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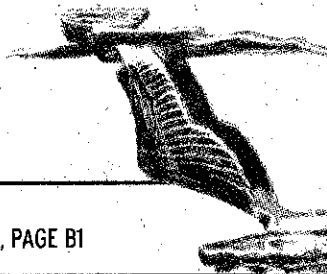
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Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance

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Learn more about VoIP services, Yahoo's music store - AT HOME, PAGE B1



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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carol Pacheco of Farmington Hills and Westlanders Lizzie Raickovich, mother Helen Raickovich and sister Kasey Raickovich of Ms. Helen's Westland Dance leave Johnny Carino's, wearing their customized Restaurant Rally T-shirts.

Seeing yellow

Chamber's Restaurant Rally draws people from far and near

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

They came in all modes of transportation - by foot, by bus, by car and van - all with one thing in mind - to eat.

And eat they did at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's second annual Restaurant Rally Tuesday evening. Four hundred sixty-five yellow-shirted fans of food paid \$20 each to sample their way through 10 restaurants around the city.

"This has exceeded all of our expectations," said chamber President and CEO Lori Brist. "The response was unbelievable. We only turned away eight people and I think we could have easily hit 500. People already are calling for T-shirts for next year."

Sitting in a booth at Longhorn's Steakhouse, Jim Russell had a word to the wise for fellow members of the



Livonia Pinochle Club members Jim and Doris Meadows (from left, clockwise), Bernice LeMaitre and Jim Russell fill their plates at the Longhorn Steakhouse.

Police look for suspects in shooting

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

An Ypsilanti man was shot Saturday night outside of a Westland apartment where police said they found drugs.

James Burleson, 25, was shot in the hip and left leg about 10:15 p.m. Saturday at Venoy Pines, an apartment complex on the southwest corner of Warren and Venoy, police Sgt. Chris Benson said.

Burleson was treated at Garden City Hospital and then moved to an undisclosed hospital, where he was recovering Wednesday.

"He claimed he was visiting to make peace with someone on someone else's behalf. However, we ended up recovering narcotics from the apartment," Benson said.

Authorities had made little headway in finding a suspect, saying witnesses have been uncooperative.

"The victim said he couldn't identify anyone," Benson said.

Burleson was shot twice with a small-caliber handgun. He fled the scene and sought help at the BP gas station on the Garden City side of the Venoy-Warren intersection.

"An unknown person there called 911," Benson said.

Police hadn't identified a shooting suspect as of Wednesday, and other details of what happened remained sketchy.

"We do not know" who shot the victim, Benson said. "There was no one that said who positively did it. We have suspects, and we are continuing the investigation."

dclem@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

Shoppers welcome Target expansion

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Customers outside of the Westland Target store welcomed news Monday that one of their favorite shopping spots will undergo significant growth.

Canton nanny Catherine Long, with baby Kaitlin McCreddie in tow, said she shops at the Westland and Canton stores.

"It's my favorite store. I would like to see a bigger Target," she said. "I like the idea of having more of a selection."

Dave Riley, a Livonia father of three, said his wife, Rebecca, often shops at Target, although he was on his own Monday with daughter Kerigan, 10, and sons Connor, 5, and Griffin, almost 8.

"My wife will be happy to hear that," Riley said of Target's

PLEASE SEE TARGET, A6

Intervention program lets children PASS on at-risk behavior

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

An early intervention program aimed at stopping youngsters from developing at-risk behaviors will be offered at the Garden City Family Resource Center beginning in September.

In a partnership with Westland and Wayne, Garden City has received a \$30,000 Prevention Action Service System grant from Wayne County to fund the program aimed at 7-to-12-year-olds. "This is a prevention specific

program - there is really a need," said Garden City Family Resource Director Monica Fulton. "Youth Assistance is designed to address at-risk behaviors. This is prevention - to keep kids from developing at-risk behaviors."

Unlike Youth Assistance, which is for families of youths ages 7-16 who are exhibiting behavior problems, the PASS grant program will work on stopping the problems before they get to the point of needing a Youth Assistance referral.

"I think it will help a lot, because

we're seeing kids at younger ages getting into trouble and making poor choices," said Westland Youth Assistance Program Director Ronaele Bowman. "We're also seeing a lot of kids exhibit anger at earlier ages than I've ever seen before. That will be a big part of the program - anger management and decision-making skills."

Referrals can come from a variety of sources.

"Anyone can make a referral to the program. If the parents feel they need some extra help, the schools or police,"

said Garden City Parks Director Patricia McKarge.

The program will be offered in two seven-week sessions from September through December. Topics addressed will be flexible and can include decision making about cigarette smoking, alcohol and drugs, improving social skills or healthy eating.

"Each group will have its own set of priorities based on the needs of the children. That's what is so neat about the program," said McKarge. "The kids know what their needs are. If you listen

to them, you can help them."

Due to the county funding, the program is open to youngsters in western Wayne County although Fulton expects most to come from Garden City, Westland and Wayne.

Families who feel they could benefit from the program can sign up at (734) 793-1860. Fulton expects interviews and registration will be done in mid- to late August to be ready for the first session in September.

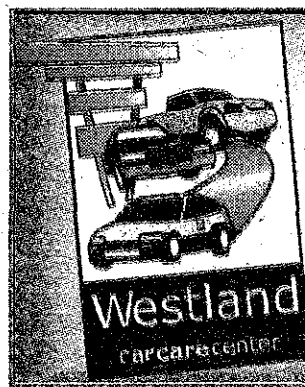
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Coming Sunday
on the PINK Page



Author
Meghan
Cleary's
Celebrity
PINK Picks!

Hospital foundation takes info to Internet

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Garden City Hospital Foundation is on a hunt for e-mail addresses and it has nothing to do with money.

The foundation is looking for people to sign up for its new electronic newsletter that provides "health care news you can use," said Daniel Moore, the foundation's executive director.

"It's one way of expressing to the community our need for their support, so we can remain their viable community hospital in western Wayne County," Moore said. "It'll help us grow and help Garden City Hospital with exposure in the metropolitan Detroit area."

