

2/17
Triplets celebrate eventful 1st year

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



Healthy eating can aid quitting smoking - HEALTH, PAGE C8

Go natural at upcoming beauty expo



PINK PAGE C10

WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY
July 17, 2005

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Home help



Vince Berna, president of Veterans Haven, listens to Marion Dee Terwilliger tell his life story.

Housing program gives boost to elderly couple

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Marion Dee Terwilliger, 86, felt helpless in his old Westland apartment.

He could hardly get around because of a form of arthritis that destroyed the cartilage in his knees, hips and shoulders.

He wanted to care for his 80-year-old ex-wife, Blanche, but he couldn't move her from a nursing home. She had back problems that put her in a wheelchair, and his apartment had too many barriers for her.

Terwilliger hardly had enough money to make repairs to his 1990 Cadillac.

"I call her old Lizzie, and she has ills that I have to pay for," said Terwilliger, a retired Greyhound bus driver and World War II veteran.

Now, he faces each day with newfound hope after moving to a Westland assisted-living center, American House III, and after having a motorized scooter given to him.

"This has changed my life," he said Thursday, celebrating with city officials, veterans and media representatives who showered him with attention at the new residence he shares with his ex-wife.

"This is totally beyond my comprehension," Terwilliger said. "This day will go down in history for me."

Desperate for help in his old apartment, Terwilliger called Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's office to ask about any government programs that might help him.

Cicirelli's administration enrolled him in a new Section 8 housing program that provides monthly assistance specifically to the frail and elderly. Westland is among only a handful of communities administering the program, said Housing Director James Gilbert.

Terwilliger receives \$152 a month through Section 8 - money that helps with his \$950 rent payment and his car repairs.

PLEASE SEE HOUSING, A6

Man faces trial in 2 robberies

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man will face trial on charges that he robbed two local businesses at gunpoint.

Jonathan David Pentz, 28, also will be tried on a new charge of escaping from Wayne County Sheriff's deputies when they brought him to Westland for a preliminary hearing.

Still handcuffed, Pentz bolted on Wednesday but was quickly captured near Newburgh and Ford roads, police Sgt. James Dexter said.

On Thursday, Pentz was ordered to stand trial after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

He could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court of two counts of armed robbery, two counts of felony firearms, two counts of being a felon with a gun, and one count of escaping while awaiting trial for a felony.

Pentz also is accused of armed robberies in several other communities, including Canton Township.

In Westland, he is charged with robbing the Radio Shack on Ford Road, west of Wayne, at 5 p.m. Sunday June 19.

He is accused of escaping with a small amount of money and a DVD player after threatening an employee with a chrome-plated, 9-millimeter handgun.

Pentz also is charged with a robbery that happened six days earlier at the Game Crazy store near Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road.

In that incident, he is accused of brandishing a gun and escaping with some cash and Xbox merchandise, police have said.

A not-guilty plea has been entered for Pentz for all charges against him. He has been denied bond as he awaits trial.

Before his arrest on multiple armed robbery charges, Pentz had been on parole after serving about two years for third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

From Cheboygan to Milford

Hero, 7, inspires rider to tackle WAM 300 tour

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Jim Nilan already knows what he should do when his bike ride gets difficult. Seven-year-old Jacob Courtney sent him a note with specific instructions: "When the ride gets tough, be strong, think of my smile and of all the kids you're helping."

Nilan is among more than 500 bicyclists who will ride from Cheboygan to Milford as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's 18th annual Wish-A-Mile 300 July 28-31. And Jacob is his wish child.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Nilan is training for the WAM 300, a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

PLEASE SEE RIDER, A5

Gardening keeps seniors young

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Everything's coming up roses - and tomatoes, Easter lilies, squash, sunflowers, oregano and African daisies - at the senior citizen Village of Westland.

It's Susan Powers' job as gardener and groundskeeper to beautify the 26-acre property, on Cherry Hill near Venoy, but she has help from residents like 88-year-old Alice Wright.

"Gardening keeps me young," Wright said, working in a flower bed near the front entrance of the independent-living facility. "I like being out in the sunshine, and pulling weeds is my specialty."

Powers, her seniors and their gardens gained national attention after Powers wrote an essay that



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jean Berg, 89, (left) pulls weeds as Imogene Sorensen, 88, and Carl Hofmeister, 84, pick lettuce from their vegetable and herb garden at the Village of Westland.

PLEASE SEE GARDENING, A3

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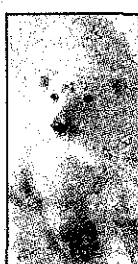
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Coming Thursday in Filter

Summer outing

White rhinos, a polar bear cub, concerts and more - there's a host of activity at the Detroit Zoo.



Suspect questions widow in court

Lawson heads to trial in man's 1989 murder

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Katherine Giller endured the awkward task of answering questions from the man accused of murdering her husband 16 years ago.

The 80-year-old Livonia widow, who is preparing for dialysis treatment, was a witness in Friday's preliminary examination for Richard Lawson, who faces murder and armed robbery charges in connection with the 1989 shooting death of businessman Exavor Giller.

Judge Robert Brzezinski ordered Lawson to trial after the two-hour hearing in Livonia's 16th District Court.

"I am convinced there is probable cause that you committed the crime," Brzezinski told Lawson.

Dissatisfied with his defense attorney, Lawson obtained Brzezinski's permission to represent himself in Friday's proceedings, enabling him to talk directly to Katherine Giller during cross examination.

The Gillers, married for 45 years, arrived at their Seven Mile home at about 10 p.m. June 19, 1989. As Katherine Giller walked into the house, she said she was grabbed by "tall man" and ushered into the kitchen, where another man stood, before she was knocked unconscious.

The two men broke into the home that morning, ransacked it, took bags of coins and some guns and waited all day for the couple to return, according to court testimony.

That other man was Richard Mudica, then a 16-year-old who met Lawson in California and joined him on a series of robberies and home invasions in several states. Mudica, who is serving a lengthy prison sentence in California for armed robbery and carjacking, testified that Lawson hit Katherine Giller with a shotgun to knock her out, then ran outside to look for Exavor Giller.

Mudica said he followed Lawson who confronted Exavor Giller in the garage. Mudica said he stayed behind a garage wall and heard two gun shots. He added Lawson tried to get into the Giller's vehicle parked in the driveway. When he was unsuccessful, Lawson and Mudica ran into a field east of the house. Mudica added he heard Exavor Giller call for help as they ran away.

Exavor Giller, who was 67, died of a shotgun wound to the chest. After Katherine Giller awoke from her unconsciousness, she said she walked to the garage and noticed her husband lying on the ground.

ROBBERY TARGET

Exavor Giller owned the Greater Detroit Cab Co., a business still operated by his family. Lawson used to work for Giller. Mudica said Lawson told him that Giller kept large sums of money in the trunk of his car, and that's why he was a target for this robbery.

After the crime, Mudica said he and Lawson immediately drove out of state and eventually tossed the murder weapon and other firearms stolen from the Giller home into a pond in New Jersey.

Several weeks later, Lawson and Mudica were arrested in Pennsylvania for an attempted armed robbery. Police, who searched their vehicle at the time of their arrest, found some bags that were taken from the Giller home, according to that Mudica's testimony.

"I'm not going to hell for this," Mudica said when asked why he testified.

Mudica, now 32, apologized to the Giller family for his involvement in the crime as he police escorted him out of the court room.

TROUBLED QUESTIONS

Lawson, who suggested a relative of Giller committed the crime, tried to find inconsistencies in Mudica's testimony. He questioned Mudica's motives and an immunity arrangement he made with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office for truthful testimony in the Giller murder.

"No one put me at the scene of the crime other than Richard Mudica," Lawson said in his closing statement in a bid to get all charges dropped. "We can show that what he told the detectives contradicts the evidence in this case."

Assistant Prosecutor Robert Moran said Lawson established he was at the crime scene during his questioning.

After the shooting, Mudica said the duo ran to their vehicle parked in an "open field that might have had a few trees...it might have been a park."

Lawson, trying to scrutinize Mudica's memory, said there was "a home under construction" near the spot they parked the getaway car.

Victor Giller, the oldest of the Giller sons, said he was glad to see Lawson bound over for trial and proud of his mother's composure.

"When you go back 16 years in time like this, it's like it just happened," Victor Giller said. "It was difficult to watch him (Lawson) defend himself."

Lawson, 59, is scheduled to be arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court on July 28.

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INFORMATION CENTRAL

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, still loom large in our nation's memory, and they've grown to partly obscure the acts of bioterrorism that beset the Capitol later that month.

