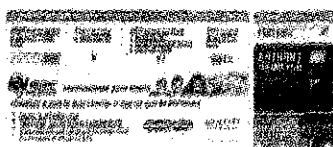


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AT HOME, SECTION B



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WESTLAND Observer

THURSDAY
July 21, 2005

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Coming down: Cooper School demolition begins

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Childhood memories flooded back Monday morning as Mike Sobieski watched work crews demolish the former Cooper Elementary School in Westland.

"I remember riding in here on the school bus, and now I'm standing here watching it be torn down," the 42-year-old Garden City resident said.

"I wanted to watch as they tear it down," he said. "It's a shame, in a way. I remember all my friends and

the fun we used to have here."

Like other former students, Sobieski said he also remembers seeing broken glass around the school, which was closed and fenced off in 1991 amid fears that the property - an old landfill - was unsafe.

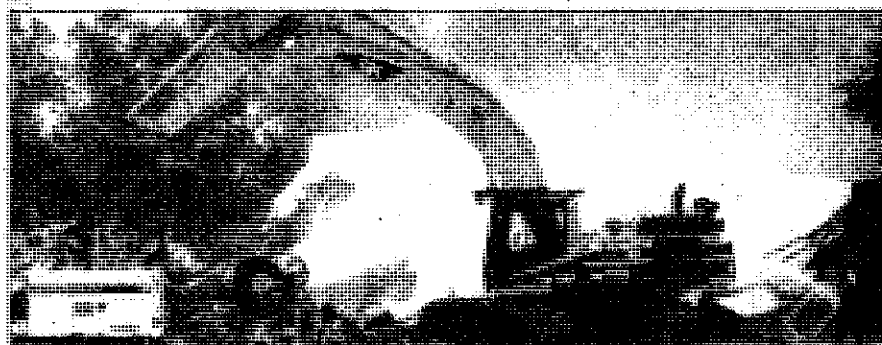
Sobieski joined Westland city leaders and Livonia school district officials as Adamo Wrecking Co. of Detroit undertook a demolition project that is expected to conclude by early August.

Workers will haul away debris from the site - on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt - where developers hope

to build a senior citizen apartment complex, a medical office building and a golf driving range.

"I think it's exciting," Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said, as demolition crews tore into the former school. "It's the completion of a process that has taken more than 14 years. Now, we can move on to the next step."

More environmental tests will be done to determine how the proposed developer, Jonna Companies of Southfield, should proceed with the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A steady spray of water helps control dust as work crews begin the task of tearing down the former Cooper School

PLEASE SEE COOPER, A7

Big Top returns to Civic League

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The last time Vic Barra saw the circus was with his father when he was age 15, but that's about to change.

The Wayne-Ford Civic League president will get up close and personal with the circus when the Royal Hanneford Circus performs 15 shows over five days July 27-31 at the league, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

"My family and I are looking forward to it," Barra said.

The circus will set up its tent on two baseball diamonds, presenting shows, featuring high wire and animal acts, at 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. daily. There also will be elephant and pony rides as well as a kiddy carnival for youngsters too small for the other attractions.

The Civic League will offer onsite parking as well as daily dinner specials from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The all-you-can-eat meals will cost \$6 per person. The menu includes spaghetti July 27, meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy July 28 and

PLEASE SEE CIRCUS, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nice catch

Four-year-old Robert Moody holds a turtle he caught, with a little help from his dad, Troy Moody, at Friendship Lake in Westland's Central City Park. More interested in catching a fish in the catch-and-release lake was his big brother, Troy.

New ordinance aims to rid city of blight

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Local officials will have broader powers to rid the city of dilapidated and dangerous buildings under a new ordinance approved Monday by the Westland City Council.

Officials hailed the new plan as a way to force the demolition or cleanup of neighborhood eyesores, making the city more visually appealing.

"It will give us something that has some teeth in it to speed up the (cleanup) process," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

Some elected leaders described run-down buildings and unkempt yards a top concern among residents and a threat to property values.

"This is the number one issue of resident complaints to me," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said. "It's just about every day."

Under old rules, the city had to attack blight by taking property

PLEASE SEE BLIGHT, A5

Teen 'doing better' after lightning strike

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland teen Shaun Clinton, injured Monday when lightning struck while he was standing under a tree, was expected to return home Wednesday from a hospital.

"He's doing much better," his father, Charles Clinton, said Wednesday afternoon. "He will be released today."

Shaun Clinton, 18, received first- and second-degree burns on his body after lightning struck during a storm about 6:15 p.m. Monday.

Westland fire officials provided details of the incident without naming Clinton, who was injured while standing outside in the 6200 area of Venoy, near Hunter.

"He was not actually hit (directly) by the lightning. He was stand-

PLEASE SEE LIGHTNING, A5

Former senior center director joins city's DDA board

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

She received accolades for helping to build Westland's senior citizen center into what many consider one of Michigan's best.

She retired amid controversy after she and two of her employees went to a Detroit casino in 2000 in a van donated for city use by a local auto dealer. Sylvia Kozorosky-Wiacek, former senior Friendship Center director, has returned as the newest appointee to the city's Downtown Development Authority.

"I think she'll make an excellent addition to this particular board," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Monday.

Cicirelli has chosen Kozorosky-Wiacek for a four-year term on a board that steers economic development along the Ford and Wayne road commercial corridors.

Cicirelli's recommendation was confirmed Monday night in a 5-2 vote by the Westland City Council.

Council members James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering, Robert Stottlemeyer and William Wild supported the mayor's choice,

while colleagues Cheryl Graunstadt and Richard LeBlanc opposed it.

Graunstadt acknowledged that Kozorosky-Wiacek made "commendable contributions" to Westland, but she said the former senior director also "broke a public trust" by making day-time trips to Motor City Casino.

Graunstadt also recalled how a local television station trailed the van and aired reports about Kozorosky-Wiacek's gambling outings.

Graunstadt called it an embarrassment to Westland.

Cicirelli praised Kozorosky-Wiacek for her

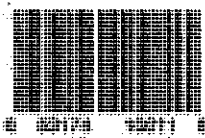
local leadership on behalf of senior citizens. She commended the former senior director for now wanting to serve the city as a volunteer.

Even some of Kozorosky-Wiacek's detractors have conceded that she helped build local senior programs into some of the best in the state.

Under Kozorosky-Wiacek's tenure, the Friendship Center also gained national attention by winning an award for its celebration of National Senior Health and Fitness Day - a program that has continued after she left her job.

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Volume 41
Number 16



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Coming Sunday
in PINK



Curvy & Chic
Plus size fashion finds

Running out of the shadows

Club raises awareness about post partum depression

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

When Christine Hughes gave birth to her third child, post partum depression hit her like a brick. To help get through it, she hit the bricks - in a pair of running shoes.

"At first I was just sort of bluesy. But in about three months, I was diagnosed with post-partum depression. Things just weren't getting better, and I said back then that when they did get better, I was going to do something about this," said Hughes, of Canton.

What made things worse for Hughes is the fact she had to suffer through the travails of post-partum depression alone. That is until she found a support group in Ann Arbor.

"It just can't be like this, that in an area like southeast Michigan there isn't really anywhere to go for help," she said.

Hughes, along with other members of the Dirt Road Divas, a women's running club she started three years ago, will host a July 30 run through Canton to raise awareness and cash to support the Post Partum Support Group of Michigan.

"The more I talk to other women, the more I find just about everyone has at least a mild case of it," said Heidi Shade, a mother of two from Plymouth who will participate in the run later this month. "Of course I want to support my divas, but also I want people to be more aware of post partum depression. We don't talk about it, and as women I don't know why we don't. We talk about everything else, but not this."



Members of the Dirt Road Divas, a women's running club based in Canton, will host a July 30 run through Canton to raise awareness and cash to support the Post Partum Support Group of Michigan.

Hughes started the running group before her youngest daughter, 14-month-old Ava, was even thought of. The women - 51 in all - meet regularly to run and talk and share some time for themselves and their health. The physical activity helped her deal with the stress of motherhood and the depression, but she also found that the more she talked with her running buddies, the more she realized she is not alone.

Hughes was at first secretive about her depression. She felt ashamed and was so exhausted that she felt like she wasn't being a very good mother, she said. She wound up confiding in her running club friends (though she admitted not having discussed the depression yet with her mother), and found out that about half of the women she talked to in her running group either had experienced post partum depression themselves or knew someone who had.

Hughes was able to find a good psychologist, and the support group in Ann Arbor, and is managing the depression now, but that wasn't always the case.

"They tell you to see a psy-

chologist, but there really is no one to refer you to. It's no wonder that so many women are suffering alone," she said.

To help raise awareness about resources, the Dirt Road Divas decided to run for a cause, and organized the Pounding Pavement & Dirt for Post Partum Depression run at the end of this month.