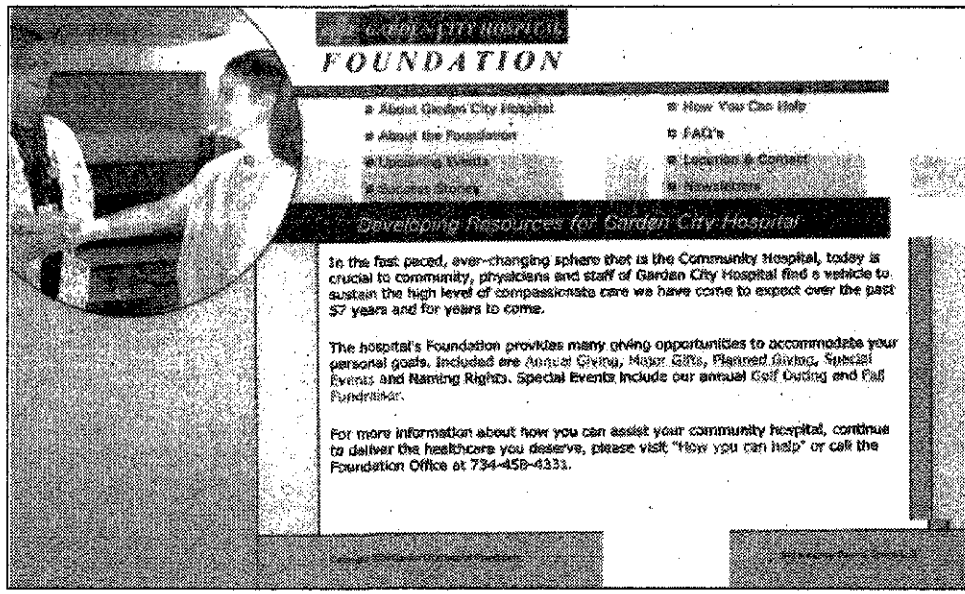
Garden City, Westland and Dearborn Heights make up Garden City Hospital's primary service area.

The Web site — www.gchfoundation.org — took six to seven months to develop. It includes information about the hospital and foundation, information on upcoming events, success stories, how people can help with information about giving through annuities, memorials and honorariums and the newsletter, available by submitting a name and e-mail address.

Moore stressed that the newsletter is a service provided to the community free of charge and isn't a tool to solicit donations. It's designed to inform subscribers about developments at the hospital as well as current developments in health care in general, like recent Medicare challenges in Lansing to information to lead a healthier lifestyle.

"It's a service we're providing to the community," he said. "If they go there and want to make a donation, fine, but that's not the purpose of the newsletter. It's to expand exposure of the hospital. Yes, we do need money. Yes, we need to raise money, but the key to the Web site is to reach the community and beyond."

The Web site has been up and running since June and has had some hits and



Garden City Hospital Foundation Executive Director Daniel Moore is hoping residents will visit will sign up for its free electronic newsletter at its new Web site, www.gchfoundation.org.

some donations through online giving. It's secured by DigiCert, one of the best companies in securing Web sites for online giving, Moore added.

The newsletter can be accessed by clicking the link on the foundation's home page. When it opens, readers will need to register, providing their name and e-mail address.

The Web site also promotes the foundation's fund-raising events. It includes a sponsors' board, featuring the logos of 17 businesses, like North Bros. Ford and Orin Jewelers, which supported the recent golf outing.

According to Moore, a similar page will be created for businesses who support the annual Fall Fund-raiser, slated for Friday, Oct. 21, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The theme-based event will include a silent auction, the fabulous theme baskets created by hospital employees and their departments, gourmet food stations and entertainment.

"The sponsors are excited because we're hosting their logos on our Web site," Moore said. "You can't do enough stewardship with individual and corporate sponsors. Corporations especially like to see a return on their investment."

"It means a lot to business owners and corporations."

Like other nonprofits, the hospital foundation is feeling the effects of Michigan's lagging economy.

"These are challenging times in Michigan for any charitable organization to raise funds," he said. "I feel the foundation is doing well, and I'm hopeful things will turn around in the fall of 2005-06. Hospitals operate on a very narrow margin."

Residents interested in receiving the electronic newsletter can sign up of the Garden City Hospital Foundation Web site at www.gchfoundation.org.

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

Donation drive aims to help needy

Got some old clothes you'd like to get rid of? Are there extra boxes and cans of food in your kitchen that you could spare? And have you been wondering what you can do with that old cell phone?

Local charities always need these items to give to people in need — but it can be a hassle to figure out where to bring them.

On the evening of Thursday, Aug. 4, donating all of those things to charity will be fast and easy, thanks to an event sponsored by a local chapter of the national group Democracy for America.

Called "Drive Up, Drop Off & Donate," the event will allow local residents to simply drive up to a convenient Hines Drive location and drop off clothes, non-perishable food items, prepaid phone cards, cell phones, toiletries, including larger-size baby diapers and women's sanitary products, household paper goods and cleaning supplies.

DFA members will bring all of the items to three charities that serve people in need throughout southeast Michigan — Gleaners Community Food Bank, Vietnam Veterans of America and First Step of Michigan, which serves victims of violence and their families.

"We know the current economic downturn is hurting many of our neighbors in the 11th District, and we wanted to take direct action that would help them," said Don Jones of Northville, one of the local DFA members who helped organize the event. "Food, clothing and communication are basic needs that always need to be met."

"We also hope the event will help more people from Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Livonia, Novi, Redford, Westland, Milford, Commerce Township, Belleville and Garden City learn about our group and consider joining."

From 5 p.m. until dark Aug. 4, anyone can drive up to the

Wilcox Lake Picnic Area on Hines Drive between Haggerty and Northville Road in Plymouth Township. DFA members, all of whom live in the 11th Congressional District in western Wayne County and southwestern Oakland County, will collect the donations from vehicles in a "drive-through" manner. Donations of any size are welcome, however, cash can't be accepted under Hines Park rules.

For donors who want to stop for a while, or help out, a potluck picnic will run throughout the evening.

Democracy for America is a non-profit grassroots organization that grew out of the presidential campaign of Howard Dean. DFA is not affiliated with any political party. The 11th District DFA's group has a Web site, www.dfa.meetup.com/579, with more information. Members meet once each month.

The three charities chosen to receive donations from the event, Gleaners, VVA and First Step, provide services throughout the 11th Congressional District and beyond.

■ First Step, based in Plymouth, was founded in 1978 to help victims of violence and their families, and serves more than 6,000 families a year. Its 24-hour hotline is (888) 453-5900.

■ Vietnam Veterans of America is a service organization serving the needs of veterans of the Vietnam War era throughout the nation. Its Web site is www.vva.org.

■ Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan collects, warehouses, repacks and distributes millions of pounds of food for more than 300 local member agencies.

Last year, this food was used in nearly 24 million meals. Gleaners' Web site is www.gcfb.org and its help-line is (800) 552-1183.