July is Bioterrorism Education Month; there is no good time to focus on terrorism, but the more you know the more prepared you will be in the event of a biological threat. Let the Library help you be as prepared as possible.

Following the anthrax incidents in September 2001, Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., quickly wrote *When Every Moment Counts: What You Need to Know About Bioterrorism from the Senate's Only Doctor*.

Library Journal noted that Frist provides "quality information in a question-and-answer format that addresses major... threats, their signs and symptoms, their transmission, vaccines, and effective treatments. Practical suggestions... are numerous and well conceived" (LJ 127:8, May 1 2002, p. 126).

You may also appreciate Leonard Cole's 2003 book, *The Anthrax Letters: A Medical Detective Story*, which addresses the 2001 anthrax threats and puts them in context. Thomson's Physician's Desk Reference published the *PDR® Guide to Biological and Chemical Warfare Response* in

2002, with indications for a slew of chemical and biological agents, and government guidelines for bioterror preparedness.

Nova produced the hour-long episode *Bioterror in 2001* to investigate the issue of biological warfare, and Walter Cronkite narrates PBS's four-disc DVD from 2003, *Avoiding Armageddon: Our Future, Our Choice*, which looks at the threat posed by biological weapons.

On the Web, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security publishes its recommendations on biological threats at <http://www.ready.gov/biological.html>. You will also find plenty of information at the Centers for Disease Control's Emergency Preparedness and Response Web page, online at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov>. The CDC has teamed with the Red Cross to publish *Preparedness Today*, released this past April, which gives you the latest information to help you be prepared in the case of a bioterrorist attack. You can find it at http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/cdc_english/CDC.as.p.

There's no need to live in fear of bioterrorism. But there's also no harm in being ready. If you're ready to learn, stop by the library, or call us at (734) 326-6123.

Upcoming activities

Monday, July 18 - Fairy Realm at 2 p.m. Listen to a story about fairies, then make a fairy purse, complete with a thimble of fairy dust and a candy treat.

Ages 6 and up. Register at the children's desk or by phone.

Monday, July 18 - Stories in the Garden at 7 p.m. Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in the children's garden. All ages.

Tuesday, July 19 - Science Alive at 1 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. Children will interact with live animals and learn amazing facts from the Science Alive organization. Ages 4 and up; no younger siblings, please. Register at the children's desk or by phone.

Tuesday, July 19 - Teen Advisory Board Meeting at 7 p.m. Help choose books and programs for the library.

Wednesday, July 20 - Stories in the Garden at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in the children's garden. All ages.

Wednesday, July 20 - Viking Necklaces at 7 p.m. See necklaces the Vikings wore and make one yourself. Grades six-12.

Register at the Reference Desk or by phone.

Saturday, July 23 - Summer Reading Programs end at 5 p.m.

PLACES AND FACES

Health fair

A mobile health fair will be held in the parking lot at Kirk of Our Savior Church 9 a.m. to noon Monday, July 25. It will offer an opportunity for low-income or no-income people to receive services similar to what they would get from a routine doctor's visit.

There will be screenings for blood pressure, dental, glucose, hearing, vision, and height and weight, among others.

The program is being sponsored by Kirk of Our Savior, the Presbytery of Detroit and the Synod of the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church.

For more information, call (734) 728-1088.

For the health of it

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Health & Business Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Westland Shopping Center.

As the major sponsor, the mall will offer health and business participants an opportunity to display their goods and services in a high-traffic environment.

Others involved include Nancy Barrons, business sponsor from Standard Federal Bank, and St. Mary Hospital, health sponsor.

Organizers are looking for business and health-care providers to participate in this year's event. Tables are \$125 for chamber members, \$175 for non-members and \$75 for nonprofit groups.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 326-7222.

Top cookie

One young woman from Westland decided

not to settle for mediocrity this past winter. Bridget Marie Walker was recognized as the top cookie seller in Westland by the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit.

During the annual sale, she sold 1,001 packages of cookies, showing her dedication to Girl Scouting and to her community. Proceeds from the sale stay within the local council.

Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit is the sixth largest Council in the United States, providing developmental activities for more than 30,000 Girl Scouts ages 5-17.

For more information, please visit the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit Web site at www.gsfind.org or call (800) 326-0309.

Garden program

Garden consultants Nancy Szerlag and Jeff Ball will lead a program, "Earth-Friendly Gardening," 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the Westland public library.

Topics will be perennial flowers for fall; mulches and compost; managing weeds without chemicals; and landscape design ideas.

The program will be sponsored by the city of Westland. It is free.

To register, call (734) 467-3198.

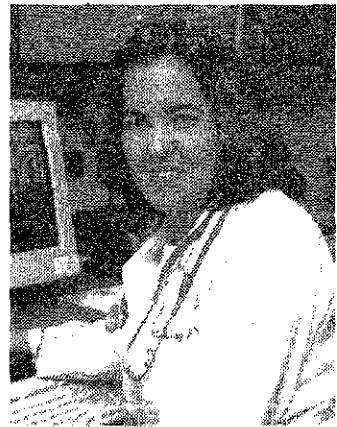
Take off

A program called "Katherine Stinson: the Flying Schoolgirl" has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, at the Wayne Public Library.

Stinson had many firsts in her seven-year flying career, including being the first to fly solo at night and the first pilot to perform skywriting. She was instrumental in establishing a flight school.

The program is free. To reserve a seat call (734) 721-7832 by Aug. 11.

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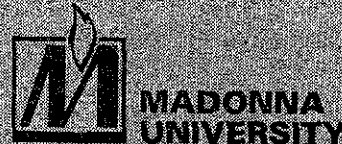


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Residents at Village of Westland designed and help with the landscaping. Above, Imogene Sorensen, Claire Lenz, Annie Cochran and Jean Berg work among the petunias, geraniums, salvia and other plants in the boxes near the front entrance.

GARDENING

FROM PAGE A1

appeared in *publication Gardening How-To*.

They also won five blue ribbons last year at the Wayne County Fair, and tied with a facility in Holly for a first-place grounds-keeping award from Presbyterian Villages of Michigan.

About 15 seniors are involved in an enthusiastic garden club, and they do much of the work along with Powers.

"I think gardening gives them a sense of purpose, and they like being outside where they can get some exercise and dig in the dirt," Powers said. "Gardening helps keep them healthy."

Powers maneuvers around the Village in a pink golf cart that she calls "the Pinkmobile." Everywhere she goes, seniors warmly greet her.

Senior Marie Eldred smiled as Powers drove up to a lounging area near the Village's greenhouse, where flowers, vegetables and herbs get their start.

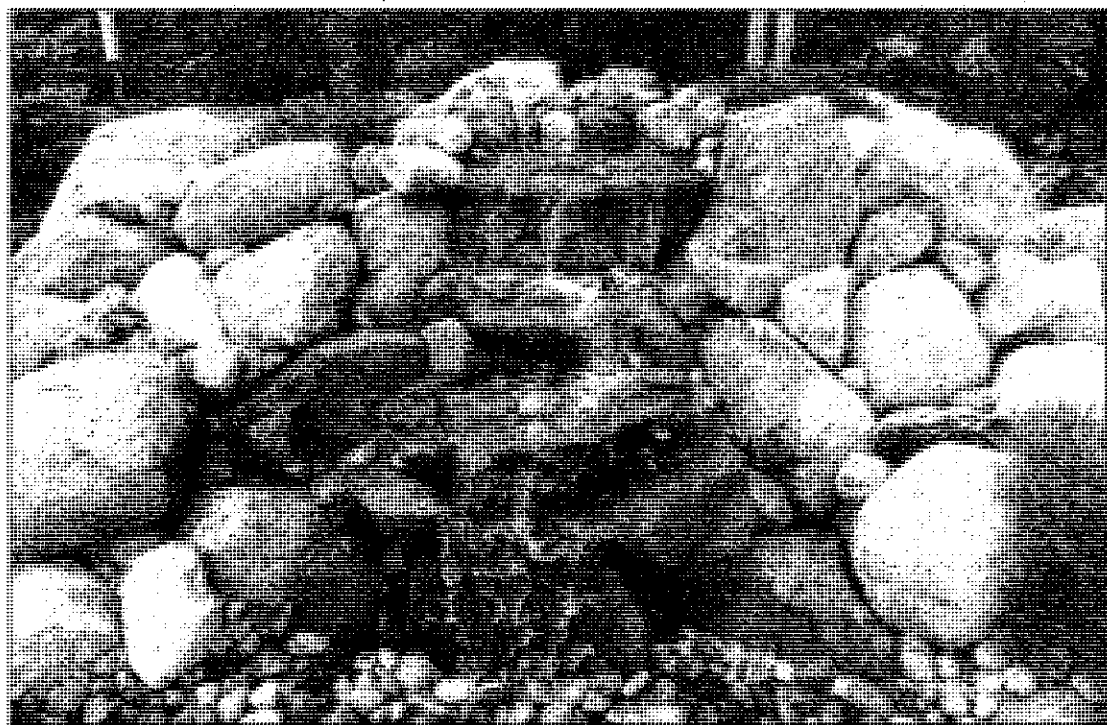
"I've got my gardening tools," Eldred said, smiling as she held a miniature garden hoe and shovel in her hands.

