent has long since been replaced by the state of the art Festival Theatre, which was recently remodeled. In addition three other stages are also busy from early spring to late autumn with a repertory of plays that encompass the world, though always including works by the wordsmith of Avon.

In the early 1950s, Stratford was an unlikely tourist town. It was the commercial center for the local farmers and its major industry was repairing train cars. Patterson was also an unlikely impresario.

It was Guthrie who put Patterson's achievement in perspective in the book *Renown at Stratford*. Guthrie wrote, Tom Patterson "had no great influence to back him, no great reputation, no great fortune. Most of us similarly placed abandon our Great Ideas, write them off as Daydreams and settle for something less exciting and more practicable. Not so Mr. Patterson. His perseverance was indomitable."

Patterson served as the theater's general manager, founded a touring theatrical company, Canadian Players, and served on many Canadian artistic boards. He won numerous national honors including the Queen

The possibilities are all there just waiting for the right person, the right idea, the right support.

Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal. The festival's intimate Third Stage Theatre was renamed the Tom Patterson Theatre in his honor.

In addition to creating a world-class cultural institution, Patterson helped transform the town. Once struggling to maintain itself, Stratford bustles from May until November. It is home to restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts, book and curio shops for the tourists, but it is also a real town of grocers, druggists and hardware dealers. It blends the extraordinary with the everyday, the small town with the big city and the tourists with the townies.

The Festival Theatre sits on the banks of the Avon as part of a beautiful park with gardens, on both ends, elegant swans, winding walkways and a grand lawn for art exhibits and baseball games.

One man made a difference. Many of our towns struggle to define themselves. Recently The Cherry Hill Theatre in Canton was opened as a performing center focused, rightly, on encouraging the artistic gifts of those in the community.

Several communities have attempted to redefine their annual events to give them a special focus that represents the community's unique identity. Some events, like the Plymouth Ice Show, struggle to keep an old idea fresh.

But the possibilities are all there just waiting for the right person, the right idea, the right support.

Tom Patterson is an inspiration. Anyone, anywhere can make a difference in their community. A good idea will not be denied.

Sadly, one of the artistic pillars of our community, saxophonist Larry Nozero died of cancer on Feb. 18. A benefit concert at Clarenceville High School Tuesday was an indication of the love and respect that the Detroit Jazz community held for Nozero as a musician, teacher and friend. A who's who of Detroit jazz musicians raised more than \$20,000 to cover Nozero's medical bills.

Midge Ellis, another pillar of the local music scene, said of Nozero, "This man was so loved. He was the sweetest. He would reach down into the bottom of his feeling and it would come out in his horn."

We do make a difference.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net, by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

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Strike!

Bowling for a Cure, sponsored by Westland Jaycees, will take place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 5, to help the local Relay for Life cancer-fighting benefit in June. The bowling event will be at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne.

Minimum donation for the event, which includes two games of bowling and shoe rental, is \$15 per person. All checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society. Pledge sheets are available at Westland Bowl.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 729-6683. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Dinner at Archie's

The Livonia Franklin High School Marching Band is sponsoring Dinner at Archie's Monday, Feb. 28, to raise money to purchase of new concert and marching band instruments.

Twenty-five percent of the food bill will be donated back to Franklin High School between 4-10 p.m., when band supporters and their families, friends and neighbors sign the bill with "Franklin Band."

Flea market

VFW Harris-Kehrer Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne, will host an indoor flea market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 5. Cost to have a table is \$25. For more information, call (734) 812-7978.

Best mother, father

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli has announced that nomination applications are available for Mother of the Year and Father of the Year - awards she will give during her State of the City address in April.

Applications are available at the city cable station WLND, 33455 Warren Road, or on the city's Web site at www.ci.westland.mi.us. Applications are due in the mayor's office by 5 p.m. Friday, March 4.

The program will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the senior citizen Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Bit of history

The Friends of the Westland Historical Museum will host a talk, "What is an Interurban?," at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 6, Richard Andrews, at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, just north of Ford, Westland.

Day honors students, teachers

Livonia Public Schools celebrated the *Magic of Learning* this week at the Livonia PTSA Council's annual Founders' Day dinner. The event was held Wednesday, Feb. 23 at Laurel Manor.

More than 600 guests attended to share dinner and enjoy musical entertainment by Stevenson High School's band, under the direction of David Booker.

Event Chairperson Marc Farrugia said: "We are very excited that we were able to grow our guest list as we explored our new venue. A number of outstanding individuals were able to join us as we honored students and other award recipients throughout the district."

The highlight of the evening was saved for later in the evening. Fifteen graduating seniors were given Outstanding Youth Recognition awards by the PTSA Council. Outstanding Youth must maintain a 3.5 or higher grade point average and demonstrate leadership and solo success.