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Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
(734) 953-2100
srosiek@oe.homecomm.net

Frank Cibor
Retail Sales Manager
(734) 953-2177
fcibor@oe.homecomm.net

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor
(734) 953-2149
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Cathy White
Retail Advertising Rep.
(734) 953-2073
cwhite@oe.homecomm.net

Sue Mason
Community Editor
(734) 953-2112
smason@oe.homecomm.net

Newsroom (734) 953-2104 Fax (734) 591-7279
Sports Nightline (734) 953-2104
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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rob Papineau of Pippin Puppets in Livonia shows young readers how a puppet is used during the end-of-year Summer Reading Program party at the Westland Public Library.

Youngsters read 5,388 books in program

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

This may be the reason why Johnny *can* read. Hundreds of children spent a significant chunk of their summer vacation reading, thanks to a Westland public library program.

In all, 629 children finished 5,388 books during a summer reading program, which culminated Monday with a library-sponsored party and puppet show.

"The kids read a vast amount of books," said Carolyn Kline, library children's associate. "I think it was definitely a success."

Children enrolled in the six-week program in two groups. Those who already could read signed up for an "I Can Read" class, while younger children had adults read to them in a separate "Read To Me" group.

"We had a lot of enthusiastic children reading the books, and we had many

enthusiastic adults signing them up," Kline said.

This year's theme was of the fairytale variety - "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" - although children could read about any topic they chose.

Nearly half of those who enrolled in the program completed the goals set for them, earning a free book and a chance at such prizes as a new bicycle:

■ Those in the "I Can Read" program had a goal of 10 books, two magazines and one storytime library program.

■ Those in the "Read To Me" group had a goal of having 15 books and two magazines read to them. They, too, attended a storytime session.

Local educators commended the library for offering a summer reading program.

"There's a tremendous amount of benefit to having children read during the summertime," said Sam



Young readers interact with the puppets.

Barresi, Wayne-Westland assistant superintendent of instruction. "It helps them keep in place all the skills they learned during the prior school year.

"Hopefully," Barresi added, "it will develop a

love of reading for children so that when they finish their educational career, they will be lifelong learners."

dcllem@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2110

12 strays kittens caught in rabies problem area

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Twelve stray kittens have been captured in a Westland neighborhood that had a rabies scare, police confirmed this week, but only one animal has been confirmed sick.

Animal control officers set up live traps last Thursday in the Stacy-Wildwood area, where a rabies-infected kitten scratched a 4-year-old girl.

The child was treated and didn't become sick from the kitten, which had been taken in with a stray litter, Deputy Police Chief Marc Stobbe said. "The animal control officers think they might have caught most of the strays," he said Monday.

Wayne County health officials had confirmed last week that 10 stray kittens and cats from the Stacy-Wildwood area already had been euthanized.

On Monday, Michigan Humane Society officials in Westland confirmed that kittens suspected of being in contact with sick animals would routinely be euthanized.

"It's too serious to risk it," said Marcy Sieggreen, manager of the Westland-based humane society shelter, on Marquette east of Newburgh. "There's no way to test them for rabies without euthanizing them."

As of Monday, Stobbe said it appeared that most stray kit-

Animal control officers set up live traps last Thursday in the Stacy-Wildwood area, where a rabies-infected kitten scratched a 4-year-old girl.

tens in the Stacy-Wildwood area had been rounded up by animal control officers - an indication that the rabies scare may be nearly over.

Nineteen people who may have been exposed to infected kittens had received treatment, county officials said.

Rabies is an almost always fatal disease occurring among mammals mostly in the wild, according to county officials. Though uncommon, it can occur among domestic animals such as cats and dogs, especially if the pets haven't been vaccinated.

Rabies is a viral disease that is transmitted to humans through saliva from infected animals. The disease is easily treated, if caught early.

dcllem@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2110

Gas line puncture snarls Warren-Newburgh traffic

Traffic was snarled for three hours in the Warren-Newburgh area after a road crew punctured a gas line Wednesday morning, Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said.

Motorists heading east on Warren were diverted onto Newburgh Road after the gas line was ruptured near Randazzo's Market, Pfannes said.

"Wayne County Road Commission workers were doing some lawn trimming in the area of Randazzo's when they punctured an exposed gas line," the chief said.

The gas line was ruptured about 8:30 a.m., snarling traffic even beyond the morning rush hour.

Westland police officers and firefighters stood by at the scene while Consumers Energy made repairs, Pfannes said.



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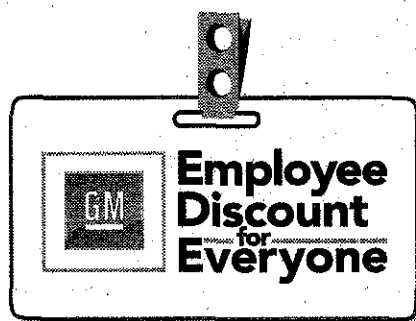
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TARGET

FROM PAGE A1

planned expansion. The Westland Target, on Warren Road west of Wayne, will get a 30,000-square-foot expansion as the company takes over the now-vacant Kids 'R Us store next door. The store, located across from Westland Shopping Center in the city's core retail district, won't become a full-fledged Super Target. Still, it will have more merchandise, more groceries and a pharmacy. "They will expand the grocery (section) that they've got, but it will not be a full Super Target," Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson said. The project will be done in 2006. "We're real pleased, because it just shows that the economic development strategy that the mayor (Sandra Cicirelli) has for the mall area is working," Thompson said. "It also shows a commitment from Target instead of them going someplace else. "For them to expand is just

wonderful, and they're taking up vacant space (from the former Kids 'R Us). It's a win-win situation." Target will have a new facade, improving the look of a commercial strip center that already has attracted new tenants in recent years, including a stand-alone Italian restaurant, Johnny Carino's, Thompson said. Livonia resident Suhad Aoude said she won't likely go to Target for groceries, saying she prefers stores like Meijer for food. "But I like Target for the clothing," she said. In other business news, a Japanese steakhouse is expected to open across Warren Road, next to Malarkey's Pub in what used to be a seafood market. The eatery will bring Japanese cuisine where none exists along Westland's restaurant row, which stretches along Warren from Newburgh to east of Wayne Road. It wasn't known this week when the Japanese steakhouse will open or what its name will be, Thompson said. But, he said, "I think it's going to be a good thing for the area."

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Golf outing

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program will host its annual golf outing on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Gateway Golf Club.

The outing will have a scramble format with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. It includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, hot dog on the turn, door prizes and a barbecue dinner, catered by Chef Tony Paquette.

The cost is \$100 per golfer. Sponsorships also are available. For information, call Dennis Hermatz at (734) 728-6151.

All proceeds will go to the Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship Program, a 501c3 not-profit organization.