Seniors design the Village gardens and take great pride in their upkeep, proving that their average age of 86 can't keep them indoors.

"For some of the seniors, it reminds them of the gardens they used to have at their homes," Powers said.

Their hard work is evident as Powers gives a tour of the Village and points out the beauty:

■ A memory garden contains plants brought to the Village by seniors who have since died.



Master gardener Susan Powers helped build this water fall between Ivy Cottage and Rose Cottage at the Village of Westland. She said the landscaping around it is still in progress.

■ A sanctuary garden includes rocks and a soothing waterfall - relaxing not just for seniors but also for visiting relatives.

■ A lily bed is made up of gifts received by seniors at Easter.

■ An herb garden contains oregano, basil, sage, rosemary and thyme - virtually the makings of a Simon & Garfunkel song like *Scarborough Fair*.

The seniors dry some of the herbs, combine them with rose petals and rose buds, and make sachets that they sell at the Village bazaar.

It's evident that the seniors enjoy their gardening, but no more than Powers.

"I love my job," she said. "My job is, I get to play outside."

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Gardener Susan Powers works on the rose bushes on the grounds at the Village of Westland.

New science equipment comes to 2 high schools

Stevenson and Franklin High School students will receive some new science equipment, sensors and probes for collecting data, in the coming school year.

Churchill students already have access to the PASCO Xplorer Datalogger and related software. On Tuesday, Livonia Public School trustees approved the purchase of \$22,318 worth of equipment,

to be paid for with Building and Site Technology fund money. The equipment works with recently purchased wireless notebook computers and can be used in the classroom and outdoors for various areas of scientific research.

The data collected by these devices is downloaded into the computers for graphing and to be analyzed.

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Newsletter focuses on Norwayne

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Lou Toarmina knows that Westland's Norwayne area has its problems, but also has its successes.

He wanted to share those, and that's why the Westland resident and local businessman started "Norwayne's Good News."

This is the second year for the publication, which had 13 issues in its first year. The newsletter, which has been edited by Jefferson-Barns Elementary teacher Christina Stowe, includes Norwayne success stories and motivational quotes. There's a regular contribution from the Family Resource Center to help parents, along with word games and a list of pizza winners by address who receive pizzas courtesy of the Westland Police Department.

Owner of Toarmina's Pizza, Toarmina spoke recently to Westland Rotarians about his efforts which include giving 700 backpacks to children in all grades at Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns elementaries. There was a shirt inside for each child along with school supplies.

"We really need stuff to put in the backpacks," said Toarmina, also a Rotarian.

The project is continuing and items such as folders, erasers and rulers are needed.

The Westland Community Foundation and Westland Rotary are current major

sponsors, and the Jaycees and city of Westland have also assisted. Toarmina said he appreciates support from the business community both by buying ads in the publication and supporting the backpack project. He'd like to expand that support, noting that Lincoln educators are seeking timers to help children with attention deficit disorders get schoolwork done.

Toarmina noted ads in the publication support the backpack project.

"I wanted to tell the kids there they could have a future," he said of the reason for starting "Good News." The idea for the backpacks came from teacher Stowe at Jefferson-Barns.

"She said that only four kids in her class had backpacks," Gina Toarmina, Lou's wife, said of that third-grade class.

For information, call Toarmina at (734) 341-6743.

Capt. Matt O'Neil, who with his wife leads the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, is impressed with "Norwayne's Good News."

The Salvation Army coffee-house drew more people after an item appeared in the publication.

"It helped us to bring people in and see what's going on that's good in Norwayne," O'Neil said.

The local Salvation Army is holding a block party noon Saturday, Aug. 6, with a number of bands and O'Neil is getting the word out on that, too.

County proposes new procedure for funding community rec projects

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's administration is proposing a new procedure for county funding of community recreation projects in an effort to win support from suburban leaders for the renewal of the county's 0.25-mill parks tax on the Aug. 2 ballot.

The millage renewal has been criticized by several suburban leaders who have complained about unfair distribution of funding for local projects and the timing of the election to coincide with Detroit's mayoral primary.

On Wednesday, the state House Local Government and Urban Policy Committee approved a bill introduced by state Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton) which would require money collected to support the operation of the Wayne County parks system be divided 50/50 between the county parks system and the local community from which the money was received.

The millage raises approximately \$11 million a year for parks improvements and maintenance. County parks also receive funding from the county general fund.

On Tuesday, Ficano and Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp joined Canton Supervisor Tom Yack to discuss the millage with *Observer* editors.

Yack has been a vocal critic of the millage and how funds are returned to local communities. On Tuesday, he said he supports a millage for the county parks system, but he wants a better process for distributing funds. Currently, he said, the distribution of funds depends on the aggressiveness of a district's county commissioner and political maneuvering.

"The whole thing is political, obviously, it's just lacking a concrete process to review projects by communities," Yack said.

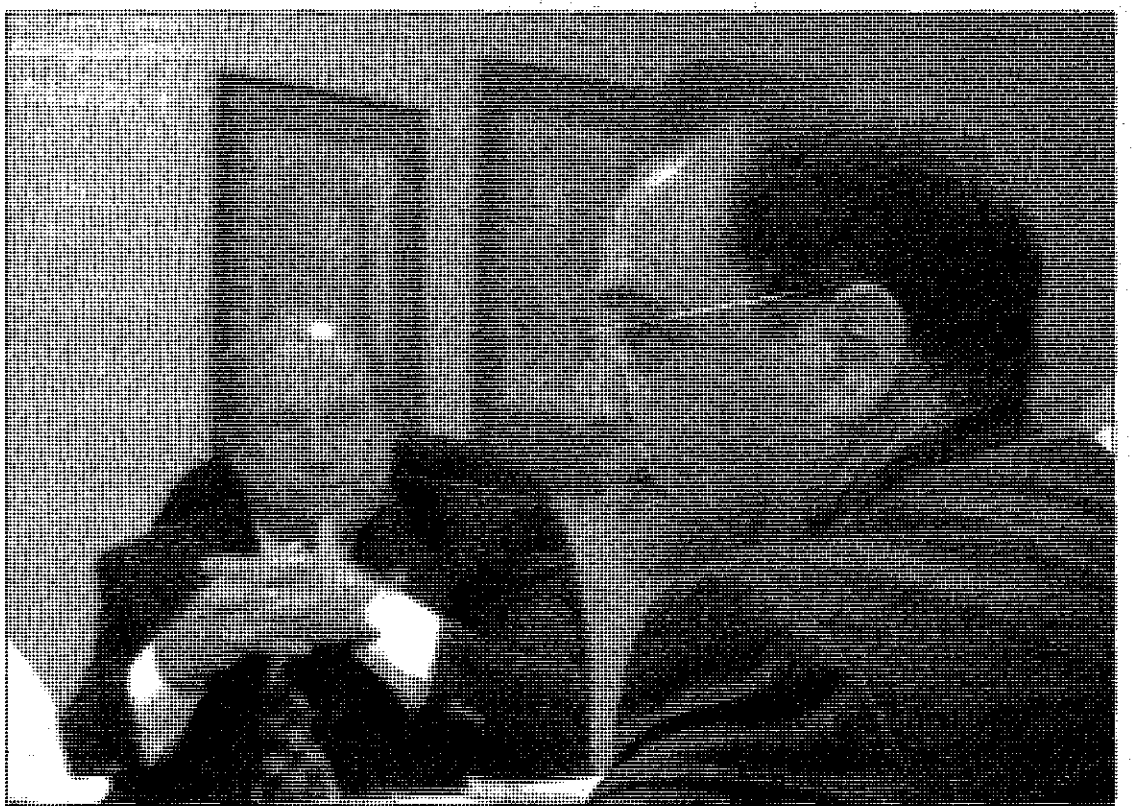
Yack said a disproportionate amount of millage money, 47 percent, was going to projects in the city of Detroit.

"They get a return of 156 percent on what they have contributed. Dearborn, Livonia and others, their return is less than 1 percent. Livonia's is .5, Dearborn's is .3. Canton is 1.6 and these are big contributors to the millage," he said.

