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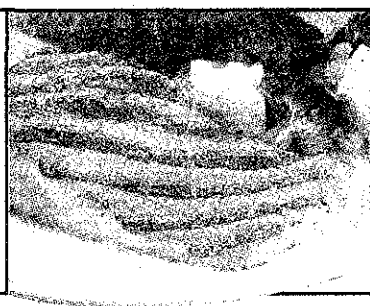
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Seafood makes healthy eating easy -TASTE, PAGE B10

Living rooms and dining rooms

Fabulous FURNITURE 2005 Section B

THURSDAY  
October 13, 2005

# WESTLAND Observer

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Longtime Dorsey Center recreation supervisor Darryl Johnson (left to right) prepares to play pool with Chris Nagy, 12, and Erin McQueen, 11.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Voters: Meet your candidates

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

With Election Day less than four weeks away, local voters apparently are sharpening their focus on an eight-way race for four Westland City Council seats.

Those who remain undecided will have an opportunity to see council hopefuls during a meet-the-candidates forum 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at Joy Manor, on Joy Road just east of Middlebelt.

Westland Jaycees will sponsor the question-and-answer forum. *Westland Observer* Editor Sue Mason will serve as moderator.

Meanwhile, City Clerk Eileen DeHart confirmed Tuesday that her office already has sent out about 3,500 absentee ballots for voters who won't be going to polling places on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

She estimated that her office has received another 300 requests for ballots that will be mailed out. "I think it's going to be a nice absentee turnout," DeHart said.

Her office has fielded some phone calls from residents - an indication that interest is mounting in this year's city elections.

"We've had some calls from people who want to know who the candidates are," DeHart said. "Last weekend, I saw a flurry of activity with yard signs, so I think things are picking up."

Council incumbents Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer are seeking re-election. They will face challengers Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James Davis and Robert Thomas. Voters also will choose between incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, who is seeking her second four-year term, and challenger Elenor Swistak.

Only the council candidates will be featured during Tuesday's forum, said Wendy Taylor, Jaycees vice president of community development.

"We just thought it would be best. For eight (council) people to talk, there's not going to be a lot of time to get questions answered," she said.

"We were hoping that another group would step up (for a mayoral forum)," Taylor added.

Voters also have an opportunity to learn about candidates during a series of stories that continues today in the *Observer*.

## Emotional goodbye

### Beloved rec center supervisor will be sorely missed by children

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Darryl Johnson needed work when he started supervising an after-school recreation program nearly 20 years ago in Westland.

Only 19 years old then, Johnson had an entry-level banking job but needed to supplement his income.

"I needed a second job," he recalled.

Years after his income rose - even after he became assistant vice president for a LaSalle Bank processing center in Livonia - he stayed with his

part-time job at the Dorsey Community Center, in a predominantly low-income Norwayne neighborhood.

Johnson, 39, stayed not for the money - but because the children looked up to him and seemed to need him.

"I really do believe that I influenced some of these kids," he said.

Johnson has quit his Dorsey Center job after nearly two decades to focus on his career and to spend more time

PLEASE SEE SUPERVISOR, A4



Darryl Johnson puts his arm around his 9-year-old daughter, Ciara, during a return visit to the Dorsey Center.

## Davis: Budget, services, growth top list of concerns

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council candidate James R. Davis identified city spending, city services and controlling new building growth as the top three issues facing city leaders.

Davis, 60, is one of eight council hopefuls competing for four seats at stake in the Nov. 8 election. The position pays \$12,150 a year.

When asked in a questionnaire to cite the top three issues that need addressing by the city, Davis responded with "the budget, city services and control of the building growth."

Davis is a member of the Westland Democratic Club and a former trustee in 2002 and 2004. He also

was a precinct delegate during those same years.

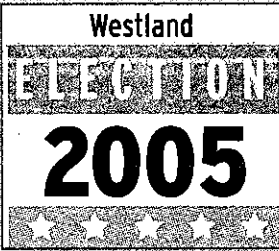
He is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party and a former trustee and sergeant-at-arms with the non-profit Wayne-Ford Civic League, which sponsors youth sports and other activities.

Here's how Davis responded to other questions from the *Observer*:

**Why are you running for a Westland City Council seat, and what are your best qualifications?**

I feel that I have a better understanding of the people. I have com-

PLEASE SEE DAVIS, A5



### MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

In today's *Observer*, we continue a series about the eight candidates competing for four seats in the Nov. 8 Westland City Council race. Voters will choose among four incumbents - Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer - and four challengers: Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James Davis and Robert Thomas. The top three vote-getters will earn four-year terms. Fourth-place finisher will win a two-year term.

## Graunstadt: Top issues are revenues, blight and safety

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland City Council incumbent Cheryl Graunstadt cited state revenue cuts, blight and public safety staffing as the top three issues facing city leaders.

Graunstadt, 48, is seeking her second council term after serving four years. She is one of eight candidates vying for a \$12,150-a-year seat in the Nov. 8 election.

Referring to her top three issues, Graunstadt issued the following statement:

"I would continue to support dialogue between legislators in Lansing on the importance of not making additional cuts to local government as a way to balance the state budget.



Graunstadt

"Regarding blight," she said, "I would support adding another ordinance officer to help with enforcement.

Increasing the number of public safety officials remains a priority of both the council and the administration. Though some adjustments occurred during recent contract negotiations to reduce health-care costs for new hires, the bottom line is that funding is limited for hiring additional police and fire personnel at this time."

A part-time development director for a law center, Graunstadt is a

PLEASE SEE GRAUNSTADT, A5

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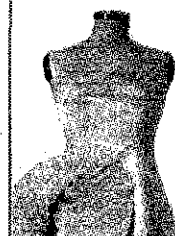


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Coming Sunday  
on the PINK page



Take a look at  
this season's  
bridal couture

# District to unveil proposal

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

What will the future of Livonia Public Schools look like?

That's the question on the minds of parents across the school district. Answers are expected on Oct. 20 - when the district will hold simultaneous meetings at each elementary school building, revealing a proposal compiled by the demographics committee.

Committee members have spent the past year reviewing issues facing the school district, such as falling enrollment, building use, grade configurations, school attendance boundaries, and a dwindling state budget.

Together, a group of 40 parents, teachers, administrators, board trustees and community members created a plan - possibly including closing schools, shifting attendance boundaries and reconfiguring grades in schools - to address the issues while preserving programs.

"They've spent a great deal of time and effort looking at all options for the school district," said Jay Young, director of community relations for Livonia Public Schools.

He said changes are necessary in order for the district to deal with the realities of its declining enrollment.

Since 1995 the district has lost 1,100 students in grades K-6, and has closed one elementary school - Marshall. For the past three years the state has frozen revenues for public schools, forcing districts like LPS to make cuts to cover rising expenses in salaries and benefits.

Since 2000, budget cuts have added up to \$19 million and a reduction in programs and support services.

Declining enrollment is not

## SCHOOL MEETING TIMELINE

Livonia Public Schools will host the following informational meetings over the next two months regarding proposed changes in the district.

■ 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20 - Parents may attend informational meetings at all elementary buildings in the district. The meetings will be held at each school. Staff members may attend a meeting at Churchill High School during this time.

■ 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1 - Informational meetings will be held at Fred Middle School, Franklin and Stevenson high schools.

■ 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14 - The Demographics Committee will present a proposal to the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road.

■ 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21 - A public hearing will be held at the board meeting, 15125 Farmington Road. Additional meetings will be announced. A recommendation will be given to the board by the year's end.

a new issue facing the district. According to district records, Livonia Public Schools attendance has dropped from a high of 38,000 students in 1971 to current totals of 18,000 students.

To address these facts, the committee examined many possibilities including closing more buildings and altering attendance boundaries. They aimed to maintain low class sizes and considered reconfiguring grades in school buildings. Their findings will be presented during upcoming informational meetings.

"These meetings are intended to disseminate the committee's work and the best proposal they have arrived at," said Young. "It's very important anyone associated with the school district attend in person or watch it on cable."

The meetings, which will be held between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, will also be aired on LPS TV, which is Channel 15 for Bright

House and Wide Open West subscribers and Channel 19 for Comcast subscribers.

"There have been a number of rumors flying around the district as to the contents of the committee's proposal," said Young. "These meetings on Oct. 20 are scheduled to share the actual details and give parents an opportunity to respond."

The meetings will not provide a forum for questions and answers. Instead, those in attendance will be asked to fill out a feedback form so the committee can review the opinions of the public before a formal proposal is shared with the Board of Education. An e-mail address will also be set up for this purpose.