"Post partum depression is one area that has never been covered when it comes to events like this," said Dirt Road Diva Kristen Brant, a Canton mother of three who also suffered with the effects of post partum depression. "In just this group, we've all participated in runs for cancer, leukemia and heart disease, but there are no events for this."

It's awareness that the group hopes to raise - even more than the money, which will help buy supplies for the Post Partum Depression Support Group, a totally self-sustaining group which is free for its members to use.

"We need for people to be able to talk about this," said Brant. "This is as much for the husbands, the friends and the relatives of the women who have post partum depression as

it is for the people who are depressed. They need to know there is help out there."

Though Dana Beck of Livonia did not have post partum depression, the mother of three feels sad for those who have.

"It's just so unexpected, and once you have it, post partum depression is so hard to deal with," Beck said. "People can be so critical, and they tell women to snap out of it. But you can't just snap out of it without help. You can't just fix yourself."

For more information about the Pounding Pavement & Dirt for Post Partum Depression 5k, 10k and 25k walk and run, e-mail Christine Hughes at echughes96@yahoo.com, or visit the Web site at cantonconnection.fcstorm.net. The run will be at 7:30 a.m. Saturday July 30 and will start and finish at Independence Park in Canton, at the corner of Denton and Proctor roads.

For more information about the Post Partum Support International group, contact Melisa Schuster at (734) 302-0033.

cmarshall@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 459-2700

Psychic readings, spa stores open

READING THE FUTURE

Susan Mitchell said she's gifted with it - the talent to read a person's past, present and future. And she isn't the only one.

"My mother did it. Her mother did it. Her mother did it... right down the line."

Mitchell recently opened Millennium Psychic Readings by Susan in downtown Plymouth. It's the third area location, according to Mitchell. She also owns shops in Trenton and Riverview.

Mitchell offers palm readings, tarot card readings, psychic readings, aura readings, crystal rock readings and a combination of the above.

"I tell the past, present and future," she said. "I don't ask for names, ages, nothing. I do all the talking. And usually when I'm done, they don't have any questions."

Palm readings are the most basic, and take about 15 minutes. Combination readings offer the most detail and may take between 40 and 50 minutes. Topics covered include love, money, health and career. Through her readings, Mitchell has even helped clients find a missing object, she said.

Prices range from \$25-\$50, or between \$65 and \$100 for multiple readings. "I'm the best at what I do," said Mitchell.

Millennium Psychic Readings by Susan is located at 896 Penniman in Plymouth. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Appointments are recommended, but some walk-ins may be accepted. Call (734) 674-7178.

SEASON FOR SPAS

All Seasons Spas, Fireplaces and More made a move across Plymouth Road recently, and has since become a superstore.

The new location includes name brand hot tubs, fireplaces, massage beds, grills, patio sets and more, at warehouse prices.

Manager Mike Scott said the move has made all the difference. The new location is bright and open, he said. It also dou-



bles as the company headquarters.

Scott, a Livonia resident, said the move was made to allow for more retail space. Its previous location was zoned industrial, which limited the space for a showroom and store.

"It's five times larger over here, which is why we made it a superstore," he said.

The store is run by experienced employees, including Scott, who has been with the company for five years; his co-manager Glen Ploch, of Westland, who has been in the business for 16 years; and merchandiser Richard Knorp of Redford, who put the store together and has been in the business for 13 years.

"It's the start of a new phase for us," said Scott. "All the stores we open will be superstores."

All Seasons also has a retail location in Howell.

"People really like the store," said Scott. "It's wide-open and bright. It's had a very positive effect on business."

And now is peak season for spa purchases. Scott said that's big-seller from March to November. Fireplaces are in demand year-round because construction never stops.

All Seasons Spas, Fireplaces and More is located at 35400 Plymouth Road in Livonia. The superstore is open to customers 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 367-6600.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.

Lessard selected to lead Livonia board of education

Livonia Public Schools Board of Education elected new officers for the 2005-2006 fiscal year at a meeting Tuesday night.

After board members Dan Lessard and Cynthia Markarian were sworn into their new four-year terms, the board voted on a president, vice president and secretary.

"I would like to take this opportunity to nominate my great friend Mr. Dan Lessard," said Trustee Tom Bailey. "I would love to see him as president."

Lessard was unanimously voted in as president, following former president Kevin Whitehead.

"I want to say thank you to my fellow board members for placing their trust in me and saying they think I can do this,"

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

he said later on that evening. "I hope I can live up to their faith and trust."

Lessard then nominated Joanne Morgan as vice president of the board.

"It is truly an honor to serve as an officer," said Morgan. "Any of the board members would've made wonderful officers."

Markarian nominated Lynda Scheel to remain in her position as secretary. Finance director Lisa Levesque will remain board treasurer.

The new officers were all unanimously voted in.

by Stephanie A. Casola

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A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: July 27, 2005
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

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THE GOLD STANDARD IN SELF STORAGE

County health officials find stray cats infected with rabies at Westland site

Nineteen people are receiving preventative treatment for rabies after coming in contact with stray cats and kittens from a property in Westland, some of which were found to be infected by the disease.

Wayne County health officials Wednesday announced that lab results from a stray kitten have confirmed that the animal was infected with rabies. A total of 10 stray kittens and cats from the Westland property in the Stacy-Wildwood area, east of Wayne Road, were euthanized, and results of tests are pending on two of those kittens.

Rabies is an almost invariably fatal disease occurring among mammals usually in the wild. Although uncommon, it can occur among domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, especially if the pets have not been vaccinated. Rabies is a viral disease that is transmitted to humans through saliva from infected animals.

County officials said that it appears area residents had adopted some of the strays and that people known to have come in contact with the animals are from Westland, Ypsilanti and St. Clair Shores, Toledo, Ohio, and Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Treatment in humans involves taking five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period.

"Rabies is an uncommon but easily treatable disease if caught early. Fortunately awareness concerning the dangers of animal bites is high and people know to seek help from their health care providers," said Anahid Kulwicki, director of the Wayne County Department of Public Health.

County and state health officials, along with Westland animal control, are closely monitoring the area where the strays lived.

Investigation into additional animal and human exposure also is continuing.

Although rare, several rabies cases are reported each year. In 2004, a total of 41 animals tested positive for rabies in Michigan, including four bats and one skunk in Wayne County.

Rabies awareness and handling animals safely can help to prevent the spread of rabies among both animals and humans. Anyone who has been bitten by any animal should wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and contact a health care professional immediately.

Rabies is most commonly found in raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, coyotes, cats and dogs. Small animals, such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils and chipmunks almost never become infected.

To help prevent the spread of rabies, residents can:

- Keep vaccinations up-to-date for all dogs, cats and ferrets.

- Keep pets under direct supervision, so they do not come in contact with wild animals.

- Call a veterinarian, if you think your pet has been bitten by another animal.

- Seek medical treatment, if you have been bitten by an animal.

- Call the local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from the neighborhood.

- Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or regularly vaccinated.

- Avoid direct contact with unfamiliar or wild animals.

- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. "Love your own, leave other animals alone" is a good principle for children to learn.

- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.

Residents can call the Wayne County Department of Public Health at (734) 727-7000.

PLACES AND FACES

Church of Rock

Come celebrate with The Church of Rock as it moves forward in its first Sunday night evening service 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, at 6500 Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland.

The Church of Rock is a youth-driven, non-denominational church born out of Club Triune, a safe haven for young music lovers. It currently meets 5-6 p.m. Saturdays to address issues that are relevant to youth and young adults, many of which traditional churches dare to tackle. Today more than ever, youth and young adults need a place where they feel loved and accepted, not based on their outer appearance. They need to feel like they belong and are not just another statistic to society.

With that in mind, The Church of Rock is growing, adding a Sunday evening service designed to provide discipleship, mentoring and a place of worship. For more information visit www.thechurchofrock.com on the Internet.

New bingo session

The Metro Wayne Democratic Club will offer a second bingo session at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, beginning Friday, Aug. 5. Door will open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be available for \$3. Call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

Gardening program

The William P. Faust Public Library will host a program on earth friendly gardening 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford.

The speakers will be garden consultants Nancy Szerlag and Jeff Ball who will cover such topics as perennial flowers for falls, mulches and compost, managing weeds without chemicals and landscape design ideas.

The program is free and sponsored by the City of Westland. To register, call (734) 467-3198 weekdays or register by e-mail at

LFDean@aol.com.

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. 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.