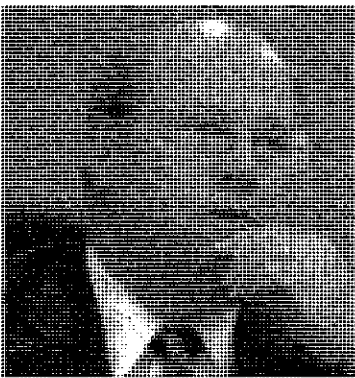
A NEW PROCESS

Yack said he has been working with Helmkamp on developing a better process.

"We have created a proposal," Helmkamp said. "If you have a leader who has an idea, he can come and pitch a project to us and there will be a five-person review committee ... and we'll make recommendations to the executive and the commission, who ultimately has the



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, right, and Canton Supervisor Tom Yack discussed their differences about the proposed parks millage renewal on the Aug. 2 ballot.



Canton Supervisor Tom Yack argues that there isn't a fair process for distribution of parks money to suburban communities.

power to make the final call."

The committee would consist of the director of parks or a designee, a representative of the county executive's office, a representative of the Wayne County commission, the director of public services or a designee and the representative of the Friends of Wayne County Parks. The process would go into effect Aug. 3, pending commission approval.

Proposals will be limited to existing park or related facilities "owned or operated by a governmental unit." Helmkamp said the funds could not be used to create new parks. The proposal sets a maximum of 25 percent of millage funds raised for these community projects.

Ficano said he understood Yack's concerns, but that as county executive he had to look "at the broader picture." He said western Wayne County communities benefit from the maintenance and programs held in county parks, particularly in the Hines Park system which runs through western Wayne County.

"All our parks are free. Constituents of Tom and all of western Wayne use Hines

Park," he said. "It's hard to gauge how many of them have boats and launch at Elizabeth Park (in Trenton on the Detroit River)."

He ticked off numerous programs available in the county park system, including the annual Marshmallow Drop, Mud Day, Jazz in the Park and the programs at the Nankin Mills nature center.

"Everybody is concerned about what is fair about money coming back to the community," Ficano said. "Nothing guarantees that money will come back in X percentage, because what if we did all our taxes and millages that way? I don't think road funds, you'd want to see proportional."

Local projects supported by the millage include \$400,000 for the Cherry Hill Village Theatre in Canton, \$100,000 for a swimming pool in Garden City and \$500,000 for improvements to city of Wayne parks.

Ficano said if government leaders were serious about regional approaches to government, they couldn't restrict funding.

Ficano said LaJoy's bill for a 50-percent return to local communities would destroy "the formula we have now in terms of Hines Park and Elizabeth Park." He said the millage was to support the county park system and it was hard to gauge how much use each community made of the county parks.

Yack testified Wednesday in favor of LaJoy's proposal.

In a press release, LaJoy said, "The motivation behind this bill to ensure the parks millage is distributed efficiently and effectively. At this time many communities within Wayne County are contribut-

ing sizable figures to the parks millage and receiving little or no money in return for their own communities."

CHANDLER PARK A CONCERN

Yack was especially critical Tuesday of funding dedicated to the Chandler Park water park in Detroit. Chandler is specifically mentioned in the ballot language for support along with Hines Park, Elizabeth Park and Fort Wayne.

"The city of Detroit has disavowed ownership of that park and they (the county) inherited the operating of that park," he said. "Police don't even like to police it."

He said the park registers only 20,000 visits a year, but has \$1.2 million a year set aside for its operation. He said the park should be closed.

He said funding for Chandler led to requests for funding of projects in other communities.

Objections have also been raised about the timing and expense of the millage.

Ficano said he thought the criticism about the timing was unfair.

He said if the county had waited until the November general election, it would have missed a chance to come back to voters if the millage loses and it would still face a disproportionate Detroit vote because of the city's high-profile mayoral race.

Helmkamp said the county is prepared to fully reimburse communities which don't have a scheduled primary for the cost of election. He said the county estimates it will cost about \$460,000 to reimburse local communities for election costs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fishing Derby

Co-sponsored by Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Fire Department, youngsters 14 years old and under are invited to show off their fishing skills at the sixth annual Westland Fishing Derby 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at Friendship Lake in Central City Park. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Space is limited, so preregister by Aug. 17.

The goal is to catch and release as many fish as you can in a two-hour period. Prizes will be awarded for the most fish caught for various age groups. Bring a fishing pole and bait or those without fishing poles can reserve a pole in advance by contacting the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620.

Juice, coffee and doughnuts will be provided for breakfast. Hot dog lunch also provided.

Community Garage Sale

Sponsored by the Westland Therapeutic Recreation Club, Kicks 4 Kids and the Youth Assistance Program, the next Community Garage Sale will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, in the parking lot west of City Hall. For information about reserving a space, pick up a flyer at the Bailey Center or call (734) 722-7620.

WESTLAND Observer

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

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36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150



DEATHS

A
Dan Acosta, 53, died.
B
Vernon Lee Bellant, of Plymouth Township, died July 12.
C

Joseph Cuschieri, of Canton Township, died July 12.
D
Richard A. Duby, 72, of Dearborn Heights, died July 12.
G
Jean Frances Gerou (Rogan), 73, died July 13.

Brice Walker Gross (Boop) 69, of Fort Myers, Fla., formerly of Beverly Hills, died July 6.
H

Craig F. Herbst, 58, of Livonia, died July 8.
I

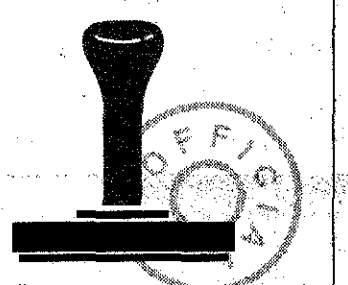
Dierdre C. Lacinia, died July 12.
M

Randall Miller, 90, of Rochester Hills, died July 12.
P

Debra Lynn Progar, 51, died July 7.
R

Heather K. (Ross) Reickert, 57, of Bloomfield Hills, died July 12.
T

Doris Emily Tutor, 83, died July 11.



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in *Passages* on page C4.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
To all residents and interested parties, The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org
You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.
ALLYSON M. BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk
Publish: May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 12, 19, July 3, 17, 24, 31, August 7, and 21, 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
JULY 19, 2005 - BOARD OF REVIEW
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to correct mutual mistakes of fact or clerical errors. PA74 of 1995 authorizes the July Board of Review to hear appeals for poverty exemptions, but not for poverty exemptions denied by the March Board of Review. This applies to current year only.
ALLYSON BETTIS, Treasurer/City Clerk.
Publish: July 10, 14 and 17, 2005

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RIDER

FROM PAGE A1

Jacob has a form of leukemia and Nilan is riding to help raise money for the Livonia youngster's wish of having a big playset in his yard. In addition to the playset, he wrote that he likes riding his bike and playing basketball.

Nilan is a member of the Novi Gym Rats, a team of 15 riders out of the Bali fitness club in Novi who are participating in the event.

He is no stranger to the pedal-powered fund-raiser, having done the WAM 300 in 2003. He skipped the 2004 ride because of a busy schedule, but after getting a call from a buddy who was on the bus headed to Cheboygan where the ride starts, he decided to participate this year.

"The ride itself is pretty grueling," he said. "You do the first 60 miles and then it's 40 miles of hills. The first year I hit the wall after the first 60 miles and I had to go further because I had this little kid's wristband on my arm."

He now realizes that he drank too much water and ate too much leading up to a break at 60 miles. He went on to finish the first leg, sending his buddies on ahead as he slowed his pace. His slower pace also saved him from a collision with a deer which darted out across the road in front of him.

WAM 300 starts in Cheboygan and ends with the Heroes Hurrah celebration at the GM Proving Ground in Milford. The first day riders will cover 105 miles, stopping at Mio. The second day is the longest segment at 111 miles, with an overnight in Saginaw, before the last leg of 89 miles.

Riders are provided with transportation to Cheboygan, overnight accommodations at schools — Mio High School and Delta College in Saginaw — along the way, meals, break stops, full support and guide (SAG) vehicles and massage therapy support.

Last year, some 500 riders raised more than \$600,000, helping to make more than 90 special wishes come true.

Riders pay a fee of \$85 and must raise a minimum of \$500 in donations to participate. Nilan is close to raising \$1,000 in pledges.

"It's not near as much as some people who get corporate sponsors and raise \$10,000-\$15,000, but I'm happy," he said. "I'm getting it from my family and friends. It's easy when I show them a picture of the kids."

Nilan rides 40-60 miles twice a week in preparation for the WAM 300. He averages a speed of 15-16 mph, which is slow in comparison to some riders who zip along at 20-25 mph. And it's a snail's pace when you consider Tour de France participants average 35 mph, he said.