The committee members will reflect on all public feedback and fine-tune its proposal accordingly, said Young, before presenting it to the school board next month.

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## Right there

Westland resident Carol Schurig shows former University of Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler where she'd like him to autograph her baseball cap when she caught up with the sports legend at the Sears store at Livonia Mall. Schembechler recently made several in-store appearances to help introduce Sears' Home Health Care centers where he signed autographs and greeted customers.

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Katrina help

This weekend, the Canton Construction Co. will have a truck parked at St. Damian Church and School, 30055 Joy Road, between Middlebelt and Merriman, to collect donations for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Items collected include canned goods, cleaning supplies, gently used books, teddy bears and other donations - but no clothing.

The collection is being organized with St. Joseph Catholic Church in Gulfport, Miss. Hours for the collection are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 3-6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

### Civil war talk

Local historian Daryl A. Bailey will present Beyond the Pomp and Circumstance: Civil War Prison Camps, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in Hall D of the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Many of the images appearing in Bailey's presentation are actual photographs taken during the Civil War. Some of them are very graphic in nature and could be upsetting to some viewers.

Bailey, the great grandson of a federal prisoner of war, will give an overview of Andersonville and Johnson Island. He will also show the difference in treatment between officers and enlisted men.

Bailey is a former chairman of the Westland Historical Commission, the managing editor of *The Nankin Historian* and the co-author of *Images of America: Westland*.

For more information, call Ruth Dale (734) 425-1955 or email Bailey at [NankinHistorian@comcast.net](mailto:NankinHistorian@comcast.net).

### No violence

The city's annual Turn Off the Violence program is scheduled for 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The event is intended to encourage families to turn off violent television program-

ming and video games for one night.

The event will offer activities ranging from a magic show to live animals to inflatable games. It is free except for nominal charges for food. 50th church

Palmer Road Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special luncheon and service on Oct. 23.

The church, at 33740 Palmer Road west of Venoy, will have its 50th anniversary service at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 23. Pastor Church Ozment and his congregation have invited the public to join in the celebration.

There will be special speakers including former Pastor James Severance. Special music presentations and a fellowship luncheon will follow the service.

For more information, call (734) 729-2434.

### Coffee with Glenn

State Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has announced that his next local coffee hour will be 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Westland Big Boy restaurant at 6360 Wayne Road at Hunter.

Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson to discuss their issues and concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the third Monday of each month.

### Octoberfest

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center will host an Octoberfest noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. The event will include a German feast including sausage and sauerkraut, crispy chicken, meatballs and other items.

There will be line dancing, including many dances for beginners.

Tickets are \$8 for Friendship Center members and \$10 for guests.

### Town Hall

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli will have her next Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Hayes Elementary School, 30600 Louise, south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of

Merriman. All residents are welcome to make comments or ask questions of Cicirelli and her administration.

### Mark your calendars

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Harris Kehrer VFW Post 3323 has plenty of things going on during October and November.

As a fund-raiser for the VA Hospital and PAC projects, the ladies will be hosting a psychic fair with readings by Mystiques West 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 the auxiliary will conduct a chili cook-off and bake sale auction at 5:30 p.m. at the post at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 721-9879 after 5 p.m. for more information.

On Saturday, Nov. 5 and 19, the auxiliary will be holding a marathon bingo's noon to 5 p.m.

### Halloween happenings

The Westland Jaycees will spook up the neighborhood with their haunted house, which opened for the season on Friday, Oct. 7, in the east parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Ghouls, ghosts and screams await older children, teens and adults 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday and 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. It will close Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 10-13 and 17-20.

A special Friendly Haunted House event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 22. The haunted house will open one hour earlier to provide a friendly monster night for smaller children. Call (734) 637-8415.

The Jaycees also will be offering a Friendly Monster Luncheon 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at the haunted house for kids under 12 years of age. The cost is \$1 per child and adults and includes lunch with some friendly monsters, face painting, pumpkin painting, games and a Moonwalk.

For more information, call (734) 226-0400.

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# Band contest sure sign of fall

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

Leaves weren't the only things sporting color Saturday.

The crisp fall day was the perfect backdrop for the bright colors and creative choreography along with the masterful music and marching displayed by the 10 bands competing at the 19th annual John Glenn Marching Band Invitational.

"We start planning for this event about six months in advance," said Penny Gierak, co-chair of the invitational along with Eric Fahlgren and Barry Hensel. "We have approximately 55 booster parents involved in this. That's about 75 percent of our parent booster organization. We have a great bunch of kids as well as a great bunch of parents to support them."

That's something that Fahlgren, who also serves as the Glenn Music Boosters president, agrees with, and he knows there's a big payoff for parent volunteer time invested.

"I see marching band as a means for producing better citizens," he said. "I think it is, by far, the best curricular or extracurricular activity that the kids can be involved in."

That's music to Director Scott Cramer's ears. He's proud of the work and leadership produced by his 67 marchers and three alternates.

"I thought they did a great job today," he said of their Saturday performance of *Minimally Speaking*. The Rockets' approximately 10-minute competition show involves taking a small portion of music and repeating it with slight changes in the music to give it texture, Cramer explained.

"Each portion has its own melody and rhythm," he said. The second movement is called *Layers*, which incorporates visual aspects of layering in the drill, and the third part is *Echoes*.

"The drill is amazing this year," junior trombonist Josh Sholler said. "I think this year's program is harder because there are more dynamic contrasts, but I think we did great today."

Senior Jessica Dwyer, who plays piccolo and serves as drum major along with Natalie Bower, agreed. "The show is going so well this year," Dwyer said. "Everyone is motivated and ready to work and we all want to get things accomplished."

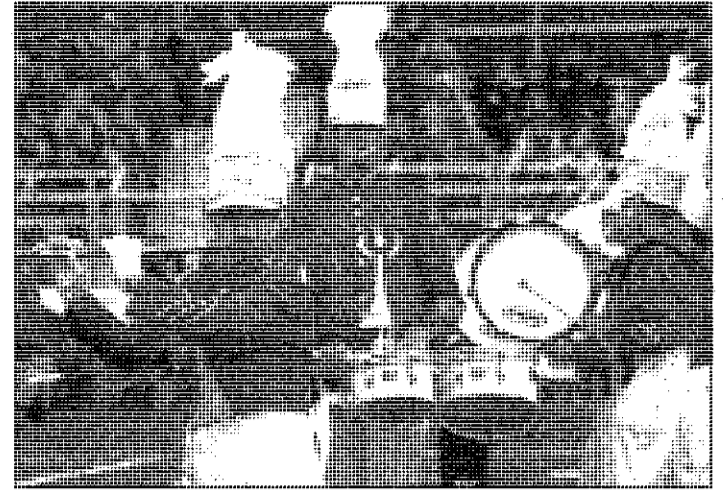
"This year's program is a lot more positive," sophomore trumpeter Fiona Murphy-Fahlgren said. "It's also a challenge."

The Rocket Marching Band was up for that challenge as it played in the judged exhibition as host of the event. Glenn Principal Joan Sedik and Westland school board member Ed Turner served as awards presenters.

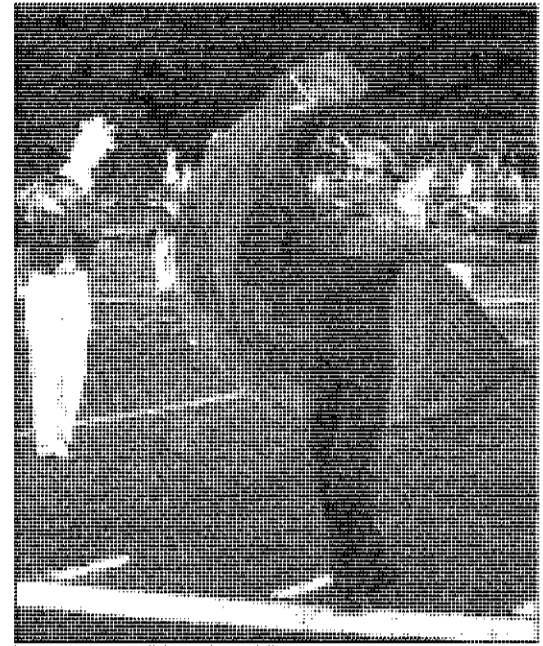
Other area bands at the competition included Novi, second in Flight I competition; and Livonia Franklin, first, and Farmington, second, in Flight II competition. Flights are determined by school enrollment, not the number in the band, with Flight I the largest schools.