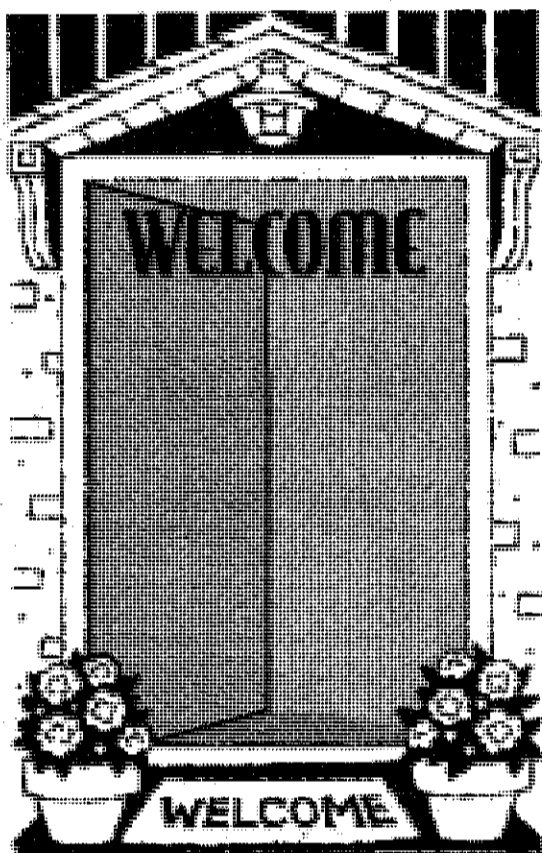
Others involved include Nancy Barrons, business sponsor from Standard Federal Bank, and St. Mary Hospital, health sponsor.

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. Call (734) 326-7222.

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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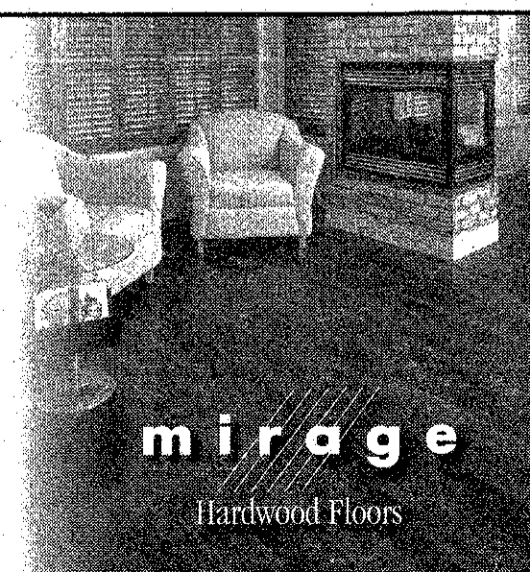
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O&E publisher receives SNA leadership award

Richard Aginian, president and publisher of the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers*, has been named winner of the 2005 Dean Leshar Award by Suburban Newspapers of America.

The Leshar Award recognizes senior level executives who have pioneered new concepts in suburban and community newspaper publishing, provided civic leadership to the communities they serve, enhanced the industry through leadership and produced outstanding newspapers. It represents a lifetime of achievement.



Aginian

"Dick was an advocate for quality journalism and the newspapers he managed were annual winners and models of the best of in our business," Charles Lyons, chief executive officer of Post-Newsweek Media, wrote in a letter of nomination. "In sales and marketing, he saw the value of network sales and played a key role in the launch of SPRING (now Greater Detroit Newspaper Network). He also diversified his business with acquisition of niche publications.

"He led one of the largest suburban newspaper operations in North America, one that has been admired and modeled by many in the industry over the years," Lyons added. "He launched one of the most successful

suburban newspaper networks in the country before it was popular to do so. He has committed countless hours to the industry and community organizations."

Aginian began his newspaper career 29 years ago, when he became treasurer of Suburban Communications Corp. One year later, he became the president and chief operating officer of suburban newspaper operations in Detroit and Cincinnati.

After many years of growth, Gannett purchased HomeTown Communications earlier this year and Aginian remains in his position under the new ownership during a transition period. At age 64, he continues to be extremely involved in the community.

"To have your name placed alongside Paul Averill, Philip Power, Dean Leshar and other giants of the suburban newspaper industry is very humbling," Aginian said. "I am honored to be in such

good company."

Aginian will receive the award at the SNA Fall Publishers and Advertising Directors Conference in Denver in September. "We are thrilled to honor Dick for his tremendous contributions to the suburban and community newspaper industry," said Nancy Lane, SNA executive director. "The competition this year was intense as the Leshar nominating committee received so many worthy candidates to consider. Dick's nomination stood out for his innovation and accomplishments over a long and prosperous career."

Headquartered in Michigan, Suburban Newspapers of America is a nonprofit trade association serving nearly 2,000 newspapers in North America. SNA represents and supports the suburban and community newspaper industry through leadership, education, promotion, research and the advancement of high standards.

RICHARD D. AGINIAN

- **Hometown:** Birmingham
- **Personal:** Married to Diane. Two daughters, Dawn and Marla.
- **Education:** Ph.B., Wayne State University; MBA, Rutgers University.
- **Professional accomplishments:** CPA; 1977-2005, president and CEO HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.; 1976-77, treasurer, Suburban Communications Corp., 1975-76, assistant to president, Falvey Motors of Troy; 1964-75 audit manager, Arthur Andersen & Co.
- **Associations (current):** 2003-present, Board of Directors, YMCA Foundation member, Investment Committee; 2001-present, Board of Directors, Certified Audit of Circulation; 2000-present, trustee, William Beaumont Hospital, member, Investment Committee, member, Audit Committee; 1999-present, executive vice chairman, 35th Ryder Cup, Oakland Hills Country Club; 1996-present, Board of Directors, Metropolitan YMCA; 1991-present, Board of Directors/trustee, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce; 1985-present, Board of Directors/trustee, Walsh College, chairman, Finance and Investment committees, member, Audit Committee; Economic Club of Detroit; Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants; American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Detroit Presidents Organization; Adcraft Club of Detroit; Oakland Hills Country Club.
- **Awards:** 2001, Paul Harris Fellow Award, Bloomfield Hills Rotary Club; 2001, Community Service Award, The Community House; 2000, Children's Coalition - Media Merry-Go-Round Award; 1998, Community Service Award, Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra; 1995, Village Players Superstar; 1995, Volunteer of the Year on behalf of The Community House in Birmingham, from the National Society Fund Raising Executives.
- **Past civic/professional involvement:** 2003, president, Oakland Hills Country Club; 1993-95 president, The Community House; 1985-86, president, Suburban Newspapers of America; 1979-84, Board of Directors, Suburban Newspapers of America; 1982-89, Board of Directors, Michigan Press Association.

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BLIGHT

FROM PAGE A1

owners to Wayne County Circuit Court - a process that often took years.

The new ordinance will give officials local control to force the cleanup of properties, allowing them to bypass circuit court.

"This provides a faster track for addressing the situation," City Attorney Angelo Plakas said.

Residents who make reports of blight to the city will have their complaints investigated by a building inspector.

Property owners considered in violation of the ordinance will be ordered to appear before an independent hearing officer, yet to be appointed by Cicirelli.

The hearing officer, who will serve on a voluntary basis and not be a city employee, will decide whether a building or surrounding property should be demolished or repaired.

The officer will set a deadline to comply with the order, although the ruling can be challenged in front of a newly revived Westland Building Board of Appeals. That board will uphold or reject the decision within 30 days.

Property owners who lose their appeal will then be required by law to complete their demolition or cleanup. Otherwise, the city will carry out the task and force the offender to pay the tab or face a property tax lien.

Property owners who ignore a ruling against them also could face 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine, because the offense is considered a misdemeanor.

Resident Jeff Unruh, who attended a council session Monday, voiced strong support for the anti-blight ordinance.

"We can make Westland a place where people want to move," he said.

The ordinance became possible after state legislators approved laws giving local municipalities more control to clean up their communities. The measure was partly intended to help Detroit prepare for such events as the 2006 Super Bowl, said Assistant City Attorney Mark McConnell.

The local ordinance will apply to residential and commercial property, alike. It will help officials not only force the demolition of buildings, but also the removal of rusted appliances, abandoned vehicles and other items that officials say are a blemish on neighborhoods.

Resident Reasther Everett questioned whether the ordinance will apply to a building that was partially built at Annapolis and Middlebelt before the owner abandoned the project.

"It's a hazard. It's a mess," she said Monday.

In response, the mayor said, "That is one of the buildings that we can put at the top of the list."

Resident Judy McKinney voiced opposition to the ordinance, saying that local officials are eroding the rights of citizens and intruding where they shouldn't.

LeBlanc, however, said he believes that most residents within a few years will view the ordinance as having led to major strides to clean up the city.

"It will make (the cleanup process) streamlined," he said, "but it won't infringe on a person's rights."

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CIRCUS

FROM PAGE A1

31, mostociolli July 29 and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy July 30. All dinners will include salad, rolls and butter.

This is the second time in three years that the circus has set up its tent at the Civic League. It was there in 2003 to present the annual installment of the Shrine Circus. This year's visit will benefit the Civic League, a nonprofit organization that provides programs for children and senior citizens.