Rebecca Bunting, Make-A-Wish director of special events, applauds Nilan's commitment to the Make-A-Wish mission and to the bicycle tour.

"WAM is a truly amazing event that brings together people of all different backgrounds, ages and fitness levels who wish to make a difference in the lives of our very special children," she said.

For more information about WAM 300, call Rebecca Bunting at (888) 857-WISH, ext. 59. The registration deadline is July 11.

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112

Red Cross: Blood shortage imperils lives

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kelly Marlow, registered nurse, swabs Carol Dowling's arm with antiseptic before drawing blood at the Livonia center. Carol is a regular at the Red Cross, donating every 56 days.

Summer's particularly slow for blood donations — and lives hang in the balance.

"It is a very slow time," said Marie Mangus, director of communications and marketing for the American Red Cross in this region. More than 12,000 blood products are used daily in southeast Michigan, and yet the need remains great.

"Blood has a shelf life," she said, adding that hospitals are now canceling elective surgeries. In one recent case, a local organ transplant had to be put off because of insufficient blood, which makes Mangus angry. The organ went elsewhere.

She noted that less than 5 percent of the eligible population gives blood. "And yet 80 percent will use blood in their life."

Theresa Gall of Plymouth Township began giving blood in the late 1950s when working at the VA Hospital in Albany, N.Y. "It's just such a wonderful thing to do," she said. "It makes you feel good."

Gall goes to the Livonia Red Cross facility or to drives at local churches.

She gives "because there's a need" and wouldn't want blood not to be available if she should need it.

Few medications rule out giving blood, Mangus said, and those with questions about medication can call the Red Cross at (800) GIVE-LIFE to check. Blood donors need to weigh 110 pounds or more, be 17 or older (there's no upper age limit) and be in general good health.

Types O and B are particularly scarce. A three- to five-day blood supply is needed to meet patient needs; a seven-day supply is needed in preparation for natural or man-made disasters.

Types O and B are particularly scarce. A three- to five-day blood supply is needed to meet patient needs; a seven-day supply is needed in preparation for natural or man-made disasters.

The blood donor center on Five Mile between Levan and Newburgh in Livonia has been open about a year and a half. "It does extremely well," Mangus said. "That Livonia center is always busy. The community is responsive and we're appreciative."

Livonia had another blood donor site before the current one, she added.

Gall's quick to reassure people that donating shouldn't bring on fear. "It's the most painless thing in the world," she said, adding the process is also very safe. She's seen considerable improvement in the process since she started donating.

Information on blood donation is available online at www.semredcross.org, or call (800) GIVE-LIFE for times and locations or to make an appointment.

CLUBS IN ACTION

Listings for Clubs in Action should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M128, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. John Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-5023. Call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299 for more information.

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road, next to Westland Shopping Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 noon to 8 p.m.

The Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman in Westland. For information, visit www.toastmasters.org.

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ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS
Ankylosing spondylitis is a condition characterized by a loss of mobility of the back. The cause is the development of calcification of the ligaments that hold the vertebral bones together. The pain begins in the low back at the sacro-iliac joints and makes its way upward even to the vertebrae of the neck.
Ankylosing Spondylitis begins in the teenage years, becoming prominent when you are in your twenties or thirties. At one time physicians thought the condition occurred only in men but over time the medical community learned that the disease also happens in women.
Ankylosing Spondylitis can cause arthritis of the shoulders, hands and knees. In addition, there can be extra-skeletal effects such as inflammation of the eyes as iritis, and involvement of heart valves particularly the aortic valve.
Until recently the treatment physicians could offer was unsatisfactory. Doctors prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs but these medications, at best, relieved the pain, but did not stop the progression of the spondylitis. Other medications such as methotrexate, which treats rheumatoid arthritis, were tried in Ankylosing Spondylitis, but had minimal effect.
However, the introduction of the biological drugs-Enbrel, Remicade, and Humira-gives physicians a therapy that treats Ankylosing Spondylitis effectively. Therefore if you are young and experience prolonged back pain, you should see a physician to evaluate this diagnosis.
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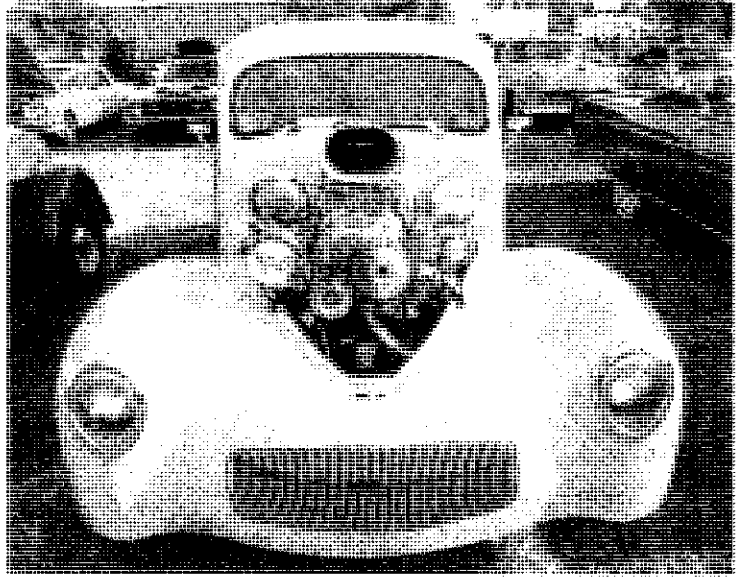
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OE084486

Cars, music and fun at Burger event



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eleven year-old Ryan "Elvis" Talaga entertained the crowd during the Autos for Autism car show held at Garden City High School.



Classic cars and extreme vehicles - there was something for everyone at the Autos for Autism car show.

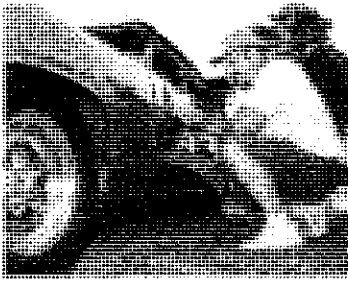
There was food, music and lots of cars all for a good cause last week.

The fifth annual Autos for Autism car show drew about 200 vehicles to Garden City High School last week.

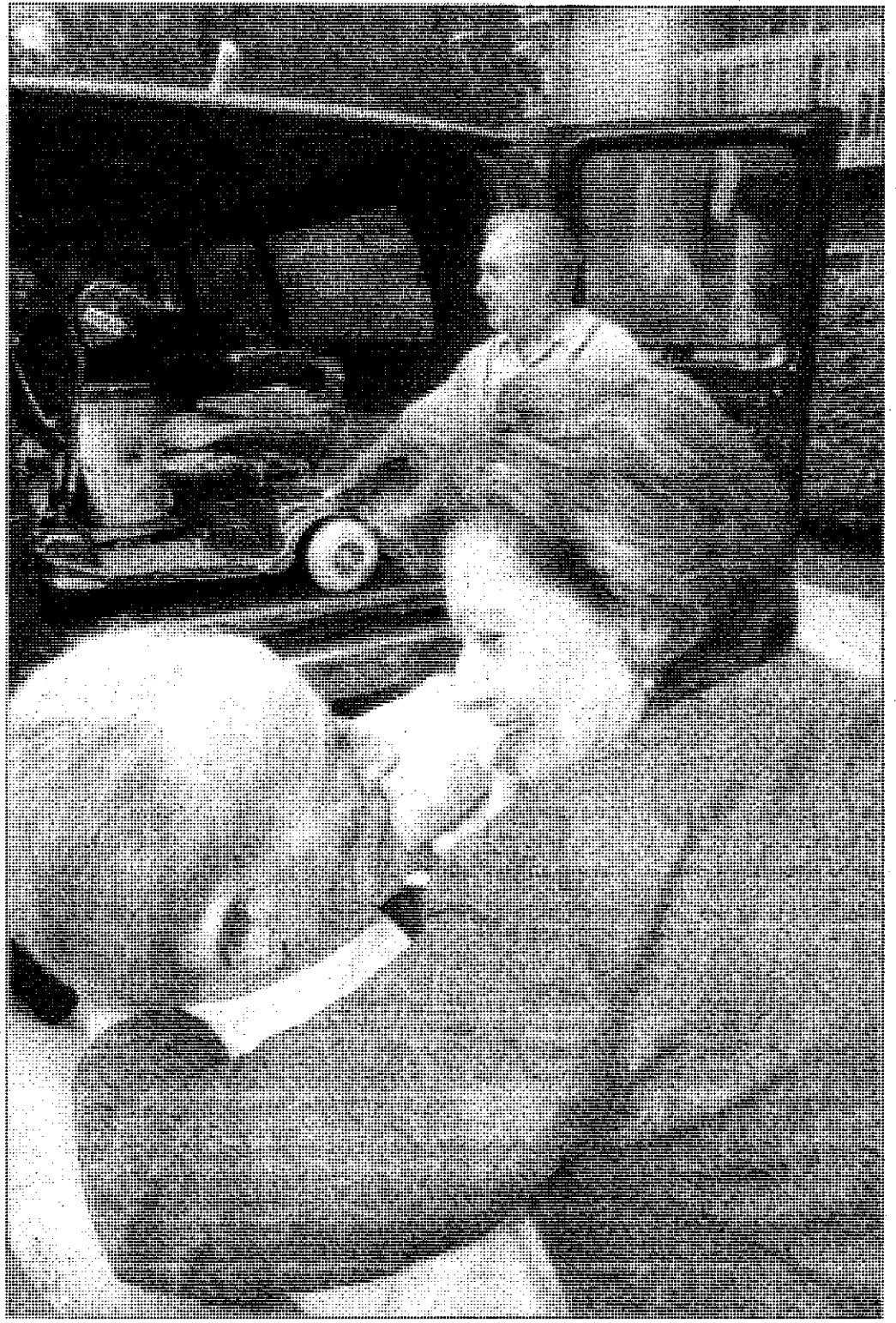
Proceeds from the show benefit the Autistic School Association, Inc., which raises money for the Burger Center. Housed in a former junior high school in Garden City, the Burger Center is a county center program with an enrollment of 355 autistic students up to age 26.