Summer camp

Children can explore the great outdoors at the YWCA of Western Wayne County's Summer Explorer day camp at Central City Park and the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland.

The camp is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday through Aug. 19 for children ages 6-15. Activities include swimming, scavenger hunts, science experiments, movies, arts and crafts, pizza parties, field trips, talent show and more. Children ages 11-15 also can participate in the Counselor in training program which offers the opportunity to learn the basics

PLACES AND FACES

of being a camp counselor and develop important job skills.

Applications for the camp are available at the YWCA, 26279 Michigan Ave., Inkster. For more information, call the camp department at (313) 561-4110.

Under the Big Top

The Wayne Ford Civic League at 1645 N. Wayne Road is hosting the Royal Hanneford Circus under the Big Top now through Sunday, July 31. Show times are 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Ringside seating will be \$18 for all ages, adult general admission will be \$12 and general admission for children 12 years \$8. Tickets are available at the hall, online at www.wayneford.org or by calling (734) 728-5010.

There will be real Elephant and Pony rides available, kiddy carnival rides and bouncers. The league also will serve daily dinner specials 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at \$6 for all you can eat.

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 birthed 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.

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.

For more information, 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.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Magic Monday Family Night

Meet the WMGC "Magic" Family while celebrating National Clown Week at the Magic Monday Family Night, 7-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, at the Bailey Center pool and gymnasium. There will be inflated games provided by Bobby's Bouncers, and a hot dog dinner special provided by Spotty Dogs Hot Dog Concession.

The cost is \$3 per adult and \$2 per child for swimming, pay at the door. No charge for adults in the wading area. A hot dog and chips cost \$1.05. All other activities are free.

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.

FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

B
Gus N. Birtsas, 79, of Clarkston, died July 20.

Rose M. Boyd-Blackmer, 88, formerly of Southfield, died July 25.

Robert B. Byrne, 50, of Nashville, Tenn., died June 27.

C
Mary Louise Pence Cosner, of Birmingham, died July 19.

E
Antoinette "Annette" Edwards, 73, of Farmington Hills, died July 21.

H
Margaret F. Hudson, 87, of Ocala, Fla., formerly of Waterford, died July 23.

N
Raymond L. Naslund, 82, of Venice, Fla., formerly of Plymouth and Livonia, died July 14.
Patricia M. Neu, 77, of Plymouth, died July 24.

For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's paper in *Passages* on page B5.

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County brings in uniform voting system for '06

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

When Wayne County voters go to the polls in 2006 they will all be using the same optical scan voting system, which County Clerk Cathy Garrett promises to be a "secure, accurate, real time system."

Wayne County communities will replace one of five current voting systems for the M-100 optical scan system manufactured by Election Systems & Software. The cost of the new system will be about \$32 million, partially funded with federal money to ensure compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act.

"At last Wayne County can bring their elections into the 21st century," Garrett said July 20 at a media demonstration of the new system at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn.

Area voters currently use a variety of systems. Livonia, Redford Township and the city of Plymouth use the Optech optical scan system, Garden City and Canton Township use the Accu-Vote scan system and Westland and Plymouth Township use Unilect's direct recording system, a touch-screen system.

Twenty-five county communities will be trying out the system for the Aug. 2 primary, including Redford, Westland and Garden City.

Redford Township Clerk Garth Christie has said the yes/no ballots of the county parks millage vote would be an easy count, and "a good election to learn on."

"I anticipate a smooth election," Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart said.

Westland will move away from the touch-screen system. The city had the option of using the new optical scan system now or in 2006.

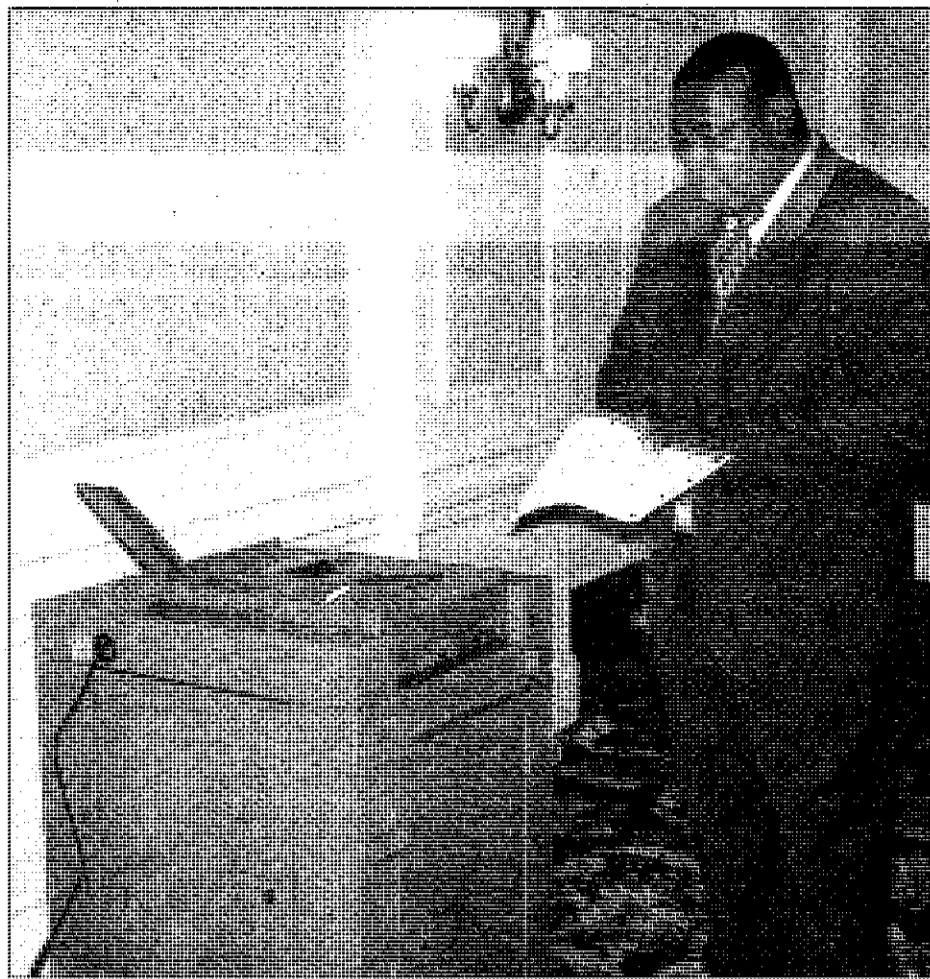
"I opted to go with it now because it's a small, simple election with only one issue on the ballot" - a county parks millage question, DeHart said.

The new system should be easier for voters who were intimidated by the touch-screen computer system, she said.