Assistant color guard captain Jana Dean adds creative choreography to the Rockets' "Minimally Speaking." Behind her (from left) are Dan Leinbach, Kevin Graham, Kristin Peters and Samantha Hatfield.



Flutist Kaitlyn Sutton hits his notes while quad drummer Matthew Gierak keeps the beat during the Rockets' performance.



Color guardist Sean Barone gives a powerful twist to his flag as trumpeter Amy Carter (left) marches on during the John Glenn band's performance during the invitational.



Marimba players Chris Brown (left) and Stephanie Waldon concentrate on their music during John Glenn High School's exhibition performance of "Minimally Speaking."

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

**Willow Creek**

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. For more information, call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

**Preschool program**

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus

Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparky Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

**McKinley**

Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

**YWCA Readiness**

The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

**Charter school**

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the

Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

**Methodist**

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is now enrolling for the 2004-05 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays; three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call the preschool office at (734) 728-3559. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9-11:30 a.m.

**Garden City Co-op**

Garden City Co-op Nursery, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt at John Hauk, has openings in its programs for children 18 months to 4 years. The tots class meets on Wednesday mornings, while the older youngsters meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Parents can call (734) 261-2838 for more information.

**Little Lambs**

Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road south of West Chicago in Livonia has classes Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Call (248) 471-2077.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Darryl Johnson (center) watches as Robert McQuillen (left) and Robert Spotts play a video football game at the Dorsey Center.

**SUPERVISOR**

FROM PAGE A1

with his 9-year-old daughter, Ciara.

"It has been emotional leaving," he said. "It's tough."

Johnson, a Westland resident and Muskegon native, was surrounded by children when he returned to the Dorsey Center for an interview about his service there.

"Darryl's back!" one youngster shouted.

Westland Housing Director James Gilbert, who oversees the Dorsey Center, remembered how the after-school program was in chaos before Johnson was hired.

"It was like the Wild West before Darryl came," Gilbert said. "There was fighting and stealing. I was about to give up. And then came Darryl Johnson."

Johnson was firm with the children. He became a mentor yet explained to them that they had to behave and obey his rules if they wanted to come to the Dorsey Center after school to play pool, foosball, checkers, air hockey and other games.

"He treats everybody fairly,

and he makes sure everybody sticks to the rules," 14-year-old Robert McQuillen said.

"He taught us how to be respectful," 14-year-old Shauna Bellenir said, sitting in the recreation room with her sister Katie Bellenir, 16.

"He teaches us manners and plays pool with us," the older sister said. "He's nice all around."

Johnson has helped two generations of Norwayne children. He even hired one woman at his bank years after she was in the recreation program.

Parents have personally come to the Dorsey Center to express their gratitude to Johnson for teaching their children to be more polite and better-behaved.

Some children turned to Johnson for advice and for that vote of confidence that they couldn't get at home.

"I wanted the kids to know that they had someone looking out for their best interests," Johnson said.

He initiated an annual Christmas party that each year allowed as many as 120 children to receive donations of toys that they might not otherwise have gotten. He started an outdoor basketball pro-

gram behind the Dorsey Center.

"None of the kids have ever been asked for a dime for anything," Johnson said.

Gilbert's office has used federal community-development dollars to pay for the low-cost program.

On any given day, Johnson supervised 10-20 children, ages 5 to 15, as they played games or worked on computers in the recreation room.

He spent 15-20 hours a week supervising the after-school program, and he speaks kindly of the children he encountered.

"I've seen some improvement in the kids, and the neighborhood also has improved," Johnson said. "I always tried to be fair with everybody - girls and boys, black and white, it didn't matter."

Even without Johnson, the program will continue with new supervisor Heather Coleman.

"It was hard to leave," Johnson conceded. "I've had parents come up to me and ask me how I got their kid to say 'please.' I got a lot of enjoyment out of being here. I'll miss it."

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# Randall touched many lives as music teacher, conductor

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

Robert Randall was a recognizable fixture in his Fairway Farms neighborhood, where he could be seen jogging 3 1/2 to 4 miles a day with his Brittany spaniel.

Retaining a full head of hair at age 73, Randall was also recognizable to the scores of band and orchestra students he'd run into who remembered him from his 33-year teaching career at Frost School, and the many others he led as conductor of the Livonia Youth Symphony Society Junior Orchestra.

"We couldn't go anywhere without someone saying, 'I know you. You were my best music teacher,'" said his daughter, Sarah Hopkins.

Randall died Oct. 9 at his home in Livonia, not long after one of his neighborhood jogs.

His wife of 43 years, Margaret, said her husband was "very health conscious," taking up his daily running routine 36 years ago when Sarah was just a baby.

Margaret said her husband later enjoyed jogging around a lake at their cottage near Sault Ste. Marie, and he also ran in two Detroit Free Press marathons.

She described her husband as "perfect, a remarkable man."

Randall was born Nov. 21, 1931, in Wauwatosa, Wis., where his father taught music and served at church as the organ player and choir director. "All the boys sang in the church choir. It was just a natural thing in the family," Margaret Randall said.

Margaret met Robert during a curriculum meeting, while she was teaching at Emerson School and he was teaching at Riley. He also spent some time teaching at Bentley and elementary schools before becoming full time with band and orchestra at Frost.

Randall had earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music at Northwestern University, played French horn in the Denver Symphony for several years, and later played French horn, viola and violin in the Plymouth Symphony for many years.



Robert Randall began his musical life playing violin, following in the footsteps of his grandfather.

His role in educating youth in music was also significant in the Livonia Youth Symphony, where he served as conductor from 1960-1979. At his retirement celebration with some 400 people in attendance, he was honored with a "King of Music" cake.

At the time, board president David Woods was quoted in the *Livonia Observer* as saying: "Many young musicians who have gone through the Livonia Youth Symphony and have progressed to the ranks of higher symphonies like the DSO, owe him a debt of gratitude for their early training." Daughter Sarah described

her father's passions as family, music and friends. "He was a very easy-going person. He was a hard worker ... And he never had a harsh word to say about anybody, and that's not easy to say about someone."

Along with his wife and daughter, Randall is survived by his son, Thomas; son-in-law, Darren Hopkins; brother, Richard; and grandchildren, Alexandra and Chloe.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, in Livonia, with the Rev. C. Allen Kannappell officiating. [dvarga@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:dvarga@oe.homecomm.net) | (734) 953-2119

## DAVIS

FROM PAGE A1

mon sense and never lose sight of what the people want.

If the city's financial position were to worsen and budget cuts became necessary, how would you trim spending?

Start by making cuts at the top along with department heads, before looking at workers and services.

What can be done to attract new

businesses and new residents to Westland?

A uniform tax base that's equal to all businesses and not (just) by those who give campaign monies.

Many residents say the city needs to be cleaned up, and a new blight ordinance has been approved to help with that. Will it work, and how long will it be before residents notice a difference?

That depends on how it's used. If it's used fairly with everyone, we will see. If, how-

ever, some are shielded from it, we will know that, too.

How would you rate the city of Westland for the services it provides to residents - poor, average, above average or excellent? What improvements or changes need to be made?

Above average as long as directions from above are not put in place as a tool of punishment against certain sections of the city.

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## GRAUNSTADT

FROM PAGE A1

married mother of three grown daughters. She has an associate degree from Henry Ford Community College in the legal assistant program.

Her community involvement includes being a former library volunteer, PTA board member and newsletter editor at Cooper Elementary School. She has been involved with Westland Goodfellows, the Westland Democratic Club and has served on environmental and health-care planning committees with non-profit coalitions in southeast Michigan. She was a vocal opponent of a now-closed incinerator that served Westland and other communities.

Here's how Graunstadt responded to other questions posed by the *Observer*:

Why are you running for a Westland City Council seat, and what are your best qualifications?

I'm running to retain my current position on the city council because I am an advocate for the everyday person and his or her right to an honest, open and representative government. I'd like to continue serving in this capacity and believe my record of speaking out on behalf of Westland taxpayers is both recognized and appreciated.

I have a common-sense approach to government, wherein I feel accountability for spending and decision-

making is key. My best qualifications are that I'm not afraid to ask questions. I am well-organized, prepared for meetings and responsive to residents.

If the city's financial position were to worsen and budget cuts became necessary, how would you trim spending?

During several budget sessions, I had expressed my support to remove the payment of longevity pay to newly hired employees. Unfortunately, I have not been supported by a council majority on this issue.