Along with the judged car show, the event also included raffles and door prizes.

Next up will be the annual Lyman Golf Outing scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 13 at Hickory Creek Golf Course. For more information, call Susan Smitt or Donna Lober at (734) 762-8420, Ext. 226.



Phil Garton polishes his 1970 Hemi-powered Barracuda, one of the vehicles on display at the annual Autos for Autism car show to benefit the Burger Center.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marion Dee Terwilliger gets a hug from Nina D'Onofrio, manager of American House III, as Vince Berna from Veterans Haven Inc. unloads his new scooter.

GC Hospital adds 2 new board members

Garden City Hospital has two new additions to its board of directors.

Appointed to the board last month were Conway A. Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College in Livonia, and Dr. Troy M. Smith, a long-time medical staff treasurer at Garden City Hospital.

Prior to being appointed college president, Jeffress was Schoolcraft's vice-president of instruction and student services. He is active in the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) and co-chair of the President's Task Force on State Appropriations, and serves on a number of other professional and civic organizations. Smith, who is completing a rotating internship and family practice residency, currently practices medicine with Family Practice Centre of Livonia and Geriatric Care Specialists, LLC. He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and several osteopathic medical associations.

"We are pleased and excited to have Dr. Jeffress and Dr. Smith lend their considerable knowledge and expertise to the Garden City Hospital board," said Gary Ley, Garden City Hospital president and CEO. "I have the utmost confidence that their combined talents will help the hospital achieve its goals of expanding its unique offerings while continuing to provide a high level of personal care."

The hospital provides comprehensive health care services, osteopathic medical education, and health care related programs to the community at large.

It is a back-to-back recipient of the 2003 and 2004 Governor's Award of Excellence for Improving Care in the Hospital Setting and the Emergency Department and is a winner of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in 2004 by the Michigan Business and Professional Association.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE A1

"It changed my life," he said. "I was financially strapped."

The number of local residents receiving similar assistance is approaching 80. The city gives out 40 frail-and-elderly housing vouchers a year, and the program is in its second year.

"We had been receiving calls from residents who needed help," Cicirelli said. "We saw that there was a definite need for a program like this."

After he moved to American House III in November, Terwilliger also received a motorized scooter as a gift from Veterans Haven Inc. - an area nonprofit agency that helps veterans in need.

Terwilliger beamed in surprise Thursday as his old scooter was replaced with a new, sleeker model personally delivered by Veterans Haven Inc. President Vince Berna. It was candy apple red.

"I love it," Terwilliger said, testing it out. "Let me see how fast it will go."

Although he has some walking abilities using a cane, Terwilliger needs a scooter to avoid the pain that comes from overworking his joints.

His life has improved immeasurably since he moved with Blanche to American House III, a 90-apartment complex on Hunter west of Wayne Road. And, for all the help he has received, Terwilliger plans to give something back.

When he dies, he said, "I'm leaving my body to the Wayne State (University) School of Medicine."

Terwilliger seemed overwhelmed Thursday with the attention that he was receiving. He had nothing but accolades for the people who have helped him, at 86, begin life anew.

"I've gained more friends than I did in all the years I drove a bus," he said.

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Wonderland plans include Wal-Mart Supercenter

Target to move in project that features restaurants, event area

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Developer Bob Schostak will present new plans next month to redevelop the old Wonderland Mall with a strategy to resolve his company's litigation with Target Corp., begin demolition this fall and plan a series of meetings with neighborhood groups near the property.

A Wal-Mart Supercenter and a new Target store are part of the new project with a goal of opening stores in spring 2007. Schostak, the president of Schostak Brothers and Co. in Southfield, said the project will provide some 600,000 square feet in new construction, cost somewhere between \$80 million and \$100 million and produce at least 600 new jobs.

"This project went through intense scrutiny with the Livonia City Council which caused us, as developers, to give great consideration to the concerns of the council and residents," Schostak said. "We saw a unique design to carry out the objectives sought by the city. This project will have more appeal and a better shopping experience for the residents near the property and the community as a whole."

EVERYTHING RAZED

Schostak now plans to demolish the entire shopping mall, including the Target store. He hopes the process will begin this fall. A new 130,000-square-foot, free-standing Target store

will be built near Middlebelt. Schostak said constructing a new Target store - which will be about 30,000 square feet larger than the existing Target - will resolve the federal lawsuits between the retailer and Schostak's company. The litigation put a halt on Schostak's original redevelopment plans for Wonderland last year.

Demolition and construction will be scheduled so the old Target store will be one of the last buildings razed, and the new Target store will be one of the first new stores to open, Schostak said.

A 200,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter will be next door to the new Target store. A new big-box building will be built between the Wal-Mart and the old Kmart store, but a tenant has not been determined. The former Kmart store will be remodeled for one or two under-tenanted tenants.

Along Plymouth Road, Schostak plans to build some 50 shops and restaurants with brick and stucco construction. There will be walking paths and benches between the buildings and an outdoor events area to provide a spot for people to gather and public performances.

A boulevard entrance, featuring brick walls and pillars and landscaping, will serve as a gateway to the 74-acre property which will be called "Wonderland Village."

"This project will have half the retail space of the old Wonderland Mall, but we antic-

ipate this property will double or triple the mall's sales volume," Schostak said.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Before he formally submits his new plans to Livonia planning officials, Schostak plans at least three meetings with neighborhood groups near the mall to unveil drawings, answer questions and gather additional input. He said he realizes constructing a Wal-Mart store will cause some uneasiness among residents.

"This will be an impressive building that will look like no other Wal-Mart store," Schostak said.

Stan Anderson, president of the Clements Circle Civic Association, said he appreciates Schostak's efforts to meet with his neighbors in the Plymouth-Harrison area to discuss the plan.

"He knows there's a great deal of opposition, so I'm sure he's trying to get us satisfied or, at least, make sure we'll accept it and not boycott it," Anderson said. "Wal-Mart's history with us is not very good. We're concerned about the security, appearance and landscaping of this project."

Wal-Mart's construction plans entail a unique combination of brick, wrought iron and show windows. It will nearly double the size of the existing Wal-Mart store at Middlebelt and Schoolcraft. A Wal-Mart Supercenter includes retail, full grocery line, bakery and auto repair.

WONDERLAND TIMELINE

Here's a tentative schedule of what to expect regarding Wonderland Mall's redevelopment, if Schostak Brothers and Co. receives timely city approval for its new site plan.

August 2005 - Developers meet with neighborhood groups, submits site plan

September 2005 - Planning Commission meetings and public hearings on the site plan

October 2005 - City Council meetings and public hearings on the site plan

Fall 2005 - Demolition begins, a process that's expected to take 7-12 months

Spring 2006 - Construction begins, a process that's expected to take a year

Spring 2007 - First stores, restaurants open

Schostak said he does not own the existing Wal-Mart property and does not know what's in store for that site when the retailer vacates.