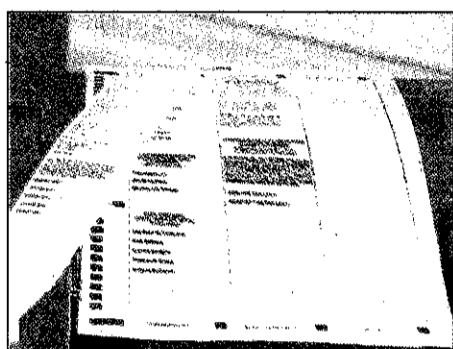
Voters in Garden City shouldn't notice a big change in the voting machines on election day - the city has used an optical scan system since 1999.

"We have the new equipment but don't have to use it until next year," said Garden City Clerk-Treasurer Allyson Bettis. "I wanted to use it in a small election to try it out and let the election workers get some experience pushing a different button."

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land has ordered that all Michigan communities



Wil Wesley, a representative from Election Systems & Software, demonstrates how the M-100 optical scan system works.



Election Systems & Software's M-100 optical scan system offers a precinct-based, voter-activated optical scan ballot counter and vote tabulator.

use an optical scan system by 2006. ES&S, a Nebraska company, was chosen by Wayne County from three vendors. Garrett said she consulted with local clerks in making the selection.

"One point the county wants to emphasize is uniformity," said Candace Jenkins, director of elections. "In the past, Wayne County has used seven different voting methods."

Wil Wesley, a representative from ES&S, introduced the system Wednesday.

The ES&S system Model 100 is a precinct-based, voter-activated optical scan ballot counter and vote tabulator. The Model 100 is designed to ensure ballot integrity by alerting voters to over-voted and under-voted races and blank ballots.

Voters will mark paper ballots with a pen, feed the ballots into a digital scan-

'At last Wayne County can bring their elections into the 21st century.'

Cathy Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

ner and wait for a response from the machine. Wesley said the scanner will immediately inform voters if they have marked their ballots incorrectly.

"If a voter overvotes a ballot, the scanner will query the voter that there is an overvote and it will tell the voter which contest there was an overvote in," Wesley said.

When a voter makes a mistake, the scanner will hold the ballot until the voter makes a decision on what to do with the ballot rather than immediately ejected the ballot as other systems do. If a voter chooses to vote again, he or she will be given a new ballot and the old ballot will be voided.

When polls close, the Model 100's printer prints out vote totals and enables officials to transmit results to local, county and state election administrators, which should speed up the time it takes to call an election.

In October, the clerk's office will host hands-on demonstrations of the new system at various locations around the county, including Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Exact dates and times are still being worked out.

Stabenow isn't done yet

U.S. senator plans to run for second term

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Gearing up for a run for re-election to the United States Senate, Debbie Stabenow plans to continue the work she has started.

The importation of trash from Canada into Michigan continues to be a main focus for Stabenow, who took a few minutes last week to chat before the



Stabenow

authority to stop the importation of trash. The Bush administration already has that authority, but Stabenow said it hasn't exercised its power.

"I was trying to get the administration to use that authority," she said. "Now, I'm trying another route. I'm not going to stop until we get it done."

Stabenow said "there's no excuse" for the volume of the trucks hauling Canadian trash over the border.

"This is a priority for me," she added.

While there's too much trash crossing the border, there's not enough prescription drugs crossing over, she said.

"We can't get the drugs to come across the border, but we can't stop the trash from coming over," she quipped.

She believes there is bipartisan support for a bill that would

allow local pharmacists to do business directly with Canada, she said. On the war in Iraq, Stabenow said she did not agree with the federal administration's handling of the situation as it unfolded, but she supports the troops and their safety.

"In the beginning, I didn't believe we had the right plan," she said. "There were a number of misjudgments, in terms of strategy."

She's "100 percent" in support of the troops and funding for the operation, but she said there needs to be a plan to get the troops home safely.

"Right now, the most important thing is that the Iraqis have their own government, and we need to support that," she added.

The war is costing the United States about \$5 billion per month, money Stabenow said should also be used to protect Americans at home.

"Our police and firefighters are under-funded," she said. "We have less officers on the streets. We have to place a priority on it. We have to be protected at home as well as abroad."

She supported the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2006 because it increases homeland security funding for Michigan, but said she is disappointed that the bill "didn't take us as far as we need to go," according to a statement on her Web site.

For more on Stabenow and the issues, visit her interactive Web site she coins her "on-line office," at <http://stabenow.senate.gov/>

Stabenow was the first woman from Michigan to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She was elected in 2000 and said she plans to run again next year.

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OUR VIEWS

Pet owners need to be responsible

It is a scene from *To Kill a Mockingbird* that comes to mind with the mention of rabies. Gregory Peck steps into the street, gun in hand, to shoot a rabid dog.

It's not likely to happen in Westland, but the announcement by the Wayne County Public Health Department last week that there's a rabies problem area in the city should be a wakeup call for pet owners in the area and throughout the community.

According to the health department, rabies awareness and handling animals safely can help to prevent the spread of the disease, but we believe a big part of it is responsible pet ownership.

Taking an animal into your home is like getting married. That pet is yours in sickness and in health, until death do you part.

Taking an animal into your home is like getting married. That pet is yours in sickness and in health, until death do you part. Having a pet means providing it with food and adequate shelter and keeping its vaccinations up to date.

Rabies vaccination is required by law in all states. The first vaccination is good for one year, the subsequent vaccinations are good for three years.

Responsible pet ownership doesn't mean letting your pet roam the neighborhood where it can come in contact with animals commonly known to have rabies — raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, coyotes, cats and dogs.

But if you are that kind of pet owner, understand that Westland has an ordinance that prohibits pets like dogs and cats from running free. Pet owners who violate the ordinance can be cited for a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

In the case of rabies, we believe it's better to be safe than sorry. So we urge residents to take the extra precautions in keeping their pets rabies free. If your pet hasn't been vaccinated, get it done now, not later.

And be cautious with stray animals, especially those that appear sickly. It's better to call a professional to catch the animal than face rabies shots because of a bite.

Legislature should act to create DARTA

A recent decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals to disband the Detroit Area Regional Transit Authority should be a spur to action, not the death knell for mass transit in metro Detroit.

The Court of Appeals ruled in response to suit by the union representing workers at the Detroit Department of Transportation that the regional transit authority was illegally formed. DARTA had the support of all the major players in the three-county metro area — Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Nancy White, chair of the Macomb County board, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick — and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

They understand that thriving metropolitan areas need clean, efficient, modern mass transit.