According to Barra, Wayne-Westland Special Olympic athletes will be treated to the circus courtesy of the Civic League. The league also donated 225 tickets for ringside seating to Westland's therapeutic recreation program. The tickets are earmarked for wheelchair-bound individuals, and there will be room for 15 wheelchairs ringside at each of the performances.

"My board and I want to give back to the community as we promised when this was approved by the council," Barra said. "When we do an event like this, that's what we try to do and it's a promise we made."

Ringside seating costs \$18 for all ages. General admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children under 12. Tickets are available at the hall, online at www.wayneford.org or by calling (734) 728-5010.

The league has \$2 discount coupons available at area retailers that can be redeemed through 6 p.m. July 26. It's also offering \$3 discounts available by calling the hall for seniors age 55 and older, police officers, firefighters and individuals on active duty in the military.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Barra said.

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LIGHTNING

FROM PAGE A1

ing next to a tree that was struck," Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Riley said. "The electricity probably jumped from the tree to him."

A bystander performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the victim, who appeared unconscious before Westland paramedics arrived.

"When our guys arrived he was breathing, although he was somewhat lethargic," Riley said. "He was sitting up talking by the time he got to the hospital, but he was in severe pain."

Clinton was taken to Garden City Hospital and then to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

The incident prompted authorities to warn others not to stand near a tree when lightning is striking.

"Standing next to a tree is one of the worst places you can stand during an electrical storm," Riley said. "Anything that rises above the surface of the ground is going to attract lightning. If you're there, your body is a conductor. Typically, it hits the other object and then jumps across to you. The best place to go is

indoors."

Clinton fared better than many who come into contact with lightning, which, according to a National Weather Service Web site, kills an average of 67 Americans a year.

An analysis of lightning incidents in USA Today put the number of deaths at 73 a year and the number of injuries at 300.

A separate agency, the National Lightning Safety Institute, reported that 756 Americans died from lightning between 1990 and 2003.

Of those, 13 occurred in Michigan, which ranked 23rd among the 50 states in lightning-related deaths, according to the NLSI.

Florida had far more deaths at 126 than other states during the same period. Texas ranked second with 52 deaths.

Three states - Hawaii, Alaska and Rhode Island - reported no lightning-related deaths during the same period.

According to USA Today, the chances of being struck by lightning - whether it results in death or injury - are about one in 700,000.

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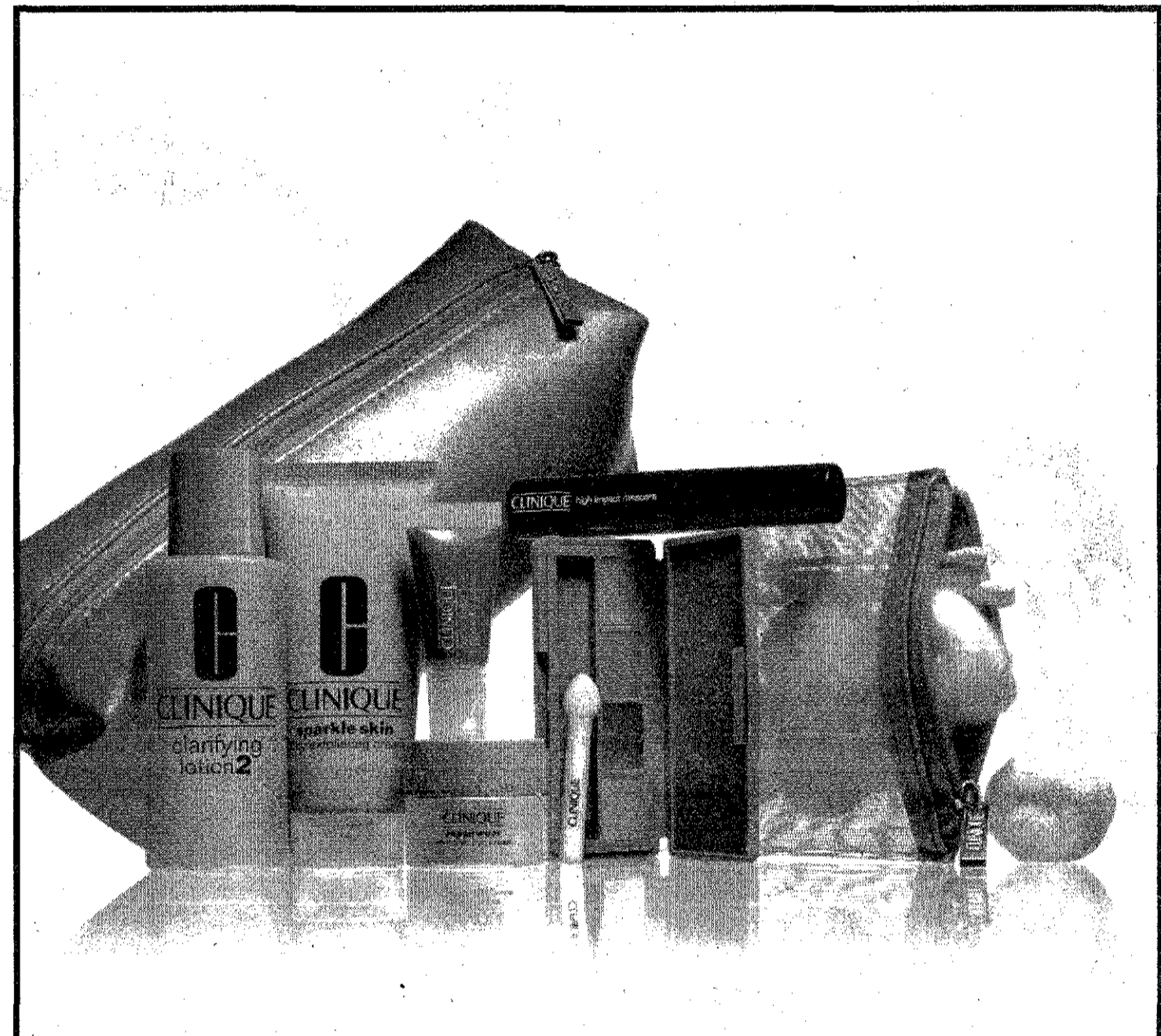
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YOUTH ASSISTANCE

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an 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.

For more information, contact Executive Director Ronaele Bowman or Deputy Director Paul Motz at (734) 467-7904, or by e-mail at yap@ci.westland.mi.us.

Named to the honor roll for the final marking period of the 2004-2005 school year at John Glenn High School were:

Jessica Abner, John Abraham, Ashley Acosta, Kyle Acuna, Ryan Acuna, Curtis Adams, Asia Agnew, Hammed Ajerunmbi, Nicholas Ajiouny, Latasha Albert, Shaun Alderton, Nazjel Alexander, Qurat Ali, Lemaritte Allen, Maria Allen, Darnell Alleyne, Tarra Anderson, Eric Arakelian, Jeremy Armstrong, Borislav Atansov, Eric Austin, Jeremiah Austin, Tia Authier.

Lashawnda Aulry, Victoria Awosika, Anita Azeta, Elizabeth Bailey, Martina Baldwin, Theresa Barnhart, Sean Barone, Linda Barrett, William Barrett, Eric Barry, Shannon Barton, Andrew Bartrum, Jacob Bee, Melissa Begarowicz, Caitlin Belisle, Navjot Benipal, Bridget Berg, Kevin Bessinger, Gregory Bevel, Stephanie Beveridge, Lindsay Bies, Jessica Biglow.

Chelsea Blake, Catherine Blanck, Alexis Bland, Patrick Blay, Kathleen Bliight, Joseph Blouse, Brittany Bojanic, Elizabeth Bomya, April Borda, Anthony Bolen, Elizabeth Bomya, Duane Bonner, April Borda, Jennifer Boris, Samantha Bosman, Kaylyn Bothell, Nathan Bou, Natalie Bower, Nicole Bower, Sarah Bowers, Zachary Bozigan, Michelle Bradshaw, James Brancheau.

Alexandra Brandt, Johanna Brandt, Melissa Braunstein, Marshae Brazier, Emily Brennan, Stephanie Brennan, Brittany Brinca, Stacey Britt, Olivia Brooks, Mallory Brosious, Brittany Brown, Tiffany Brown, Elizabeth Brozek, Mary Bruce, Cody Bryan, Amanda Buelow, James Burger, Jaclyn Burgess, Nicole Burns, Jessica Burton, Derrick Bush.

Virginia Butler, James Byberg, Alexander Cabildo, Cristina Calbajos, Garrett Camilleri, Scott Campanella, Amanda Campbell, Samantha Cannon, Ryan Carlington, Heather Caron, Amber Carver, Amber Rose Cassidy, Michael Caudill, Lorraine Caulkins, Elijah Cavender, Rebecca Ceskeski, Jonathan Celmer, Angela Cetrone, Justin Chadwick, Jeffrey Chambers.