The local rumor mill about new Wonderland plans has been churning in recent weeks as Schostak and Wal-Mart executives held a series of individual meetings with Mayor Jack Engbretson, members of the Livonia City Council and planning officials to introduce the

new concept.

"A vibrant shopping center with 50 to 60 new stores and restaurants will have a positive impact on the community," Engbretson said. "I realize there are concerns about the Wal-Mart, but the property has languished for so long that it has become costly to the city as an eye-sore and with its reduced tax revenue at this time."

The Wonderland property, an

enclosed mall since 1959, has been all-but-vacant for the past 18 months.

WAL-MART ISSUE

The mayor said all city officials voiced their disappointment with Wal-Mart brass about the conditions and management at the current Livonia store.

"We have laid it out to that they have a tarnished reputation in Livonia with the way that store has been run and they made a note of it," Engbretson said.

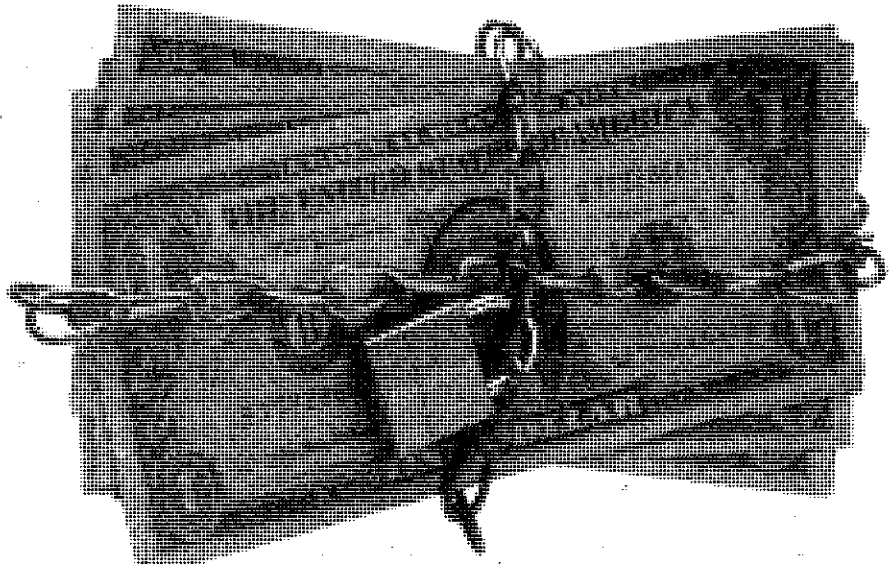
Roderick Scott, community affairs manager for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., said the company acknowledges there are problems with the current Livonia store because it serves more customers than it can handle.

"We had planned to make a multimillion-dollar investment to improve the site, but it was not prudent to do that at a site we didn't own," Scott said. "Also, you always have problems when you move into an existing building like we did at that location."

With the proposed new Livonia store, Scott said Wal-Mart plans to utilize its new "Store of the Community" concept that gives residents, elected leaders and planning officials direct input in the design of the building's interior and exterior.

"We want to better serve Livonia," Scott said.

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Cheer for the hometown, read today's **SPORTS** section

Hurry up please, it's time to consolidate government

Hurry up please, it's time. Soon, consolidating services among cities and towns - especially in Michigan - will be a necessity.

Michigan's economy is trailing the nation, with scant hope for a quick turn around. And our communities - not just our schools - are feeling the pinch. They just aren't crying "ouch" quite as loudly.

So Beverly Hills' recent dismissal of Birmingham's overture to share emergency dispatch services will probably have to be revisited.

The move would have saved Beverly Hills \$50,000 a year, and Birmingham, after an initial expenditure to enlarge its dispatch facility, long-term cost savings.

It's happening all around us in a variety of shapes and forms. Plymouth Township and the city of Plymouth have shared fire services for 10 years, reportedly saving the two governments around \$6 million.

West Bloomfield folded the volunteer Tri-City Fire Department into its operation a few years back, and now covers fire and EMS services for Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor from the old Tri-City building. It saved West Bloomfield from having to construct a new fire station in the northeast part of the township and provided the three cities with a professional force.

And West Bloomfield has handled emergency dispatch operations for the three smaller communities for years.

An Older Persons Commission provides senior services to residents of Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township. The three communities share the costs of the program that includes a state of the art senior center.

Effective July 1, Mount Clemens dissolved its 113-year-old police force to contract with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department, saving around \$1.5 million a year.

Neighboring Troy and Clawson are considering consolidating jails and dispatch services, to save an initial \$40,000 and about \$4,000 in each succeeding year.

The list goes on - and will continue to build with support from both the state of Michigan and SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments).

For those communities, who still haven't gotten the message, I say look to Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Both communities jointly fund a long list of programs, that are operated by the larger Farmington Hills.

These include: The Farmington Community Library (two branches, one in Farmington, one in Farmington Hills), the Farmington Area

Arts Commission and Farmington Youth Assistance.

Farmington Hills Special Services Division operates parks and recreation programs and facilities that are open to both communities' residents as well as an array of programs for seniors and young people at the Costick Activities Center.

Communitywide events such as the recent Farmington Area Founders Festival and the annual Heritage Festival are also jointly funded and operated.

The two cities even put on a musical production each fall, open to residents of all ages.

"I'm always struck by the lack of cooperation in other communities," says Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett.

As a leading proponent of community collaboration, she still cautions that the citizenry has to be ready.

"When a council makes a decision to remain status quo, it may be a politically smart move for them to step back right now," she says, in reference to Beverly Hills.

"The political leaders are trying to do the right thing, but there needs to be a lot of community education first. They need time to educate their citizens so everyone is part of the process."

In fact, Farmington/Farmington Hills, for all their cooperation, couldn't agree on combining public safety operations a year or two back, she told me. Now, they are heavily into talks about combining dispatch operations.

"Dispatch is a countywide discussion," Barnett says. "How many dispatch centers do we need? Fewer could improve service delivery and save money at the same time."

"Successful cooperation depends on all parties recognizing the advantages of collaboration," says Naheed Hug, SEMCOG senior planner. They include: cost considerations, public response and the priority placed on the service by the political leadership.

"It's the wave of the future," says West Bloomfield Treasurer Denise Hammond. Birmingham City Manager Tom Markus comes from Minnesota, a state where there is a long history of community collaborations. And so, with encouragement from the Birmingham City Commission, "We're going to pursue other partners," he told me.

To make it happen, Markus says, both communities must show constituents that they aren't ceding governance to another municipality; that each is paying and receiving an equitable share; and that service will be better than what was previously provided.

It's obviously a delicate maneuver. But once the first connection is made, it can create a template for the further sharing of services.

Hurry up please; it's time.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident, is a former managing editor of the Eccentric Newspapers. You are welcome to comment by e-mail to jberne@att.net or to the editor of this newspaper.



Judy Berne

Muslims shouldn't be targeted for fanatical acts of terrorists

The identity of the London attackers remains unknown, yet speculation points to someone or a group of Muslims connected to Al-Qaida. This assumption points the finger at the entire Middle Eastern population for these horrific acts.

These accusations demand that we "Arabs" or "Muslims" must cooperate, condemn and pledge to bring the evil perpetrators to justice or stop them before they carry out the next act. More than a billion of us are indicted for the act of a few whom



Terry Ahwal-Morris

happen to share our ethnic identity. Can you imagine if all Christians were linked to Jim Jones or the Branch Davidians, who subjected their followers to abuse and subsequently killed hundreds of them? There would be outrage at such an accusation! That is not the case with the Middle Eastern community. We are all guilty until proven innocent.

For people of Middle Eastern descent, the news of a terrorist attack takes on an extra dimension. Unlike the rest of the world, the act of a few demented fanatical individuals reflects directly on us. We are as repulsed as the rest of the world when such attacks as the one that was perpetrated on innocent people in London. These attacks continue to haunt us when others have moved on with their lives.

The majority of Muslims and Arabs cannot comprehend these evil acts. They speculate as to whether the individuals who prepare these attacks hate themselves, their ethnicity and religion because with every attack, hate toward their people is intensified.

Supposedly, the attackers want to weaken and destroy the West, yet the people who are most hurt (other than the actual victims) are Arabs, specifically Muslims. That is why sometimes Middle Eastern people resort to the conspiracy theory because they fail to comprehend how someone can truly believe in their cause or religion yet work so hard to destroy it.

With every attack, the Middle Eastern community must take extra measures to refute, explain and speak up against these attacks for silence condones these horrific acts. Most people who are not physically harmed by these acts can escape by shutting off the news, we cannot.