Detroit is far behind other metropolitan areas. The retail and business decline of downtown Detroit, the sprawling development of the area's suburbs and the region's love affair with the private automobile have stifled the growth of mass transit.

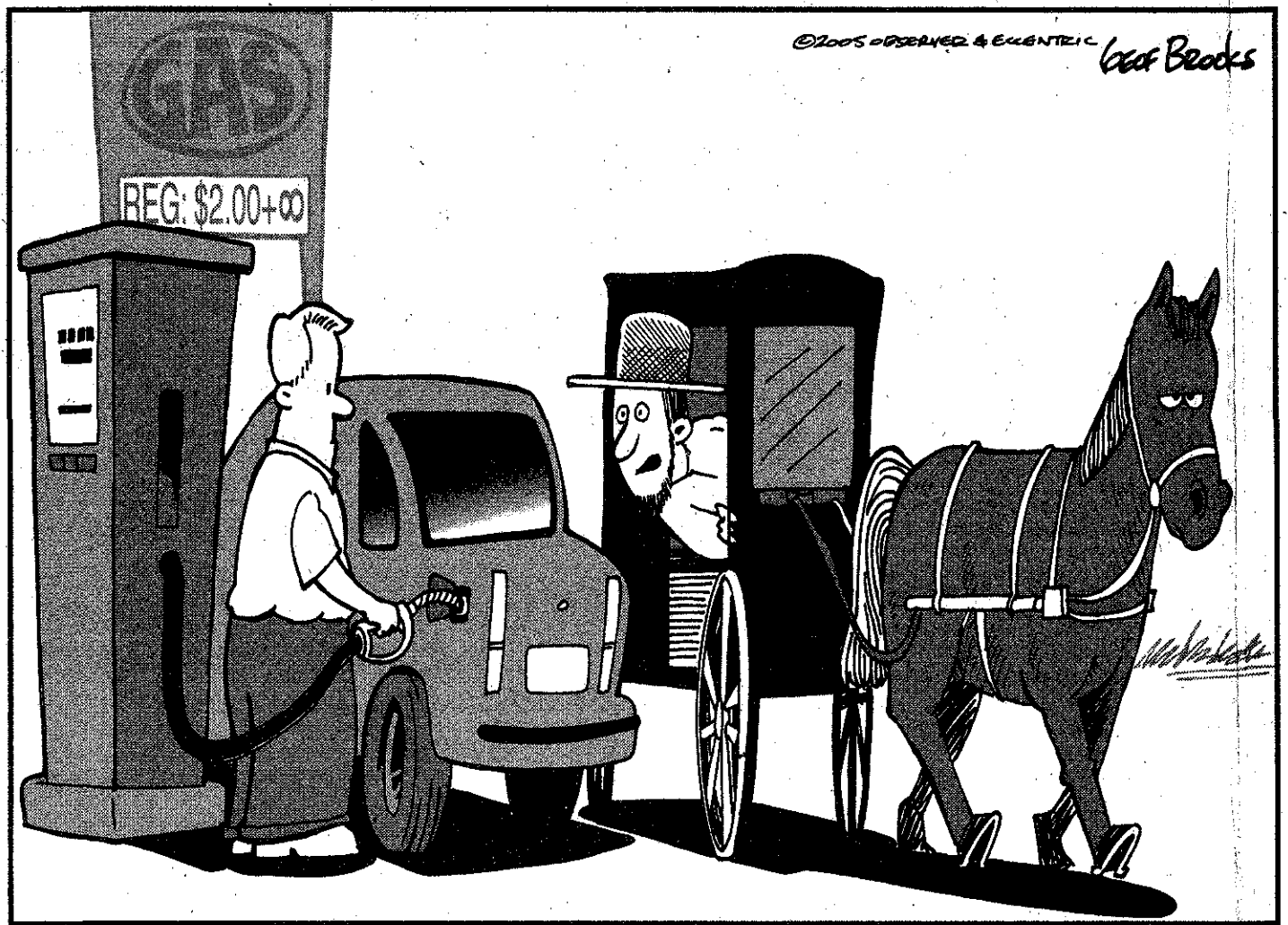
In other cities, mass transit is considered essential. Buses, subways and light rail systems are well used by everyone — commuters, students and shoppers. In metro Detroit, though, mass transit has been marginalized as something for the elderly, the disabled and the poor.

A new vision is needed for this region, and a new respect for the role of a healthy mass transit system is a good move in that direction.

DARTA was conceived by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce to replace the ineffective Regional Transit Coordinating Council. DARTA would work with the Detroit Department of Transportation and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation to provide broader service and become a conduit for federal and state funding of new transportation initiatives.

The leaders who brought DARTA together have pledged their continued support for mass transit and a central coordinating structure. Efforts are being discussed to appeal the court's decision and to lobby the state Legislature to pass a bill authorizing DARTA.

We urge the Legislature to act quickly and positively on this request.



"Becoming Amish was easier than filling up my SUV."

LETTERS

Teachers asked to do more

Neil Goodbred recently asked, "Why pad teachers' pockets?" My answer: To keep from getting hurt when parents and students kick them when they're down.

Mr. Goodbred seemed to be a supportive parent when I taught his two sons at Emerson Junior High School in the 1970s. What could have happened to him now that his children are out of school?

Teachers today have been asked to be more than just teachers. They must be nurses and psychologists and social workers and athletic coaches and drug abuse counselors and surrogate parents.

They must have strong shoulders on which their students can cry. They must have understanding minds to distinguish between the lazy student and the battered child who didn't get their homework done.

They must have loving hearts to care for the disabled and the intelligent in the same room at the same time. They must have super willpower to teach children and youth while administrators and parents think inflating grades will guarantee a scholarship to college (even when the student is missing classes for something else).

"Why pad teachers' pockets?" Because no one else could do their many jobs.

George Calder
Westland

Opposes blight ordinance

At the last Westland Council meeting, an ordinance was passed on blight. Only two of us spoke out against it. I really want to make it clear as to why. The five minutes you get to speak on anything at the meeting doesn't usually give you the time to make yourself clear.

First of all, the reason I'm against this is we all ready have laws on the book about this and believe me, there has been more than once and more than one administration that was used these laws to intimidate certain citizens, but that is not the biggest or most important reason I object to this and actually even the existing laws.

What happened to compassion and understanding and helping our fellow man? What happened to even plain manners in this country? Simple things like please and thank you, holding the door open, keeping the noise down at certain hours, treating people the way you want to be treated, opening the car door.

I realize some of these things can't be done because, if you did, someone would think you're out to harm them or rob them. What a pity. What people who make these laws come back with is: If you can't do it, there are organizations that will help you, if you're elderly or disabled. But what these people don't understand is sometimes you don't want to admit you need this help because to ask for it means you can't do it and, if you can't do it, you lose some of your independence.