Obviously, each department would need oversight to determine ways to cut spending. I'd like to see council take a closer look at programs such as the ice arena and golf course and adopt some type of a performance budgeting process: requiring programs to show and document activities and levels of program success in order to continue current funding levels.

What can be done to attract new businesses and new residents to Westland?

Since a new economic development director is scheduled to come on board, we can hope that person will bring some expertise in this area to Westland.

Redevelopment can stabilize our business community, offer employment opportunities and therefore help with our tax base.

We can continue to attract residents by offering great schools, ample recreational opportunities, safe neighborhoods and top-notch public

services.

Many residents say the city needs to be cleaned up, and a new blight ordinance has been approved to help with that. Will it work, and how long will it take before residents notice a difference?

It can certainly work if additional resources are allocated. Currently, two ordinance officers - one assigned to the Norwayne neighborhoods and one other for the rest of the city - is not enough. Some people may notice improvements right away, but citywide it will likely take some time before the majority of residents notice a difference.

Some legal challenges will continue to occur probably involving delays.

How would you rate the city of Westland for the services it provides to residents - poor, average, above average or excellent? What improvements or changes need to be made?

I would rate the services as historically good in Westland. Barring unforeseen funding issues, I expect that services will continue to be good and possibly even improve. I'd suggest improving the availability of information on our city Web site to include the city budget for citizens to review and links for local school district information.

When the next trash-disposal contract is agreed upon, we must be assured that previous complaints about late service, sloppy pick-up practices and leaking trucks won't continue.

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# Flight patterns

## County hears concerns about Willow Run

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

Pat McNally stared at the aerial photo of the runways at Willow Run Airport. He cocked his head and traced the line of one of the main stretches of asphalt and said, "My house is right over here," tapping the foam core board with his pen.

McNally, along with dozens of residents who live near Willow Run, wanted to know: How will proposed changes at the airport affect me?

The Wayne County Airport Authority invited those questions and comments at an informational meeting Tuesday in Belleville. The authority updated its master plan, and hopes are high that work on reconfiguring parts of the airport will begin in 2007, pending the completion of an impact study.

"I read in the paper that the plan was Canton-friendly, and I said, 'Wait a minute. That goes right over my house,'" said McNally, who five years ago built his house in Van Buren Township near Tyler and Morton Taylor roads.

According to the new plan, two of Willow Run's five runways will be eliminated. One of the remaining three will be shortened slightly. One of the major runways will be lengthened from 7,294 feet to 9,522, and one 7,526-foot runway's length will not be altered, according to Sean Brosnan, Willow Run director.

"There's just too much runway for this airfield," Brosnan said.

The project, if approved, will cost approximately \$77 million, and will be paid for primarily with FAA funds. Willow Run is the third-busiest airport in the state, and second in terms of the weight of total cargo.

Willow Run has some 100,000 operations per year, is home to 420 aircraft, and last year the total cargo was just shy of a half-billion pounds, Brosnan said.

The plan — which would more than double the number of hangars from 110 T-hangars and 10 conventional to 240 T-hangars and 25 conventional, and provide for additional fuel storage, an updated fire station, and enhance de-icing equipment — is the wave of the future, Brosnan said.

"The truth of the matter is this is the future. With Internet shopping and people being able to work at their homes and requiring things like computers and palm pilots and communications technology, all those shipments are going in the air," Brosnan said. "Things need to come and go quickly, to be competitive with strip malls."

But Canton resident Henry Moore, who as a pilot periodically uses Willow Run, said because so many automotive businesses are shrinking or failing, the changes may be unnecessary.

"From what we know, Delphi is going bankrupt and we've seen the steel industry move and automotive industry move overseas. What's happening here is the area is gently folding up," Moore said. "Northwest Airlines has cut 25 percent of its flights." The airport provides emergency delivery operations, according to Moore, and will never be a global airport.

But Randy Hotton, who is with the operations



A new runway expansion plan, as explained by Sean Brosnan, will reduce the flights over Canton.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

division of USA Jet Airlines, said that Willow Run is situated within 500 miles of all major parts suppliers in North America.

Though USA Jet Airlines is a major tenant at Willow Run, only 20 percent of its flights originate from the Ypsilanti airport. The rest travel to and from hubs elsewhere in North America, Hotton said. The difficulty with flying in and out of Willow Run, he said, is the length of the runways. They're too short to take off fully loaded with fuel and cargo, so it's not cost-effective to use the airport. USA Jet Airlines' primary customers are General Motors, Ford, Delphi, Toyota, Honda and Nissan, Hotton said.

The last time the airport's master plan was updated was 1982, Brosnan said. Approximately 1,500 people are employed at Willow Run. There will be a minimum of two formal public hearings during the environmental impact study, Brosnan said. Also included in the plan are upgrades such as parallel taxi ways, airfield lighting improvements, instrument upgrades, runway rehabilitation, runway safety area upgrades, a new fire station and a new snow removal equipment building. The improvements will make the airport safer as well as more efficient, according to Brosnan.

"Based on what I've seen here tonight, this expansion doesn't really bother me. But I have planes coming over my house right now. I don't want it to get any worse. I'm just not comfortable with them saying that planes will take off in a certain direction. Plans change. I would feel better if there was something in writing, but I don't think that will ever happen," McNally said.

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

**K of C Bingo**  
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

**Metro Wayne**  
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club offers a bingo at the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Fridays. Doors open at 9 a.m. with bingo starting at 10:45 a.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is available for \$3. For more information, call Cliff Johnson at (734) 729-8681.

### FOR SENIORS

**Friendship Center**  
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

**Crochet & Knit**  
A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

**Visually Impaired**  
The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

**Choir**  
The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

**Hearing checks**  
Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

**Exercise**  
Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

**Travel Group**  
The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

**Dyer Center**  
The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m. Organizations

**Vietnam Vets**  
The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

**Friends of library**  
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

**In Harmony**  
The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

**Civil Air Patrol**  
Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260). Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site www.members.home.net/capliberators/.

**Habitat help**  
The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

**Veteran's Haven**  
Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center, 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Basketball clinics**  
The Westland Parks and Recreation Department and Hoops Stars Basketball will sponsor a six-week Hoops Stars Basketball Clinic 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 8-Dec. 6 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The clinic is for youngsters ages 7-13 and in grades 1-8. Participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. There also will be challenging games and drills and an opportunity to play in a 5-on-5 full court game. Kids need to bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. The clinic costs \$42 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Register at the Bailey Center. For more information, call Ron Levin at (248) 496-3268.

**Drama and dance**  
The Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program and the Shoe String Theatre are offering a drama and movement program for children with special needs. The class will be 5-6 p.m. Fridays Nov. 4-Dec. 16. Each week there will be a different theme based on a children's story. Drama, music, movement and dance will teach youngsters gross motor, listening and focusing skills while letting children use their imaginations. The class will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Cost is \$30 for residents and \$31 for non-residents. Scholarships are available for Westland residents. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

**Halloween Walk**  
Tickets are on sale for the 17th annual Halloween Walk at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe. The Halloween Walk will be held Wednesday, Oct. 26, through Thursday, Oct. 27, at Attwood Park. Guided walks every 15 minutes and ending with cider and donuts. The walk is not a haunted house and is geared for the whole family. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$4 for residents and \$4.50 for non-residents. Children age 2 and under are free. Call (734) 721-7400 for more information.

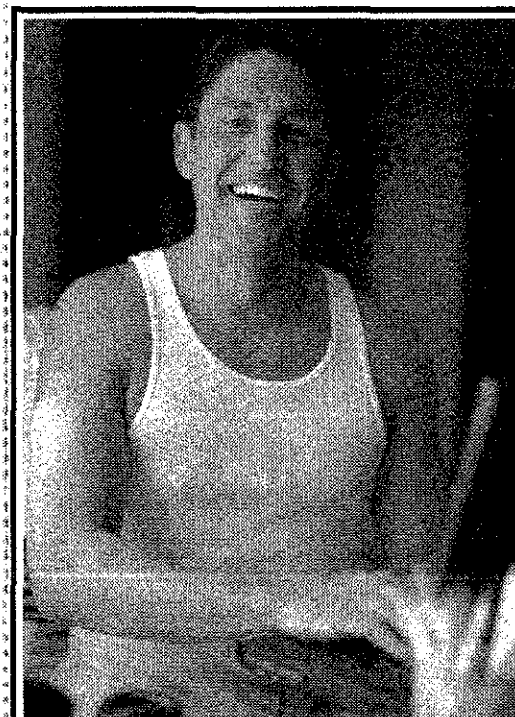
### BINGO

**VFW Bingo**  
Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

**Dems hold bingo**  
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club has bingo 10:45 a.m. every Monday at the Wayne Ford Civic League, on Wayne Road south of Ford in Westland. For information, call Jan or Cliff at (734) 591-1694 or Cliff at (734) 729-8681.