We have to maintain a heightened alert to defend ourselves and clear our names. We live in fear that someone is going to avenge the killings by going after the first Middle Easterner they encounter. Several attacks against Arabs and Muslims have been reported in London this week. Vigilantes are not our only threat! We now have to worry about actions by an irresponsible government, media and religious groups

who add fuel to the fire by their erroneous comments.

They misrepresent, misinterpret and mislead by promoting the ugly myth of Muslim and Arab cultures as inherently violent. On Fox and PBS, the Rev. Franklin Graham said that "Islam was an evil and violent religion, and that the Quran calls for violence against non-Muslims." The Rev. Jerry Farwell called the Prophet Mohamed "a terrorist."

On several occasions, Fox Network's Sean Hannity talked about how Islam is a bigger threat than most people are willing to say publicly. In government, as the president talks about tolerance, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs has Steven Emerson testifying about "money laundering and terror financing issues in the Middle East."

As predicted after the London attack, several newspapers' headlines stated "Arab American promises support" or "If it's a Muslim problem, it needs a Muslim solution." Reports such as these implicated us in these acts. These reports give validation to render us guilty based on birth and ethnicity. With every attack we feel the ramifications from these barbaric acts of terror:

■ The Oklahoma City act of terror saw more than 42 violent incidents against Arab and Muslims in the first few days after the attack.

■ After 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq were attacked killing or injuring thousands. Those that were not physically attacked lost their homes, which are now occupied by foreign forces. Here in the United States, hundreds of innocent people lost their civil rights.

■ Since the terrorists use the Palestinian cause (no Palestinians are involved) as one of their motives for their attacks, the Palestinian people's human rights grievances are dismissed by the rest of the world.

■ A large number of young Arab/Muslim men are profiled and some are under surveillance by police, federal agents and other law enforcement agencies just because of their ethnic background.

■ The main targets of the Patriot Act are men from Middle Eastern countries.

■ Several attacks are reported in London against Middle Eastern people.

■ Men of Middle Eastern background are currently held in jail without charges under "the secret evidence law" without due process.

Violating my civil and human rights because of my heritage will not stop the terrorists from continuing their path of destruction, nor will it give the people the security they need. It just creates alienation of billions of people. Let us not hand the terrorists a victory by turning on each other.

Terry Ahwal-Morris is on the Executive Committee of the Ramallah Federation. She lives in Canton.

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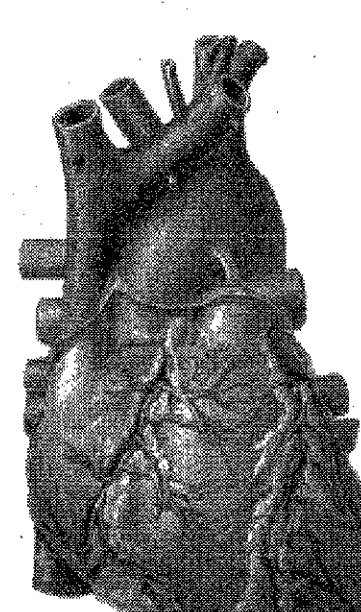
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See why it's called Garden City

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

In the 12 years Pam Lewis has been working in the yard of her home on Alvin, she's learned some lessons about gardening.

"You always start little and it gets bigger and bigger - and takes more and more work," said Lewis, who will be showing off her yard Saturday during the annual Garden Walk sponsored by the Garden City Garden Club.

When she moved into her home, Lewis said there wasn't much there in terms of a garden.

"It was horrible. There were diseased trees and rocks galore. I actually dug up a lot of rocks and use them in my garden," said Lewis, a custodian with Wayne-Westland Schools. "The people before me really didn't do anything."

In a yard filled with beds of perennials including hostas and day lilies, Lewis said the feature that draws the most comment is her approximately 3,000-gallon pond filled with fish.

"Everybody always comments on how many fish I have in the pond. I haven't bought anymore - they multiplied," she said. "I had about 6-10 fish when I started."

The fish are small through a combination of numbers and also, Lewis said, since a blue heron ate all the larger fish a couple of years ago.

A heron has been around again this summer - a neighbor alerted Lewis to one sitting on her roof. To protect her fish, Lewis has an owl statute near the pond and so far it's keeping the heron away.

Like Lewis, Ken Polzin also found a big empty yard when he bought his home on Kathryn three years ago. In fact, that was something he was looking for when he decided to move from a mobile home in Taylor.

"I grew up in Westland and lived on Shotka (in Garden City) for seven years," Polzin said. "Part of what I was looking for was a bigger yard. I've got an extra side yard."

When he moved into the house, Polzin transplanted some perennials from outside his mobile home into an area that had once been the site of a swingset. He's continued expanding the flowerbeds and plantings recently adding a fountain. His yard features a large number of day lilies.

"I can't explain it. I'm addicted to day lilies - I keep getting other varieties. I'm hooked on them - the different colors and frills," said Polzin, who works in building maintenance for World Wide Travel Services at Metro Airport.

The varieties of day lilies in Polzin's yard include Love in Vain, Shimmering Elegance, Royal Viking and his favorite, Darla Anita. He's a member of the Southeastern Michigan Hemerocallis (day lily) Society.

Both Polzin and Lewis were nervous about the prospect of having such a large number of people viewing their gardens. Garden Walk chairwoman Paula Relich is glad both decided to participate - Lewis signed up at last year's walk and a Garden Club member suggested Polzin.

"We ran out of tickets last year - about 200 people attended. It was a nice beautiful day,"

GARDEN WALK 2005

Here are the homes participating in the annual Garden Walk sponsored by the Garden City Garden Club 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 23. Tickets are \$6 per person and will be sold at each home during the walk. Tickets will also be available that day at the new general store inside the future home of the Garden City Historical Museum on Merriman. The store will remain open an hour after the walk ends. Advance tickets are available at the Clerk's Office in City Hall, Barson's Greenhouse and from Garden Club members.

■ 2062 Helen - Shirley and Dean Alexander feature a large pond that covers their front yard.

■ 504 Belton - A creative use of hanging baskets along the fence line for privacy is an interesting feature at the home of Ed and Norma Decess. The Garden Club will also host a bake sale at this house.

■ 533 Belton - Carroll Cato's home features beautiful perennials and annuals in an English-type garden.

■ 29911 Bock - A pond and winding water feature highlight the yard of Pete Dryovage.

■ 30714 Bock - Large koi and fantails create a water garden at the home of Mary Jane and Lee Schildberg.

■ 31766 Kathryn - Ken Polzin's yard is highlighted by his collection of daylilies.

■ 32692 Alvin - This home owned by Pam Lewis has a variety of perennials and a large pond with koi and the recent addition of a turtle.

said Relich, who was hoping the weather would cooperative again this year for the 12th annual walk.

The tickets, \$6 per person, include a map showing each of the seven homes in the walk. Guests can start at any home and follow their own route.

Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., tickets for the walk are also available in advance at Barson's Greenhouse, the Clerk's Office in City Hall and from Garden Club members. The day of the walk, tickets will also be available in the general store inside the Straight farmhouse on Merriman, the future home the Garden City Historical Museum.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Guests on the annual Garden Walk Saturday will see a well-maintained garden as they walk through yards such that of Pam Lewis.

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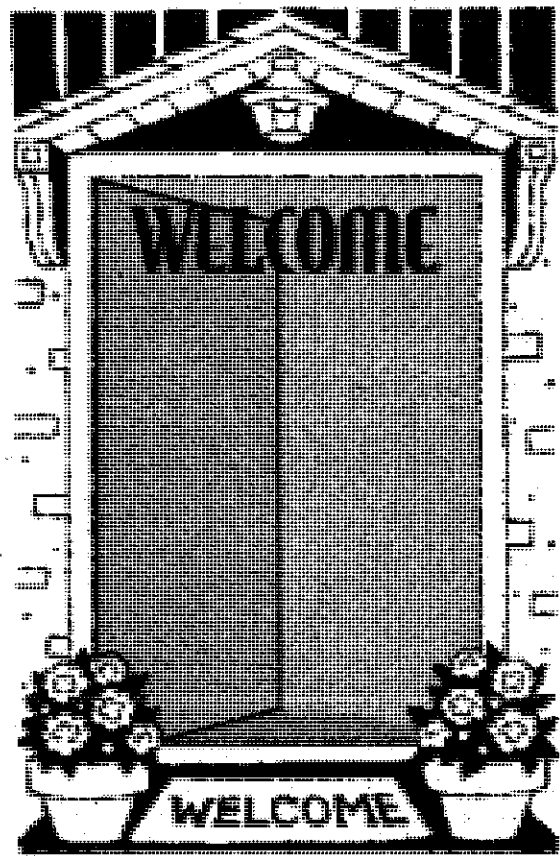
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