Veronica Chambers, Shardaé Champagne, Schieffer Chapman, Brandy Chaston, Angelica Cheeks, Situniwe Chirunga, Kayce Choate, Jamel Chokr, Gary Cingel, Brandon Clark, Brent Clark, Richard Clark, Joye Clenney, Jessica Coatney, Jacquelyn Coats, Karry Coats, Eriona Coca, Kaley Coleman, Ryan Collings, Evan Collins, Sarah Collins, Julie Colon, Nicole Colon.

Anthony Colosimo, Brittany Colwell, James Compton, Sarah Conley, Nereal Connolly, Matthew Cooper, Jonathon Copland, Jennifer Corney, Kimberly Costello, Cameron Couch, Hope Cover, Christina Cox, Jeffrey Cox, Maurice Cox, Rachelle Cox, Sabrina Cristofaro, Brandon Crooks, Sharonda Crump, Ashley Curtidor, Misty Cruz, Ashley Curtidor, Richard Curylo.

Megan Danile, Lorenc Dashi, Jonathon Daugherty, Shantel Davenport, Brandon Davis, Christopher Davis, Megan Davis, Michelle Davis, Sara Davis, Andrew Dean, Jana Dean, Jonathan Dean, Megan Dean, Bruce Debruhi, Andi Dede, Joslyn DeGroot, Julia DeGroot, Jessica Delaforce, Salina Delarosa, Donald Demiri, Amy Deverich, Melanie Deview, Brisida Dhembi.

Nicole Diehl, Ermona Dino, Ashley Dobos, Chantel Doe, Amanda Doherty, Latifah Donald, Justin Dorosh, Jennifer Dotson, Amber Downing, Kayla Downing, Ryan Downs, Sarah Drum, Melissa Dudash, Jessica Duncan, Jonathan Dunn, Kristin Dutchak, Jessica Dwyer, Jerin Eapen, George Easter, Jessica Easter, Justine Easter, Kathryn Eby, Amber Edens.

Matthew Edwards, Laura Eiben, Brandon Eldred, Hillary Emmons, Vernon Emmons, Heather Ennis, Ashlee Erickson, Jill Erickson, Mary Erwin, Michelle Erwin, David Espinoza, Matthew Espy, Marilyn Estrada, Amber Evans, Nicole Eckiel, Daniel Fabrey, Natasha Falkiewicz, Corey Farris, Amanda Femat, Hilary Fenton, Jonathon Fenton, Joseph Ferguson.

Amber Fernetz, James Fisher, Kacy Fisher, Chelsie Fitt, Collin Fleissner, Marissa Flores, Jasmine Flowers, Zina Flowers, Casandra Floyd, Taah-Shee Foster, Karyn Fowler, Zachary Franka, Dana Fraser, Melissa Frederick, Nicholas Freeman, Aaron Freese, Roy Frettenborough, Kory Frost, Jacory Frowner, Allison Ggern, Amanda Gagern, Jennifer Galindo.

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Michael Gardner, Jaqueline Garrett, Amy Garrow, Ashley Gatesy, Táira Gee, Gordon German, Kayla German, Rachael German, Ryan Gibbs, Jonathan Gillis, Justin Girard, Rowdy Glasgow, Canensha Glaze, Ashley Glenn, Love Goba, Dayna Goldstron, Freddy Gonzalez, Jessica Grabowski.

Sara Grabowski, Kevin Graham, Ryan Graham, Whitney Graham, James Gramm, Jasmine Granberry, Brett Green, Solomon Greene, Corey Griffin, Scott Griwicki, Heather Groves, Deanna Gruich, Eric Grzyb, Jamie Guidot, Jeffrey Guidot, Cathy Guinn, Jessica Gunn, Danielle Gunther, Michelle Gutowski, Andrew Haarer, Robert Haarer, Danielle Haase.

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Gretchen Heinicke, Amanda Helton, Lisa Hengesbaugh, Bryan Henley, Thomas Henley, Brandon Henry, Jonathan Henry, Michael Hensel, Matthew Hensley, Tiffany Hensley, Sarah Herbert, Michael Hicks, Erica Hickson, Alicia Hill, Matthew Hill, Nicole Hill, Theodore Hill, Shawnta Himon, Derika Hinkle, Alisha Hitchcock, Amber Hitchcock, Lindsay Hoff.

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Dessislava Tzankova, Angela Uhlian, Megan Ulch, Tiffany Underwood, Alexander Valentine, Jennifer Vanderklipp, Michael Vandusen, Bryan Vantoll, Jessica Vantoll, Jessica Vaughn, Krista Vella, Glna Veittrano, Bianca Wade, Ryan Wakeford, Geoffrey Walchak, Stephanie Waldon, Gary Walker, Kariye Walker, Malika Walker, Megan Walker, Patrick Wall.

Samantha Walling, Samantha Ward, Jeffrey Warner, Tarrick Warra, Alfred Washington, Chelsea Weaver, Megan Weaver, Robert Weck, Marika Wegiel, Rebecca Wejroch, Seth Welty, Renee White, Theresa White, Jordan Whitlow, Nicole Whitney, Jonathon Whitt, Lauren Whitt, Amber Widmer, Lyndsay Wietcha, Kristen Wildt, Tanya Wildt, Christine Williams.

Deandre Williams, Dovona Williams, Jessica Williams, Samuel Williams, Tarnieca Williams, Alison Wilmoth, Tess Wilmoth, Joshua Wilson, Bradley Wilton, Nicole Winekoff, William Wood, Charles Woodford, Brandon Worthington, Siccarra Wright, Dazia Wynn, Casey York, Chelsey Young, Jamie Young, Shavaughn Young, Tonya Zahodne, Rebecca Zarbaugh, Michelle Zenner and Jennifer Zuccaro.



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Comics help with 'Hilarity for Charity' Eminem bricks going fast, global

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

St. Aloysius Church on Washington Boulevard in Detroit is an imposing presence downtown.

But the church, established in 1873, is more than just a beautiful building. It has an active Outreach Ministry providing to the city's poorest residents.

When Dr. Gregory Elliott, a Livonia dentist with a practice in Farmington Hills, and his son, Patrick, a sophomore at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, learned of the church's many needs they decided they had to do something about it.

"My father and I met with Father Mark Soehner at St. Aloysius," Patrick Elliott said. "We knew they were having troubles and it takes a lot of money to keep up the programs. We had lunch with Father Mark, told him what we wanted to do and he liked the idea."

St. Aloysius Outreach Ministry, directed by Kathleen Lynch, provides rent and utility assistance, sandwiches and coffee, clothing and hygiene kits, blood pressure screening and health advocacy and referrals for substance abuse and medical assistance.

The idea was to put on a show, Hilarity For Charity, featuring a night of stand-up comedy.

The show is 8 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Tickets are \$50 and available at the Summit on the Park and by telephone at (734)394-5460.

It was a natural as Patrick's uncle Jerry Elliott had traveled the country for 15 years as a stand-up comedian and is now



Patrick Elliott, a sophomore at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is learning a lot about promoting a charity event by working on Hilarity for Charity to benefit downtown Detroit's St. Aloysius.

the co-host of the Wags & Elliott Morning Show on WLWQ radio in Columbus, Ohio.

The show is a family affair. Dr. Elliott is a sponsor as is Display Max, a business owned by Patrick's aunt and uncle. Patrick is handling the promotion. Jerry Elliott will be the emcee. Patrick's cousin Joshua Sobeck, 12, will play piano from 7 to 8 p.m.

Headliners for the program will be Al April, dubbed the Abe Lincoln of Comedy for his comedic wisdom, and Paul Kelly, a noted storyteller. April became known for doing on-flight comedy for Continental Airlines, has appeared at several Detroit Clubs and has performed with his friend Tim Allen on Allen's sitcom *Home Improvement*. Kelly has appeared on Oprah Winfrey's show, Comedy Central and Showtime's Comedy Club Network. The Chicago comic is

the WGN Comedy Bowl champion.

Don't expect any raunchy routines.

"The show will be family friendly. We were very clear about that with the comedians. It's for charity and we want to keep it clean," Patrick said.

Patrick, who is a pre-med student, is considering either following his father into dentistry or pursuing a medical degree. This is his first big charity project.

"I've done little things like community service and the Crop Walk, but this is the first time for something like this. I'm learning a lot, there are a lot of small details," Patrick said.

He is hoping to raise \$20,000 from the event.

"In addition to raising money, people are exposed to a good cause. It's designed to show people what they're all about," he said.

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Fans of rap superstar Eminem better hurry if they want to be part of a select group who own Eight Mile bricks signed exclusively by the entertainer.

Tami Salsbury, executive director of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, said 19 bricks that have been sold on the Web auction site eBay, raising more than \$4,000 so far for the organization and Eminem's own charity.

"I shipped one to Hiroshima, Japan, and another to Toronto," she said. "It's had international interest."