**St. Mel Church**  
Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

**Shamrock Bingo**  
Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100



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## Donated photos mark Wilson Barn history

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Brothers Ira and Charles Wilson can retrace their family history while walking into the historic home and barn that bears their name at the corner of West Chicago and Middlebelt roads.

Their father, Charles L. Wilson Sr., was born in the home and co-founded the Ira Wilson & Sons Dairy Co. with his own father in 1930.

"He quit school in the eighth grade," said Charles Wilson Jr.

Stan Anderson added: "He was quite a businessman." Anderson serves president of Friends of the Wilson Barn, which maintains the historic property in Livonia.

The dairy company was the first to use a glass-lined tank for trucks that hauled milk.

"At one time it was the largest milk-hauling business in the U.S.," said Anderson.

In honor of Charles L. Wilson Sr., and the family's roots in Livonia, Ira Wilson II donated several framed photographs to the barn and museum last week.

One is a portrait of their father. Another is a large photograph of the cow statue which once graced a billboard at Ford Road and I-96 in Detroit. Yet another depicts the actual company billboard.

According to Ira Wilson II, the photographs had been published in *The Wilson Way*, a company publication for employees. He had a few of them enlarged and framed for display at the barn.

Anderson called the photographs an inspiring part of the Wilson history. He said it adds to the property, which served as the foundation for the Wilsons' dairy business.

Charles L. Wilson Sr. was born in 1891. He wed Carrie Place Wilson at the age of 20. The couple had four children: Thelma Wilson Brain, Stanley L. Wilson, Ira Wilson II and Charles L. Wilson Jr.

"He was a quiet, modest man," said Ira Wilson II of his father. "He was always willing to help people who had a problem."

Wilson was a board member of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, the Wayne County Road Commission, the Michigan State Fair Commission, the Board of Directors of Florence Crittenden Hospital, the Detroit Golf Club, the Michigan Automobile Club, and the Michigan Milk Producer's Association, among others.

The Wilson family owned farmland at several locations



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charles L. Wilson Jr. and Ira Wilson II visit the Wilson Barn in Livonia. Their father Charles L. Wilson Sr., started his family's dairy business in the city.

in Livonia. The land on which the barn still stands was once a parcel 80 acres wide. In addition, the family owned 160 acres in that area, west of Merriman Road, and a 200 acre parcel at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt.

"My father was instrumental in building the race track (which once stood there)," recalled Charles L. Wilson Jr. The family's trucking business was eventually moved to Detroit.

"This is such a wonderful way to honor the history of the Wilson (family)," said Karen Meier, a member of Friends of the Barn. She especially liked the photo-

graph of the cow landmark.

Friends of the Barn, established in 1973, maintains the property, which is recognized as a state and national historic site. A group of volunteers recently repainted the barn.

From the location on Middlebelt, Charles L. Wilson Sr. and family developed a million dollar enterprise beginning with a dairy farm and growing into a delivery business and full creamery.

Anderson has been a member of the Friends of the Barn for 20 years. A Livonia resident, he said he's always been fascinated with the historic site. For the past 12 years,

he's served as president of the organization.

The Wilson Barn is available for rental. It has been the site of weddings, graduations, anniversary and other parties.

The Friends of the Barn also host annual events there, including spring plant and flower sales, June car shows, Music Under the Stars and a farmer's market held during the summer months, October's Pumpkin Fest and a Christmas Sing-along in December. For more information, call (313) 427-4311.

scasola@oe.homecomm.net  
(734) 953-2054

## Holmes collects for Louisiana school

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

The hurricane relief efforts around Livonia Public Schools show no signs of slowing down.

Holmes Middle School staff and students are about to embark on a donation drive to assist two elementary schools in Westwego, La.

Holmes teachers David Mitchell and Lori Burns came up with the idea, following the tragedy in the hurricane-ravaged Gulf region. When he discovered that Burns knew the principal of an elementary school in that region, Mitchell suggested that Holmes adopt the school in an effort to help re-open it.

Holmes Counselor Adam Mitchell then took the initiative to contact Joshua Butler Elementary and ask for a wish list detailing what it might take to make that happen.

The school, located just across the Mississippi River from New Orleans, opened its doors on Oct 3, but is anxiously awaiting assistance, according to Adam Mitchell.

In a recent conversation with Principal Pam Billiot, he learned that 350 of the school's 550 students have already returned.

"They are coming in every day," he said. "They really need our help."

Due to the devastation, a second elementary school is also operating out of the building.

"We were just told that Lincoln Elementary is also housed in Joshua Bulter, so we now have two schools to help," said Adam Mitchell.

Anyone interested in donating may do so between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. from Monday-Friday, Oct. 17-21, at Holmes Middle School, 16200 Newburgh Road in Livonia.

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### HERE'S WHAT TO DONATE

The following items may be dropped off from Oct. 17-21 at Holmes Middle School to assist in recovery efforts at schools in Louisiana:

■ For teachers - Dry erase markers and erasers, chart tablets, chalk, clothes pins, index cards, pencils, pens, paper, highlighters, white out, tape, folders, markers, post-it notes, scissors, staplers, manipulative clocks.

■ For students - No. 2 pencils, pens, paper with wide rule, single-subject notebooks, pencil boxes, folders, markers, scissors, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, composition notebooks, construction paper, backpacks and school bags.

■ For classrooms - Tissues, liquid soap, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, air fresheners, sleeping mats, board games and non-perishable snacks.

■ Personal items - Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs and brushes, hair accessories, deodorant and bedding.

■ Cash donations will also be accepted. Checks may be made payable to Holmes Middle School.

For more details, call Adam Mitchell at (734) 744-2675, ext. 38119.

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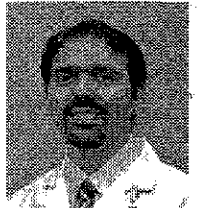
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# Benefit concerts to help Celtic musician rebuild

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

They're more than just fans of Danny O'Flaherty, they're family.

Farmington Hills residents Beth Eriksson and her mother, Barbara Anton, and Maureen Moriarty-Root, of Livonia, have organized two benefit concerts to help their favorite Celtic musician and advocate of Celtic culture.

O'Flaherty, a world-renowned Celtic musician, author and founder of the Celtic Nations Foundation, lost everything to Hurricane Katrina. His famous New Orleans pub, O'Flaherty's Irish Channel Pub, is destroyed and his livelihood is virtually gone.

Eriksson, who met O'Flaherty several years ago while visiting the pub with her family, decided to help the man she says is the most kind and generous person.

"He is such a gentle soul," Eriksson said. "He is such a tremendous person. He always helps everyone he can and that's why we want to help him."

Eriksson and Moriarty-Root invited O'Flaherty to come to Farmington to perform two concerts that would benefit his rebuilding effort. O'Flaherty and his family evacuated New Orleans and settled in Jasper, Texas. They had to leave Jasper when Hurricane Rita hit and now they're in Temple, Texas.

"We just feel so badly," said Moriarty-Root. "He has worked so hard at his business and he's done so much to promote our culture. O'Flaherty's is really the hub for Irish culture."

She is optimistic he will be able to open the pub and draw the crowds he once drew.

In the meantime, O'Flaherty will perform a special chil-



Danny O'Flaherty

**His famous New Orleans pub, O'Flaherty's Irish Channel Pub, is destroyed and his livelihood is virtually gone.**

dren's concert at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Farmington Civic Theatre on Grand River in downtown Farmington. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

An Evening of Celtic Music will be presented by Danny O'Flaherty and special guest performers from Michigan — Brian Bonner, Shamrock Shore and Stone Cross — during a benefit concert 7-11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile in Livonia. Tickets are \$20 each.

Irish dancers Erin Burklow, of Livonia; Katie Bowerson, of Westland, and Mary Claire Higgins-Luthman, of Livonia, will perform and Dennis Burklow, a Livonia police officer, will play the bagpipes during the Sunday performance.