I wrote the Secretary of State because they are closing the Wayne branch. At Wayne, the parking is much closer and the access better for someone with disabilities. The answer I got was to call

ahead and they would help me. How are they going help carry me in, wheel me in? I can still walk just not any distance and in the heat and humidity, it's shorter yet.

At the study session held before the meeting, one of the first questions was what about empty houses? Well, there's many reasons a house sits empty and many of them are none of our business. They could be held up in probate, someone could be confined and unable to sell or rent it, or God help us, it could be repossessed and the mortgage company has its hands tied until all the legal process is complete.

Oh, that's right, your answer is to change the law and speed it up. Well, to you I say I hope you never find yourself or your loved ones in that situation. Or maybe someone is mentally or physically handicapped and doesn't want or can't ask for help. As neighbors why aren't you understanding this?

There was a time when people cared about what was happening around them in a much more compassionate way. It wasn't this let's call the law and have them take care of it and fine these people fines they can't pay, and embarrassing them with their name and address listed in the local paper.

It really bothers me that all I hear from the council and mayor is, "there are so many calls," "the ordinance officer can't keep up with it." If we were really a civilized society, the ordinance officer would be like the Maytag repairman. Or is that another person we've pushed from our minds?

It's funny, but when we're snowed in and it's a matter of everyone working together, if we want out of our neighborhoods, suddenly everyone works together. But let summer hit and it's a different story. Maybe that's why so many people died in the West just this summer. No compassion from their fellow neighbors.

With Michigan's economy like it is, you, me, a friend or family member could be next. I hope not, but it's happening every day. The reason so many homes are for sale and sitting empty is people can't afford them anymore. Wake up and smell the roses.

Maybe we need to go back to the barn raising days or a trip through Greenfield Village, to make people realize how things have changed and not always to the better. And I almost forgot, not everyone knows you have to call for certain pickups — maybe you could spread the word in a kind and helpful way.

Judy McKinney
Westland

Self-destruct mode

Phil Power did a very brave thing. He told the citizens the truth. ("The state Legislature fiddles as the state goes up in smoke," July 7.)

The state of Michigan is in desperate shape because the Republican legislators have continued to deny that the state was in trouble these last 12 plus years, as they cut taxes and continued spending money like there was plenty.

In fact everything that the Republican legislators do is to make the Democratic governor look bad. They continue to try

to blame her for the tax cut and spend system that Gov. (John) Engler and the then Republican legislators did to the people of Michigan.

The time has come to either end the tax cuts of the past or to put an income tax increase on the ballot for this November and let the people vote on it. The Legislature, under the leadership of the Republicans, is in a self-destruct mode. The people must circulate petitions and end this "tax cut and spend" mentality.

In November 2006, we can unseat as many Republicans in the Legislature as possible.

Deborah Goldberg
Farmington

State cuts

I enjoyed Phil Power's opinion about the "fiddling" by the state legislators. ("State legislature fiddles a state goes up in smoke," June 30).

Your article provides more justification as to why a group of citizens (www.uncameralmi.com) is trying to put the unicameral option on the ballot in 2006. It was told by a state agency that just the annual retirement budget for the members of the two chambers is \$4.2 million. With term limits, the number of people who will be receiving retirement benefits is huge relative to what we gain from them.

By combining the two chambers, we would greatly reduce the amount of superfluous proposed legislation introduced to pander to the lobbyists and special interest groups funding re-election campaigns. Approximately 80 percent of these bills are never passed. It requires staff time to research, write, review, debate, etc. If we are serious about demanding action from Lansing, why not create a legislative environment which is far more accountable, efficient and cost-effective?

Reducing the number of chambers and legislators is a critical step towards a part-time Legislature with longer term limits to encourage experienced, competent professionals to want the positions without jeopardizing their ability to pursue other employment while not attending a limited number of legislative sessions.

Henry S. Johnson
Criston

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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Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@oe.homecomm.net

QUOTABLE

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

— Councilman Richard LeBlanc, about the city's new blight ordinance

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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.

College funding drama is using the same tired script

Kabuki is a form of austere Japanese drama dating back to the 17th century. In it, beautifully costumed actors (no women allowed, even for female parts) march about on a rotating stage, making magnificent though rigorously stylized gestures. They speak centuries-old lines in a formal, archaic language.

Which brings us to our own Kabuki-style drama — the Tale of Funding For Michigan's Fifteen Public Universities. The ritual was played out again last week as governing boards announced increased tuitions, most by double-digit margins.

Michigan State, for example, increased in-state freshman tuition by 13.5 percent, to \$7,994; the University of Michigan went up by 12.3 percent, to \$9,213. Wayne State, whose working-class students are least able to afford it, had the highest hike of all: 18.5 percent.



Phil Power

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, playing her stylized but dramatic part as the guardian of college-bound family finances, promptly attacked the increases. "To me, these are unacceptable numbers,"

Granholm said at a Lansing press conference. "I would ask the boards and university regents to reconsider how much they are raising tuition."

Fat chance. They have little choice. And Granholm knows it, as does every university president in the state and even some members of the Legislature. Michigan has cut state support for its public universities by more than \$250 million over the past three years.

Over this period, U-M, for example, has lost more than \$49 million in state funding, while MSU lost more than \$33 million and Wayne State University got nicked by \$40 million.

Over the same time, U-M cut \$77 million from its budget, eliminated 500 jobs and increased class size, while MSU cut \$66 million and axed another 500 jobs.

These repeated cuts "threaten to compromise the University of Michigan's core academic excellence," President Mary Sue Coleman told the Board of Regents last week.

MSU board president David Porteous told his board, "Unfortunately, the circumstances of Michigan in terms of funding for higher education have continued a downward spiral."

All of which makes Granholm's lecture to the universities — "figure out a way to streamline, to tighten your belts the way the state has done" — seem remarkably like a modernized version of ancient Kabuki texts.

All this is bad enough, but the state budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1, is still being negotiated by the governor and legislative leaders.

University officials are caught in a timing bind. They need to send out tuition bills to their students this summer, yet they have no idea how much money they'll be getting from the state this fall.

So they decided to hedge against further state cuts (another 2 percent is considered likely), announce their tuition increases and get their tuition bills into the mail.

Readers with long memories will recall that last year the governor jawboned the universities into holding tuition increases below 3 percent, even though state support for universities dropped, promising that state support would be increased in the coming year.

Well, turns out that the first version of the budget included another \$30 million cut, and the university presidents went ballistic.