Plenty of winning bids have come from Michigan and other states, noted Salsbury.

The bricks have been auctioned, three at a time, on eBay every Tuesday and stay on the

block for seven days. The last set of bricks will be available starting July 26. A total of 30 bricks were signed by the rapper.

Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, agreed to help the Eight Mile Boulevard Association last spring by signing the sealed bricks that came from the torn down Artillery Army along Eight Mile near Greenfield.

The idea originated from Farmington Hills City Councilman Barry Brickner, who is also the chairman of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association. Half of the proceeds will go to Eminem's own charity that helps troubled youth. The rest will benefit the association's efforts to promote business and beautify the corridor.

Brickner said since Eminem introduced the world to Eight Mile with his semi-autobiographical hit movie of the same

name, it was a fitting way to help the nonprofit association's good deeds.

Some of the bricks are signed "Marshall" while others are signed "Shady," part of Eminem's other stage name, "The Real Slim Shady." He also wrote "Save 8 Mile!" on each brick.

Salsbury said the highest bid, so far for one of the bricks has been \$536, while the average winning bids has been just over \$200. Each brick comes with a DVD copy of the movie *8 Mile*.

"It's thrilling to see the bidding going on," said Salsbury. "It starts at \$100 but on the last day, the bidding gets hot."

Once the last brick is bid away, Salsbury said she hopes to host a check-passing ceremony in person with Eminem while he's in town performing at Comerica Park next month.

COOPER

FROM PAGE A1

project.

"We're excited about the future of the property," Livonia school Superintendent Randy Liepa said. "This is a really big day for us."

Seven air-monitoring stations were placed on or near the Cooper property to test dust particles during the demolition project. Work crews sprayed water continuously to control dust as they ripped apart the former school.

"They're using a lot of water. That's good," said Paul Owens, an on-site environmental quality analyst with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "So far, I've been impressed with the leadership and the way the project has been handled."

Former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who has worked with local officials to spearhead the project, said public safety has been the top priority on the 37-acre site. He predicted the demolition will be finished by early August.

Razing the building became increasingly urgent after vandals broke into the boarded-up school and set two fires during the last two years, Kirksey said.

Local officials feared another fire or, even worse, that vandals could become trapped inside the school as it burned.

Jonna Companies will have to await further environmental tests before deciding how to proceed with preparing the site for new development, Cicirelli said. The school district has received a \$1.3 million state grant that will pay for demolition when combined with a \$1 million state loan that the city is expected to receive.

Cooper School opened in 1965 and was closed in 1991 amid the contamination scare. During the demolition, Owens said, the site is being tested for some of those contaminants, including lead and cadmium.

Local leaders scheduled the razing this summer so that classes wouldn't be in session at the newer Cooper School, directly across Ann Arbor Trail.

The demolition was welcomed by Westland City Councilwoman Cheryl

Graunstadt, who helped start a community group in 1991 that probed into Cooper School issues. The group was called CHECK, or Concerned for the Health and Environment of Our Community's Kids.

"I am pleased that the building is being demolished," said Graunstadt, a former PTA member whose three daughters attended Cooper. "I do believe that it has been an eyesore for a long time in the community."

"I look forward to redevelopment in the area," she added. "I still have reservations about the housing component to the redevelopment, but I'll wait and see as more information becomes available."

On Monday, Kirksey said it's difficult to predict when new construction could begin, although officials are more optimistic than ever that the site will finally be developed.

Jonna Companies is working with the school district to buy the property. Liepa said the two sides are working on a purchase agreement in the \$500,000 range.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Election shall be held in the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., at which Special Election there will be submitted to vote of the qualified electors of the City the following proposition:

PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2000, shall Wayne County continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2005 rollback rate of 2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2006 through 2010) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for Parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$11,879,207 in 2006.

YES
NO

All qualified and registered electors of the City may vote on the above proposition.
I, **RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ**, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of May 25, 2005 the total of all voted increases in excess of the Constitutional fifteen mill tax rate limitation and the years such increases are effective are as follows affecting the taxable property of Wayne County:

WAYNE COUNTY

Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	08/08/2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency	08/06/1974 11/08/1988 08/06/2002	1 mill 1 mill 1.5 mills	2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	08/06/2002	1 mill	2005 thru 2010
Wayne County Parks	08/08/2000	0.25 mills	2005
Wayne County Comm College	11/06/2001	1.5 mills	2005 thru 2010
OTHER TAXING AUTHORITIES			
Schoolcraft Comm College	10/07/1985	.05 mills	Unlimited
GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS			
Garden City Schools	08/08/2000 06/11/2001 06/10/2002 06/10/2002	1 mill 3.1 mills 18 mills 2 mills	2005 thru 2011 2005 thru (not to exceed 30 years) 2005 thru 2012 2005 thru 2012

The places of voting for the Special Election to be held on August 2, 2005 will be as follows:

Precinct 1	Farmington School 33411 Marquette
Precinct 2	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 3	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 4	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 5	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 6	Garden City Middle School 1851 Radcliff
Precinct 7	Maplewood Center 31735 Maplewood
Precinct 8	Henry Ruff School 30300 Maplewood
Precinct 9	Civic Center 6000 Middlebelt
Precinct 10	Douglas School 6400 Hartel

All polling places are handicapper accessible. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's Office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, August 1, 2005, to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, July 30, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

ALLYSON BETTIS, City Clerk,
City of Garden City

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OUR VIEWS

Keep shortage an arm's length away

Medical officials are worried, and you should be, too. The American Red Cross is reporting that hospitals in southeastern Michigan are delaying surgeries, due to a critical shortage in the blood supply. So serious is it, that a state of emergency has been declared.

That shortage ought not be just a cause for worry, but a call to action. After all, there's only one way to resolve the shortage.

"We only get it from one source, and that's you," said Marie Mangus, spokeswoman for the Red Cross.

The situation is serious, she said. It's not a threat when she points out that, at some point, you or a relative or friend will likely need a blood transfusion. It's reality. If blood's not on the shelf, you could have a problem.

Mangus issued what amounts to a call to arms — yours. She had an interesting concept about the blood supply, saying that what we consider something very much our own belongs to the public, with the Red Cross being a conduit for distribution.

Once again we return to the village concept, whether it is raising a child, feeding the hungry or taking just one hour to sustain a life.

The problem is, less than 5 percent of those of us who are eligible actually donate blood. That has to change.

Summer is perennially a time when blood is in short supply, largely due to the vacation season. This year, the shortage started the week before Memorial Day. The actual emergency began July 5, the day after the holiday.

At one point last week, there was less than a day's supply of certain blood types to meet the area's need.

Enough talk, get busy. There are blood drives ongoing throughout southeastern Michigan. Those who are looking for a blood drive in their own community can visit www.givelife.org, or call (800) GIVE-LIFE.

There's an old saying that has been applied to driving habits, but it is more than appropriate to consider for those who are wavering over whether to donate blood: The life you save could be your own.

Parks millage deserves renewal

The Hines Park System is a treasure of western Wayne County. The county park, which runs from Dearborn to Northville, provides an oasis in our urban environment for bicycling, walking, soccer, baseball, nature studies and numerous special events from the annual Lightfest to the recently celebrated Mud Day.

On Tuesday, Aug. 2, voters will be asked to renew a 0.25-mill tax (less than \$20 a year for most homeowners) to improve and maintain the county parks system. We support this request.

Before the millage was first passed in the late 1990s, the parks system had fallen into disrepair. The money raised through the millage for capital improvements and maintenance has helped toward restoring Hines, Elizabeth Park on the Detroit River in Trenton and the historically significant Fort Wayne. Funds have also been used for local community projects, including \$400,000 for the Cherry Hill Village Theatre in Canton.