Tickets can be purchased at the Celtic Shamrock, 23622 Farmington Road, south of Grand River in downtown Farmington or by mailing a check made out to Danny O'Flaherty to Beth Eriksson, 23249 Springbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Call Beth at (248) 476-1233 for more information, or call Maureen Root at (734) 464-3227 or Barbara Anton at (248) 477-6663.

Eriksson said she's happy to be able to help O'Flaherty. She said he visited his pub in New Orleans recently and discovered it is covered in mold and completely destroyed. His Celtic Nations Foundation offices, located upstairs from the pub, are also destroyed.

"He's pretty devastated," she said. "He loves to perform — it helps him. He likes to give, so it's difficult for him to receive."

His fans and fellow Celtic musicians around the country are organizing similar events to help him rebuild his life.

O'Flaherty will perform concerts in Rochester, N.Y.; New London, Conn.; and Washington D.C.

While visiting Michigan, O'Flaherty will perform at several schools in the area, including Kembrook Elementary in Farmington Hills.

"We really wanted the children to experience his music," Eriksson said.

O'Flaherty grew up in western Ireland and has been driven to preserve his traditional Gaelic upbringing through his music. He has performed all around the world, including at President Ronald Reagan's inaugural ball; for a crowd of a half million people on the steps of the U.S. Capitol for Solidarity Day; and at the National Cathedral for Pope John Paul II's visit to the U.S.

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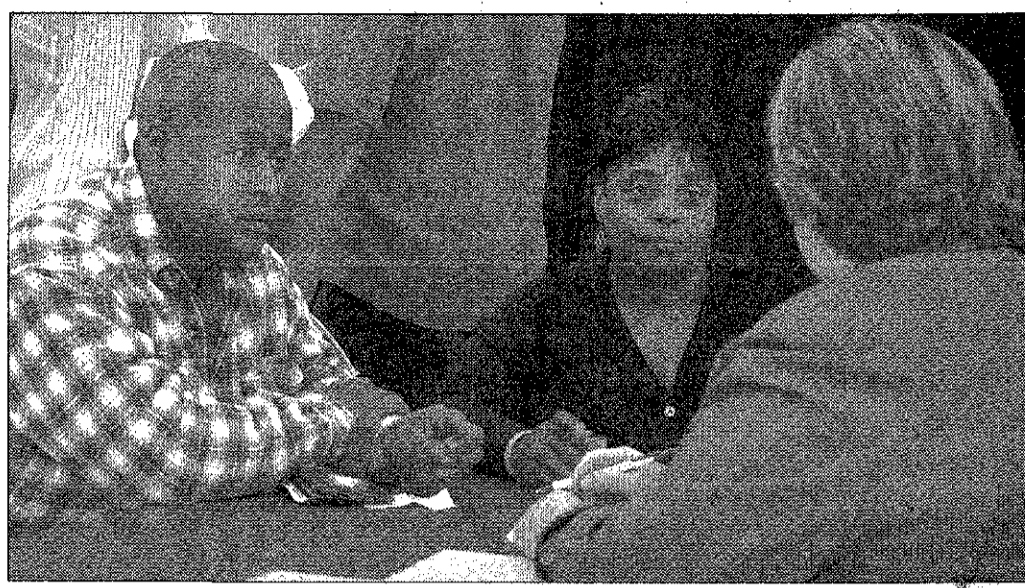


PHOTO BY JEROME MAGID

A staff attorney from Legal Aid and Defender Association, Sally Root (back to camera), counsels Prentis Brock III and his wife, Cindy, hurricane survivors from New Orleans, La., at the Mount Clemens Public Library.

## Pro bono attorneys help Katrina survivors

First and foremost, survivors of Hurricane Katrina evacuated to Michigan need food, clothing and shelter, and in some cases, medical care. Often, however, they also need legal services, which many are receiving free of charge from private pro bono attorneys and non-profit organizations that provide legal services to people who cannot afford attorneys.

Among these organizations is Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc., which is servicing hurricane survivors through its new Displaced Gulf Coast Residents Program.

Staff and pro bono attorneys alike are assisting hurricane survivors with legal issues related to birth records, FEMA rights, guardianship, housing and homelessness, insurance claims, local school enroll-

ment, personal identification, public benefits, public utilities, bankruptcy, Social Security and youth issues.

"The Displaced Gulf Coast Residents Program is critical because the lives of the displaced survivors are in upheaval," said Deirdre L. Weir, executive director of Legal Aid and Defender. "We can help them sort out some of the legal problems, cut through red tape, and help them rebuild their lives."

Legal Aid and Defender staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys recruited from private practice by Legal Aid's Private Attorney Involvement unit began meeting with survivors at client intake sessions at Ramada Inn and Convention Center in Southfield and the Mount Clemens Public Library in Mount Clemens last month.

Hurricane survivors who

did not attend the intake sessions also can visit Legal Aid and Defender's offices in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties at:

■ Suite 2600, Penobscot Building, 645 Griswold St., Detroit.

■ Suite 4, Robert A. Verkuilen Building, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township.

■ Suite 1200, Oakland Towne Center, 28 North Saginaw St., Pontiac.

Legal Aid and Defender receives clients 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. every Wednesday at the sites. Hurricane survivors also can call Legal Aid and Defender's toll-free intake number at (877) 964-4700.

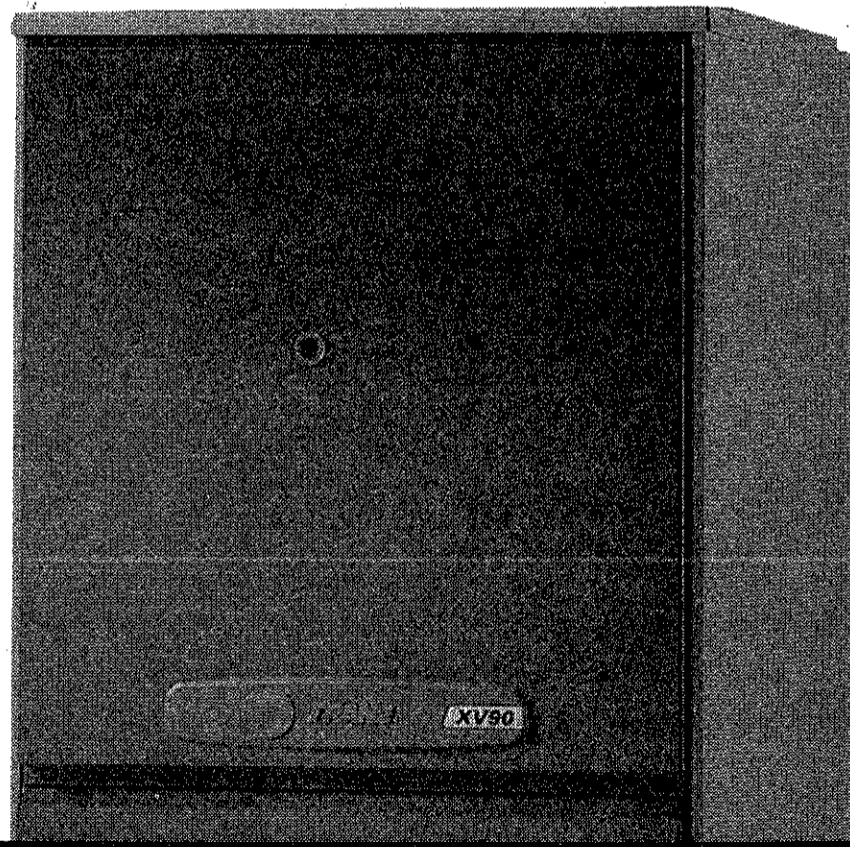
Private attorneys interested in helping hurricane survivors can call Lynda Krupp, managing attorney of Private Attorney Involvement, at (313) 964-4111, Ext. 6241.

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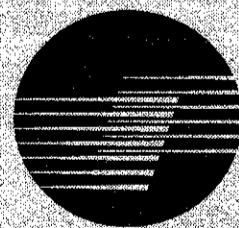


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## Talk radio host Trupiano to run for 11th District seat

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Talk radio host Tony Trupiano announced Tuesday that he will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination to challenge Republican U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter in the 11th Congressional District 2006 election.

A resident of Dearborn Heights, Trupiano hosted a liberal/progressive talk radio program that was syndicated on the Michigan Talk Radio Network and broadcasted on the Internet. His last show was Sept. 30. Trupiano is also a motivational speaker and media trainer.

Trupiano, 44, said he is running because of, "My passion for this country, fear for the future and lack of hope in

of the district have been ignored and that he plans to reach out to those voters. McCotter hasn't announced whether he will seek a third term.