The resolution was a tacit deal. The state figures to cut appropriations for higher education again this time around, so the universities were told quietly that the governor and Legislature wouldn't beef too much if their tuition increases were higher than the inflation rate. Hence some of the posturing and declaiming coming out of Lansing in recent days.

I talked with Andrea Fischer Newman, who has just been elected chair of the U-M board of regents, late last week.

Generally, she's voted against tuition increases, but this time she went along. How come? "I voted for the tuition increase because we really have to do something about replacing declining state appropriations," she said. "We need to set up an endowment that offsets an uncertain state situation that's likely to last for years. Creating an endowment of this size will take generations, but we've just got to start now."

Good idea. If the state isn't smart enough to support the crown jewel of its higher education system, U-M needs to do it on its own.

Granholm wants to double the number of kids getting college degrees in Michigan, but she isn't talking about where the money to do it will come from. The Legislature sounds as though the only thing that's going to save the state is more and more tax cuts.

And in the meantime, the universities — the only institutions keeping bright and able people coming to and staying in Michigan — are being pushed to the brink. Something has to give.

In Kabuki plays, it's often hard to figure out who is the good guy and who is the villain. There is also a trap door on the stage, through which an actor can suddenly arrive to save the day. I wish I could say the same thing about our stage, and our political masters in Lansing.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He is a former member of the U-M Board of Regents (1987-99). He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.

From burning to curbside pickup, trash is stinky issue

State lawmakers are at odds over limiting the importation of trash from Canada. One side sees it as a looming crisis, and has a Trash-O-Meter tallying up the amount of waste coming across the border and headed to landfills practically in our own backyards.

The other side doesn't see it that way, so, with many issues facing the state, our lawmakers are at loggerheads.

Those concerned about foreign trash can't understand why red flags aren't flying among all residents of the state. But to understand that may mean looking at how people around this state handle their household waste.

While we city slickers gather up our trash all week long, and on its appointed day, put it to the curb, where it disappears, there are many people in this state who don't have curbs, let alone curbside pickup. They burn their garbage, bury it or, if it's metal, leave it in a field to rust.

Driving along a road in rural Michigan, you'll find all manner of housing and it seems like the volume of rusted vehicles and farm equipment on the property is directly proportional to the disrepair of the homestead. And, usually, in close proximity to the domicile is a fire pit or burning barrel to handle the garbage.

There also are towns in this state where that a hauler has imposed a limit on how many bags a household can put out each week. A case in point, Lake City. The 800-plus residents of this lakeside community in Missaukee County are limited to three bags per week. The trash hauler several years ago determined that the city was producing too much trash for the number of residents and put a limit on how much could be put at the curb.

It's hard to say if the trash haul took into consideration that Lake City is somewhat of a resort town, where the population grows in the summer with the return of the snowbirds, cottage owners and vacationers.

In neighboring Wexford County, some communities are limited to two bags a week. Thankfully, the trash hauler hasn't put a limit on the size of the bag. I ran into a woman in the trash bag aisle of the Wal-Mart store in Cadillac who was looking for contractor-strength 55-gallon drum bags. She pointed out that the bags she sought were the best, especially with her two-bag limit.

Having a cabin in the north woods, I've come to appreciate my curbside pickup. Down here, Sunday evening the garbage gets put at the curb. Up north, we've tried all methods to manage our refuse. We used a burning barrel for a while, but

the idea of a roaring fire — even though confined — in the middle of a pine forest didn't set well.

So we bought a garbage can and returned to bagging it and taking it to town to my in-laws. Initially, it was a small amount, but as our family grew, so did our trash, especially when my kids were still in diapers. On a rare occasion, we would deposit a poopy bag in a barrel at a nearby roadside picnic table, but eventually the county removed the table and the barrel.

The reason why was obvious. On any given Sunday evening during the summer, it resembled a trash dropoff site. Out-of-towners, as we downstate people are called, left the barrel overflowing with bags of garbage, piles at least four bags high surrounded it.

But last year, we again ventured into burning our trash. We still have the pine needles to worry about, but with the installation of a new well, we ended up with a water spigot in close proximity to where the barrel sits.

Now, instead of one bag of trash, we have three. The trash bin in the kitchen is for burnables, the plastic zipper bag in the sink holds the garbage is for the biodegradables and a bag under the sink gets the metals and glass containers we send to the county landfill.

It's tedious to say the least, and watching my husband standing watch over the blazing barrel reminded me of the few years my family lived in Mountain Lakes, N.J. A former resort community about 20 miles west of New York City, Mountain Lakes had all the amenities of a city except one — no garbage pickup. We had a wire basket in the backyard, that was our way of dealing with garbage. That and once a year the city would have a day when it would pick up household items like furniture and take them to the dump. We took turns burning the trash, poking when necessary to keep it burning.

Air quality standards and depletion of the ozone layer weren't big concerns back then, although I must admit the air smelled pretty foul on the two occasions when New York City posted smog alerts.

We've been spared that in the Detroit area, but who knows what the future holds? Should we be concerned about imported trash? Absolutely. Can it be stopped? That would require a compromise in Lansing and considering how divide the Legislature is along party lines, we may run out of landfill space before that happens.

And if state lawmakers can't resolve the problem of imported trash and limited landfill space, we city slickers may find ourselves dealing with trash like our country cousins do.

If that happens, I have one recommendation: don't put your aerosol cans in with the burnables.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. She lives in Westland.

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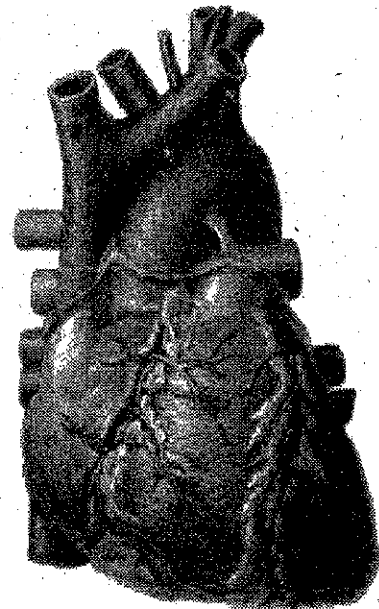
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July 29
Anniversary Celebration
sponsored by Marshall Fields
4 pm, East Court

- Drawing of grand prize for Enter to Win
- Recognition presentations
- Anniversary greetings from local & state dignitaries
- Cutting of the anniversary cake
- After Hours, Lakeshore Grill, 5 pm
- Entertainment by Benny & the Jets, 6 pm-8 pm

July 29
The Balloon Buddies
5 pm - 7 pm,
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