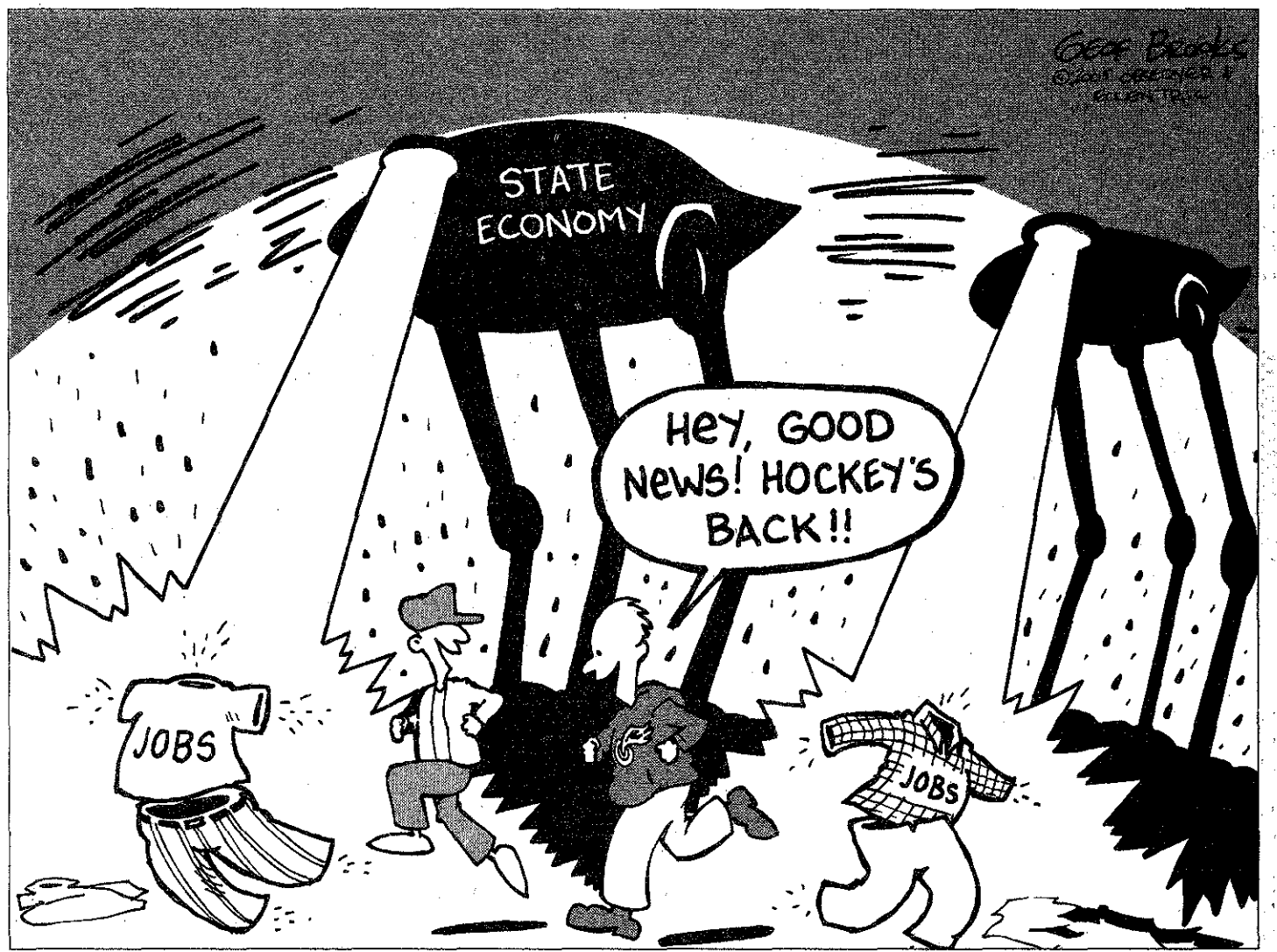
We share concerns about the timing of the election. Many local communities do not have an Aug. 2 primary. Detroit, which is expected to heavily favor the millage, has a hotly contested mayoral election. The timing seems to suggest a stealth attempt to win support. But, practically, the Aug. 2 date also gives the county an opportunity to return to voters and make its case again if the millage fails.

More importantly, we share concerns about the process used for funding local projects. The primary purpose of the millage is to fund the county park system, but commissioners have campaigned for local project funding. Suburban leaders complain that they haven't gotten a good return on local tax dollars in these allocations.

We support efforts by the administration of county Executive Robert Ficano to create a more equitable system for selecting projects through a special committee. We urge the county commission to back this effort.

We do not support a state House proposal by Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, mandating a 50-percent return on tax dollars to local communities. This is bad public policy, would threaten adequate funding for the county park system and would set a dangerous precedent for other county and regional taxes.

We recommend a **YES** vote on the county parks renewal millage.



LETTERS

Keep lake shores accessible

The Michigan Supreme Court will review a case this summer determining what part of the beach front property owner controls. The argument for the land owner is to block all access and maintain privacy and control over the beach in front of their property. The opposing argument is to allow access to the water and part of the beach for all citizens.

The issue is about personal liberty and whether it is given or taken away, whether we are part of a responsible society, accepting and tolerant of one another or whether money can buy exclusivity and inhibit all citizens from their freedom to pass undeterred along public property. I refer to the beach as public property in which any environmental or industrial accident of the beach would be the responsibility of the government to repair and regulate.

Conservatives have a huge problem here. If this were a matter of principles, then they have competing constituents supporting on both sides. An ordinary citizen would have freedom to access the beach and it is part of the public domain.

If the property belonged to a business, then the business would be able to block any individual from entering the property without paying some money to the business. If the property was treated like personal information, then anyone will have access to it, especially if one could make money from using the beach except for a White House committee determining government policy which could close the beach even if it threatened the public.

And now we have the Supreme Court ruling that any development group which promises to increase tax revenue to a government entity can take the property from those not willing to relinquish ownership. This ruling is based not on what the citizens want, but whether revenues will be increased.

The difficulty is which end of the spectrum of personal liberty the conservatives want to protect on which issue. We just can't be sure which way the conservatives will flip-flop on this issue.

Sometimes it is a matter of principle, but more often than not with the current conservatives, it is a matter of who has the largest checkbook.

Liberals are united on this issue. The United States is responsible for the water and lakes in this country and any citizen within this country should be allowed to enjoy and protect the beach. They truly would like the freedom to travel the beach everywhere.

Conservatives have to decide which special interest group they want to support today or maybe where the money comes from tomorrow. If the Supreme Court votes in favor of the property owner then this state, Michigan, also may have to change the motto to "private inaccessible Great Lakes state."

No matter what decision conservatives decide, it will be a flip-flop. Let's hope they vote for the position of freedom to access public property. There are things that America stands for and can't be bought. That is consistently American. Remember "this land is your land."

Allan Biber
Westland

Communists and bad wigs

I looked forward with great anticipation to renewing my subscription to your paper after stopping delivery more than a year ago because of wasted space that you devoted to asinine points of view by certain contributors. However, my distaste was rekindled when the very first issue that I received contained a letter to the editor by that confounded and confused Mr. Goodbred.

After not giving him a second thought for months, his letter about greedy teachers reinforced my long held, and thankfully forgotten, belief that you should print his letters under a special section titled "Joke of the Day."

Apparently, teachers are not supposed to feel the thrill and excitement that comes with being part of a free market economy which he so vehemently has supported in the past. We are not supposed to desire sufficient compensation for our educational investment and hard work that is comparable to any other certified profession.

If I read his letter between the lines, which is no easy thing to do for such a crooked and slanted piece of writing, it seems that educators are supposed to be in the business simply for the love of the job — each according to his abilities for the good of the children and society. It's as if we don't have families to raise, bills to pay and mortgages to deal with like everybody else.

I don't know if anybody else can "read" you like I do, Mr. Goodbred, but I clearly see through your disguise. You are a communist in drag with a bad wig on. Why don't you come out of the closet and stop being so grumpy about your condition? Society has changed quite a bit, and we are now more accepting of your type than ever before.

Better yet, why don't you move to Canada and find a lifelong sparring partner? Socialist liaisons are now legal in that country in case you haven't heard.

John Byk
Garden City

Teacher criticism unfair

Where is the padding? From Neil Goodbred's letter ("Why pad teachers' pockets," July 14), I figured that I should be spending my summer counting the money from my padded pockets.

But, alas, I am too busy improving myself as a teacher. I am so very tired of hearing complaints about teachers and how we don't deserve the money that we earn and should not be able to seek salaries to match with our professional counterparts in other fields.

All school-year long, I watch my colleagues work their hardest with professional grace and true passion. We do our jobs well because we care deeply about the children whose lives we touch.

But please understand. Gone are the days where the work of a teacher ends when the bell rings on the last day of school. Summers for teachers are not spent vacationing.

Rather, they are spent in countless workshops to learn new technology in the attempt to keep abreast of the newest innovations, to hone in on methods which will increase reading comprehension, to learn ways to maximize the mathematical potential of students, writing and rewriting new curriculum to

meet the revised grade level expectations, and to obtain the newly required additional college credit course work beyond a master's degree.

I suppose that this must be where all of my padding is going. All of the course work and classes required for teacher to take comes out of the teachers' pockets. All teachers.

Mr. Goodbred's comments suggest, "Any teacher who maintained that he could be a better instructor were he to receive a pay raise did not belong in the classroom in the first place." I wonder what would happen to the profession of doctor or lawyer or to a CEO if suddenly they were given the salary of a teacher and were forced to participate in marches, speeches or conclaves to effect greater spending on their own behalf.

I would pay to see that with the last pennies from my so-called padded pockets.

Jill Blazis-Sloan
Rochester

Repeating history

It is unusual that President Bush, having graduated from Yale, shows little knowledge of history. After this (month's) bombings in London, both Tony Blair and President Bush made speeches stating that terrorism never succeeds.