Trupiano said his chances are good despite McCotter's easy victories in the last two congressional elections.

many people I meet - in the district and across the country."

In a press statement Trupiano said he wants to restore "the values and priorities important to Michigan's working families."

"Priorities such as making health care more affordable, strengthening our public education system and developing incentives to create jobs here at home have been replaced by a web of scandals and culture of corruption, led by former majority leader Tom Delay and his cronies," the release read.

On Tuesday, Trupiano said his chances are good despite McCotter's easy victories in the last two congressional elections. He said some parts

of the district have been ignored and that he plans to reach out to those voters.

McCotter hasn't announced whether he will seek a third term.

"The biggest problem (with McCotter) is that we don't see anything," Trupiano said. "We don't see legislation, we don't see leadership. Maybe it's because he's only a second-term congressman. But, it's time to stand up with passion and purpose. Just look at the economic landscape. Do we see policies that advance real living-wage jobs?"

Trupiano said he has met with labor groups and political leaders and the 11th District Democratic organization. He said his first priority is to begin fund-raising.

Trupiano is a graduate of Lakeland High School in Milford and attended Alma College. He has never run for public office before and has no government experience. He and his wife, Anne, have three children.

## Metzger heads to United Way

Kurt Metzger will serve as director of research for United Way for Southeastern Michigan effective Oct. 11. Metzger comes to United Way from Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies, where he served as director of the Michigan Metropolitan Information Center (MIMIC).

Metzger brings more than 30 years of research and analysis experience to United Way. In his new role, he will be responsible for gathering, interpreting and preparing data to help the organization develop regional strategies to best serve southeast Michigan. He will be responsible for developing measurement tools that monitor the performance of both internal and external progress toward United Way's mission and objectives, ensuring that the organization is continually improving to best serve the region.

Metzger began his career with the U.S. Census Bureau's Detroit Regional Office. There, he served as a geographic planning specialist to develop the map and address files used for the 1980 census. From 1980-1990 Metzger organized and directed the data services program in Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia.

He has spent the last 15 years

at Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies as a senior research analyst and then as director of MIMIC. In these roles he has overseen the documentation and investigation of trends related to urban population and housing.

Prior to his new position with the United Way,

Metzger served as a volunteer on United Way's Environmental Scan Committee, Research Committee, and the Southeast Michigan Information Center's Advisory Board.

Metzger received his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Cincinnati. He currently resides in Pleasant Ridge.

## WE NEED COATS FOR KIDS!



Please join us in this community drive to collect new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, mittens and blankets to keep kids warm this winter. All donations will be distributed to families living in public housing in Wayne County on November 5, 2005.

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OUR VIEWS

## Week puts focus on candle safety

Candles may look nice, but they're a growing fire threat as a source of deadly home fires.

And knowing the facts about candles is a key to fire safety.

During 2002, candles in U.S. homes caused an estimated 18,000 reported structure fires, 130 deaths, 1,350 injuries and \$333 million in estimated property damage.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, during the four-year period of 1999-2002, 40 percent of the home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 30 percent of the associated deaths, while 17 percent of home candle fires that started in the living room, common room, or den caused 36 percent of the fatalities.

In fact, 91 percent of all reported structure fires started by candles occurred in homes.

It is no wonder that the NFPA has chosen "Use Candles with Care" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week this week. It's a time that's been set aside since 1925 to educate adults and children about fire safety.

We encourage you, if you use candles, use them wisely. Here's a few tips from the NFPA:

- Don't leave children in a room where candles are burning.
- Never burn candles in bedrooms.
- Set up kid-free zones around burning candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Do it for yourself and for your family. You may not be able to prevent a fire, but what you do today could mean the difference between life and death, if one happens tomorrow.

## Legislative reform ideas have merit

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is supporting a package of constitutional amendments to reform the state Legislature that deserves serious consideration.

The chamber is proposing that voters be asked to approve reforms that would:

- require annual personal financial disclosure by legislators;
- require all taxation bills before becoming law to be in the possession of each legislative chamber 10 days, and receive a public hearing and committee vote in each chamber;
- limit combined service in the Legislature to a total of 14 years in the House, Senate or both;
- prohibit former legislators from becoming legislative agents for two years after leaving office;
- reduce the salary of legislators on a pro-rata basis for each day that they are absent from session without a compelling reason approved by the membership of that legislative chamber on a recorded vote.

The term limits proposal has gotten the most attention. Term limits were originally touted as a way to rid the Legislature of "professional politicians" in favor of "citizen legislators." Many legislators, including former supporters of term limits, have complained that the current law doesn't allow for the development of a seasoned group of legislative leaders who understand the intricacies of the legislative process.

The chamber proposal makes a small tweak to address that concern. It retains the 14-year limit on service, but eliminates the six-year limit for House members and the eight-year limit for the Senate. This would allow for more seasoned legislators to continue in one body or the other for a longer period.

It's an interesting idea, though we still question the term limit concept, which often removes talented legislators from office even when voters would want them to continue. Proponents of term limits have raised objections to the proposal as "weakening" term limits.

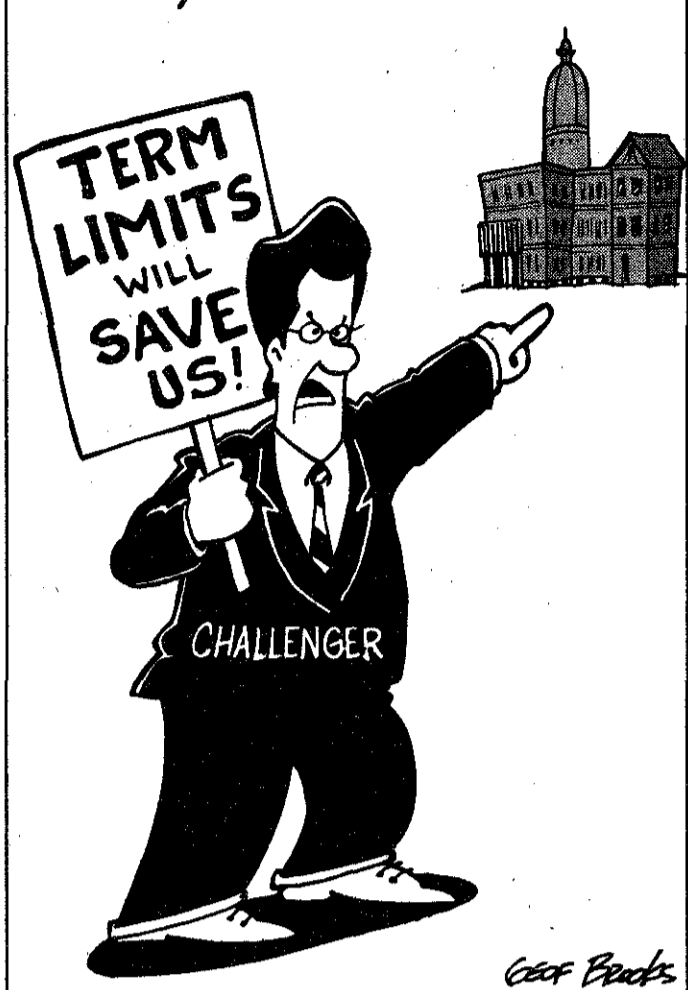
Michigan is one of the few states that does not require personal financial disclosure by legislators and this should be changed.

It is a common practice for legislators to move from the Legislature to a lobbying position and raises questions on the credibility and independence of last term legislators.

We aren't sure how the Legislature would monitor attendance and determine what a "compelling reason" for absence would be, but we certainly endorse the idea of legislators fulfilling their obligations to their constituents.

All of these proposals deserve a full debate. They represent some serious concerns about the legislative process in the state.

Once upon a Time...



Later...



### Making a big stretch

I was amused as well as saddened on the basis of Mike Odotalia's letter in the Sept. 22 Observer comparing the "evacuees/crefugees" of the Hurricane Katrina disaster with the "refugees" in the Israel. Maybe he will go one better when the next natural disaster strikes to blame Israel and Zionism for the way the world was created - with earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, snow storms and global warming.

Seriously, the sad point is that the writer neglected to touch on some 500 years of Middle East history. Instead, he concentrated only on the past few years. First, the Ottoman Empire centered in Muslim Turkey ruled that region of the world from the early 1500s to the end of World War I. After the war, the League of Nations, representing the world's international community, put the British government in control of a major section of the Middle East with Palestine designated as the land on both sides of the Jordan River. In 1922, Great Britain handed over 80 percent of the land, the portion east of the river, to a ruling group which called it Transjordan. It was later renamed Jordan after the end of World War II. The remaining 20 percent retained the Palestine name.