The 2005 recipients include: From Churchill High School Stephen Crosby, Jennifer

Richard Andrews, a local historian and author, will give the presentation. Admission is free. For more information called the library at (734) 326-6123 or by e-mail at nankin-historian@comcast.net.

Free seminar

William Gramzow, an advanced planning counselor and funeral director with R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, will conduct a funeral planning seminar at Westland Convalescent Center on Thursday, March 10.

The seminar will be 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the convalescent center 36137 W. Warren, between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway in Westland.

Gramzow will cover such funeral planning topics as funeral prearrangement planning, how to select a funeral home and understanding Medicaid and SSI as it relates to funeral planning.

The public is invited to attend the free seminar. Call Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for the special event.

Spring bazaar

The Edison Elementary PTO will have its Spring Bazaar 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

The bazaar will feature a collection of 20 vendors, mostly direct-sell businesses like Tupperware, DK Books and Party-Lite candles along with a few cash-and-carry vendors selling jewelry, denim purses, stamped greeting cards and other fun items. There will also be a bake sale held in conjunction with the bazaar, which will be held in the gym.

No children will be allowed in the gym, however, baby-sitting will be available. Edison School is at 34505 Hunter, Westland.

Going for gold

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department will host the Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36661 Ford.

Tots will be able to compete in 18 different events, including the Marshmallow Shot Put, the Toddler Trot, the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles and Obstacle Course. Every child will receive a certificate of participation. To be able to have enough time to compete in all the events, children should register before 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 7227620.

Howard, Kaitlyn Moran, Manual Schubert, and Summer Zwarun; from Franklin High School Audrey Burskey, Alissa Gatewood, Jonathan Leins, Brennan Pearson and John Turner; from Stevenson High School Michael Cook, Jill Garrity, Dennean Lippner, Heather Sirko and Katherine Stahrr.

Each honoree took a moment to recognize their three most significant teachers, during their time in Livonia Public Schools.

Following that theme, current Livonia Public Schools Teachers of the Year Charles O'Loughlin from Taylor Elementary, and Edward Hubert from the Livonia Career Technical Center were honored for their contributions to education.

"On behalf of the Livonia PTSA Council, I am thrilled that this year's 51st Annual Founders' Day Celebration was such a success," Farrugia said.

Founders' Day is an annual event held to recognize the role of the PTA and PTSA in supporting parental involvement and education. Livonia's PTSA Council reports membership at 13,000.

Casting call

City of Wayne Arts and Entertainment Department's Actors Community Theatre is holding auditions for Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, March 7-8, at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

Auditions include singing, dancing and reading. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Toy show

The Westland Rotary Club will host a toy show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles, Beanie Babies, action figures, die cast toys, slot and model cars, Matchbox, Hot Wheels and more. There also will be 50/50 raffles and drawings for door prizes.

Show admission is \$3 for adults with children under age 12 free. Proceeds will support

Rotary charities.

Table space is available at \$30 per table and is available by writing to Westland Rotary Toy Show, 6600 Burnly, Garden City, MI 48135. For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

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<p>Fresh Whole PORK TENDERLOIN \$3.99 lb. <i>Sold 2 in Pkg.</i></p>	<p>BOB'S OF CANTON 31210 W. Warren (at Merriman) Westland 734-522-3357 HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10 am - 7 pm Sat. 9 - 7 pm • Sun. 10 - 6 pm PRICES GOOD February 28th thru March 6th</p>		<p>USDA INSPECTED SEAFOOD Red Ruby TROUT FILLETS \$5.99 lb.</p>
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	<p>Amish Valley ROAST BEEF \$3.59 lb.</p>	<p>Lean Tender Country Style PORK SPARE RIBS \$2.09 lb.</p>	<p>DELMONICO BEEF ROAST \$5.79 lb. <i>Sold As Roast Only</i></p>
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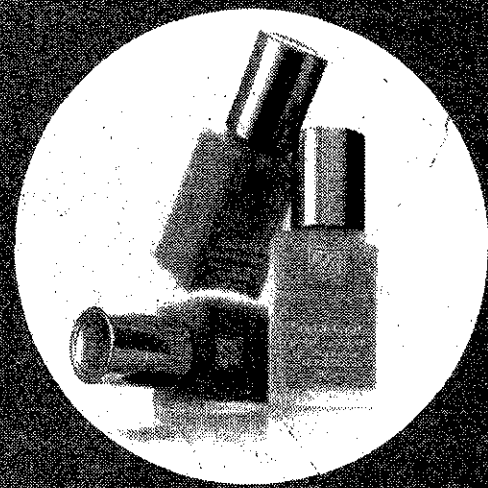


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