History, however, tells a different story. Israel forced the British out of Palestine by using terror. The Russians killed every member of the Czar's family to establish communism. The Russians were forced out of Afghanistan by terrorism.

Now let us examine history in regards to conquering other lands and forcing their ways on others. It did not succeed for Napoleon, for Hitler, for Stalin and colonialism as a whole. History has a way of repeating itself.

We now have billions of Muslims fighting a holy war as in the crusades. Our country's actions have exacerbated the ill feelings toward all who are not Muslim. There was a line in the movie *Tora, Tora, Tora* after Japan hit Pearl Harbor, "I fear we have awoken a sleeping giant." The invasion of Iraq may have the same effect on the Muslim world.

Robert Leaf
Farmington Hills

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

QUOTABLE

"This is totally beyond my comprehension. This day will go down in history for me. It changed my life."

— Marion Dee Terwilliger, about moving to a Westland assisted-living center, American House III, and after having a motorized scooter given to him

Our nation must get serious about alternative fuel source

The last time I filled up, I paid \$2.49 a gallon for regular gas.

Sound familiar?

We better get used to it. The price for a barrel of crude oil on the futures exchange is hovering around \$60, a record. To put that in perspective, it was a mere \$22 only three years ago.

Who knows what the price of gas will be this time next year? I wouldn't be surprised if it were closer to \$3.50 than \$2.50. But, regardless, one thing is clear: The price of oil is not likely to come down in the foreseeable future.

The reason why is no mystery — though it may not be what you think. Economics 101 teaches that prices reflect the intersection of supply and demand. If you consider only the surging economies of China and India, you have a pretty good idea of what's happening to demand. China, for example, has become the world's second largest importer of oil (after ... guess who?), and now accounts for 40 percent of the demand for petroleum on this planet.

And U.S. demand for oil continues to increase, of course.

As to supply, it's fragile. We all know about how unstable Saudi Arabia and Iraq are and how much the terrorists would like to destabilize oil production throughout the Middle East.

The climate is uneasy in Nigeria, and Venezuela President Hugo Chavez is talking loudly about cutting the U.S. off the export list.

We're pretty much out of oil in the continental U.S. (drilling in the wildlife refuge north of the Brooks Range in Alaska won't amount to much), while extracting oil inexpensively from the oil sands in Alberta is some years and some new technology away.

So what happens next summer if the price of gas at the pump gets to something like \$3.50 a gallon? General Motors and Ford are in deep trouble. The high profit parts of their product lines are gas-guzzling SUVs, and if the price of gas goes that high, it's likely demand for them will fall off, big-time.

Now for the good news: Fortunately, there is something that can be done. It's called a sensible, non-oil based energy policy. Unfortunately, it's something about which the Bush administration, with its close ties to the oil industry, has done essentially nothing.

So it's interesting that Tim Leuliette, head of Metaldyne Corp., a local (Plymouth-based) auto parts supplier, is calling for a serious national effort to convert 80 percent of U.S. vehicles to hydrogen fuel by 2020. He wants to finance the effort through a 10-cent per-gallon tax on gas beginning in 2008, rising by 10 cents each year through 2012, raising \$160 billion.

Leuliette is one of the smartest folks in the auto industry around here, and he's not afraid to make his point in blunt terms.

In a speech he gave in January to the Automotive News World Congress, he called President Bush's \$1.2 billion Hydrogen Fuel Initiative "a token gesture."

"The conversion to hydrogen offers all of us a golden opportunity to assess who is with us and who is not. The solution will not come from Washington ... but enabling legislation and the money will. This is more important than sending a man to Mars, and it's more important than subsidizing tobacco farmers ... than particle beam weapons ... (and) than the \$15 billion Big Dig in Boston."

Tough stuff. And very, very good stuff. Leuliette next wants to pull together key leaders from the auto, energy and finance industries this September to hammer out a coherent policy and put pressure on Washington.

That won't be easy. The auto industry is going through very tough times just now, and most are concentrated on short-term survival. And neither Congress nor the White House seems to be very interested in attending to the long-term interests of the country.

I should know, because a few years ago with a friend, Paul Dimond, I tried to do much the same thing ... without success. We figured it was time to do something to mark the fact that our own John Dingell was celebrating a milestone anniversary as a member of Congress. We figured a big-time research effort to accelerate the conversion of automobile power trains to hydrogen was important, and we proposed a joint government and auto industry laboratory be set up at the University of Michigan to get on with it.

Although he made clear he didn't want his name on it, Dingell was helpful, and U-M was interested. We had several meetings with representatives of the Big Three.

But, frankly, it was like wading through molasses. The auto companies, while never saying explicitly they didn't like the idea, made it clear they had other priorities — like short-term survival.

So we finally gave up. Leuliette's got a rough ride ahead of him. Obviously, there are intrinsic problems with making hydrogen into the main fuel source for cars: How to generate the hydrogen in the first place? How to distribute and store it? How to use it safely and efficiently in a car?

But these are engineering and technical questions for which answers presumably can be found. Issues that require political will and risk-taking, both in the auto industry and in Washington, are often far more serious problems.

Maybe if gas gets to \$3.50 a gallon, our nation's leaders will hear the people squawking and actually do something. Maybe. But meanwhile, I'll be rooting for Tim Leuliette, and I hope you will be, too.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Laptop donors really help boost morale of U.S. troops overseas

The old fogey in me remembers typing news stories on an electric typewriter when I started in this business. We got our info from visiting news sources, calling them by phone or getting mailed or hand-delivered press releases. That's it. There weren't even fax machines yet.

Today, we still go to news scenes and use the telephone, but we're so totally dependent on these computers and keyboards that it's frightening. I'm sure it's like that in every other business, but the fact hit me like a hard drive in the head Monday when our e-mail was down for most of the day.

"I feel like I lost my right arm," one of our 20-something reporters groaned. Even those of us a bit older agreed; this communication thing is really tough without the modern tools of communication.

Jim Payne, a dentist who lives in Livonia, knows all about the value of those modern tools of communication. His nonprofit JDS Computers takes discarded computers — desktops or laptops — and reconditions them and gives them away to people in need. The group, with two other co-founders and a dozen other volunteers, has provided them for senior centers and inner-city schools and churches.

Most recently, he's been fixing up laptops and sending them to troops serving overseas. JDS was featured in a story in the *Observer* in April and, after that ran, I donated my failed laptop that had been stuck in my car trunk supposedly on its way to a hazardous waste day.

Payne told me at that time about some of the heart-felt thank you notes he'd been getting from U.S. soldiers who were using the computers to e-mail their family and friends back in the states. The messages talked of the improved morale and many offered blessings for the effort.

"Thank you for the computers," wrote Spc. Kristofer Jacobson in an e-mail. "They will get lots of service and bring some morale to the troops of A Co 50th. Knowing that they have a place to come to and unwind being able to talk to loved ones or check e-mail makes life away just a little easier."

In April, Pfc. Michael Santillanez of the 250th Signal Battalion in Tikrit, Iraq, wrote: "Receiving a letter in the mail is wonderful, but seeing your loved ones in real time is a blessing. Your gift is a great reflection of America supporting its soldiers in all we do."

U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Owen wrote on June 3, in part: "Nobody realizes the importance of staying in constant communication



An unidentified serviceman uses one of the donated laptops sent to Iraq by JDS Computers, a nonprofit group that refurbishes them.

with your loved ones until you're placed in a situation like ours. Once again, I would like to offer my thanks for such a gift."

Payne said this week that the 151 laptops he'd shipped were being used by 1,500 to 2,300 troops from Iraq to Afghanistan. One photo sent back shows laptops donated by Valassis Corp. in Livonia set up in the basement of one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Mosul.

Just recently, though, Payne said he'd run out of laptops to donate.

He's looking for help. Laptops with at least a Pentium II system are being sought. Each will be wiped clean of all previous information, rebuilt and run through a series of tests to ensure they work properly before they're sent on. Donors may check out the Web site at www.JDSComputers.net/firms.com or call Jim at (734) 591-1559.

No matter how you feel about the reasons for the war on terror we're waging across the globe, I can't imagine anyone not feeling a sense of concern for our young men and women stuck there facing the daily dangers and wanting, if you could, to play a small role in helping ease that burden.

Does anyone else remember (and here, again, I'm talking to the fellow old fogey among us) back when recycling was new and we were told we were doing something good for the environment? Even though all I did was donate a computer (it's Payne and his group that are doing all the work!), I still got that same satisfied feeling when I read these soldiers' appreciation for using these modern tools of communication to reconnect with friends and family.

You've got to love, by the way, how a dentist with the name of Payne is helping to relieve just a bit of the pain and heartache for our service people overseas.

Dave Varga is editor of the *Livonia Observer* and *Redford Observer*. He can be reached at (734) 953-2119 or dvarga@oe.homecomm.net.



Dave Varga

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