In the 83 years, much has happened, including many opportunities for Palestinians or other Arab groups to create a separate state. The first was in the late 1930s when a Great Britain commission recommended separate states for the Jews and Arabs. But the Arab leaders rejected the proposal. In 1947, the United Nations by a 33-13 vote with 10 abstentions approved a similar plan to have separate Jewish and Arab states (there was no Palestinian mention until the mid-'60s), but again the Arab leaders rejected the proposal. Instead, the four neighboring Arab nations went to war to prevent any Jewish state from being created.

For those with memory problems, I should note that Jordan governed what is now called the West Bank for 19 years and never considered having a separate Arab state next to existing Arab states.

The West Bank came under Israeli control after the conclusion of the Six Day War in June 1967. Israel didn't confiscate the West Bank, it came under what would supposed to be temporary control after a war. Post-war negotiations were planned to settle any boundary disputes. But the Arab neighbors refused to enter negotiations for decades.

At the same time in a related matter surfacing in the post-Six Day War period, Israel was handed the Gaza Strip only because Egypt relinquished it up instead of continuing to include it within its own boundaries. The refugee problem, in part, is caused by Israel's Arab neighbors refusing to accept the Palestinians into their own societies as well as refusing to negotiate the boundary disputes for the past 38 years.

Let's face it. The U.N., representing the world's international community, recognized the state of Israel 57 years. Why hasn't the Arab nations accepted that political reality?

In conclusion, I have a related question about the absence of Jewish refugees in the Middle East following Israel's War

### LETTERS

of Independence in 1948. Why did the Arab states in 1948 and later forcibly expel Jews who have lived in that nations for centuries? The reason is that Israel accepted those Jews, thereby eliminating any threat of a Jewish "refugee" problem in the Arab nations.

Leonard Pogor  
Westland

### News report?

I write regarding "Peacemaker - Sister uses nonviolent actions to fight injustices" by Linda Ann Chomin.

While it may have been acceptable as a column, commentary or letter to the editor, this opinion-laden piece was presented as a news report.

I do not propose to wade into the Palestinian/Jewish conflict, but I think most non-partisans would agree that it is considerably more nuanced than as it is portrayed in this "news report." An even greater cause for concern is that this "news report" somehow survived the editing process.

John Ronanye III  
Plymouth attorney

### Video games obscene

Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois signed a law meant to keep adult video games away from children. This should take effect Jan. 1, 2006. It will bar stores from selling or renting extremely violent or sexual games to children. Stores also will be required to label the games with content ratings and post signs explaining the arcane rating system.

The video game industry immediately sued in federal court to block the law. It says it is a restriction on free speech. The video game industry is arguing that the government cannot restrict the sale of non-obscene games, just as it cannot impose restrictions on books or music.

Douglas Lowenstein, president of the Entertainment Software Association stated, "It will limit First Amendment rights not only for Illinois residents, but for game developers and publishers, and for retailers who won't know what games can and cannot be sold or rented under this vague new statute."

The vague rating system that is in use was created by the video game industry. It is used voluntarily to avoid government regulation. The fact is, this system has failed.

The argument that the games are not obscene is useless as many of these games depict scenes and actions that are obscene in any human community now on earth.

Some of these games are sexually explicit, lewd, incite or invite lustful feelings of violence, are repulsive, disgusting, extremely or deeply offensive according to contemporary community standards of morality or decency.

Where is this law in Michigan?  
Alfred Brock  
Canton

### Lost our way?

Sit-down strikes and New Deal programs prolonged the 1930s Depression until President Roosevelt created the "Arsenal of Democracy." After the Pearl Harbor attack, Americans produced planes, ships, weapons and heroes to

become The Greatest Generation. Our prosperity and living standards became the envy of the world.

Have we lost our way again? The Twin Towers assault seems to be forgotten and many of us support terrorist attempts to rule the world. South Korea produces innovative automobiles, China manufactures textiles and we complain about benefits.

Arguments over religion, abortion and racism do not involve urgent problems. Drill for oil and reduce dependence on the Mideast. Build nuclear power plants and improve the environment. Overturn Vioxx-type jury awards and lower the cost of drugs. Accept Wal-Mart as an efficient merchandiser and encourage competition.

We cannot roll up walls and keep America to ourselves; it would soon not be worth keeping. We can roll up our sleeves and give our best efforts. There is work for us in today's world marketplace if we work together.

Hank Borgman  
Farmington

### Local needs

Job creation in our country is mostly in the food and service industries, with a great loss in manufacturing jobs. If Michigan wants to gain better jobs we must look to manufacturing jobs that service local needs. The best way is to build windmills around the coast of Michigan.

Then surround the coastline with light rail powered by Michigan wind energy and large storage batteries along the track. Small turbo powered generators that can be quickly turned on or off when needed will supply emergency power. A light rail system across I-75 should also be constructed. The state should sell bonds to raise the money to accomplish this for the sake of the future generation.

We also should promote more efficient homes that use very little heat or air conditioning, such as underground homes. We must find ways to reduce consumption because this will lower our import debt since most of our manufacturing is imported. Michigan has the largest unemployment of all the states, so we must take care of ourselves. The feds won't. They want to drill for oil that is almost depleted.

Gerald W. Slegle  
Clarkston

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### QUOTABLE

"People are camping out in tents all over the place."  
- Capt. Matt O'Neil, Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, while visiting hurricane-battered Biloxi, Miss.

# Finger-pointing time is over; state needs action – and now

Last weekend, the death of the economic world as we have come to know it in Michigan was announced in no uncertain terms. The decision by Delphi Corp., the world's second-largest auto parts manufacturer, to file for bankruptcy is so huge that it would be difficult to overestimate its importance.

Whatever happens to Delphi, everything we have assumed for years and years to be the right and proper order of things in Michigan is going to change.

That includes the role of the domestic auto industry; the solidity of a middle-class lifestyle for hundreds of thousands of UAW members; and the general stability and prosperity of our economy.

All these and more will be irretrievably changed — and maybe lost — over the coming months. The historic business model of our domestic automobile industry — high production, high costs (especially labor) and protected markets — has turned out to be simply unsustainable in a rapidly globalizing world economy.

Until now, the manufacturers and the parts suppliers never summoned up the guts to stand up to the United Auto Workers union over the high costs of labor, health care and retirement.

And the UAW never could see that rigidly insisting on more and more every time its contract came up for renegotiation was a recipe for killing the goose that laid the golden egg.

Well, now that day is here. The goose is expiring fast, and nothing will ever be the same again.

Sadly, I confess great skepticism about whether our public policy and political systems will be of any great help. Many on the left will decry the unbelievably stupid decision by Delphi Corp. to give top execs golden parachute packages, even while countless ordinary workers and retirees are being dumped into financial chaos.

Many on the right will celebrate the "creative destruction" of capitalism and reflexively argue that the only thing to do is cut business taxes. Yet by looking backward, both miss the big point:

Where do we go from here?

Much of the process from now on will be ballistic, in the sense that once a ballistic missile is launched, there's not much anybody can do about altering its course or affecting where it will land.

The lawyers will argue, the companies and the UAW will negotiate and the grindstone of economics will proceed on its remorseless course.

But there are things that can be done, some right away:

If Gov. Jennifer Granholm were smart about this, she would call the Republicans who run the Legislature and Dick DeVos, her near-certain opponent for governor next year, and propose a bipartisan summit on the future of Michigan's economy. Political leaders of both parties have all known

economic disaster was just around the corner for a long time, but they've been shilly-shallying around with minutia, just hoping the roof wasn't going to fall on their watch. Well, now it has. And now's the time for them to start leading and quit quibbling.

The universities ought to step up and help us all figure out where Michigan needs to go from here and how to get there.

Over the weekend, I talked with President Mary Sue Coleman about the University of Michigan's taking the lead in putting together a series of conferences over the next months helping business, labor and the public policy establishment develop an agenda for creating the next Michigan. She sounded interested.

The brain power and experience in our great universities ought to be put to work — right now — in helping all of us figure out where to go from here.

It seems clear that manufacturing will continue to be the base of our economy in Michigan. But it is going to become much more high-tech and brain-centered.

This means that the recommendations offered by the Cherry Commission earlier this year — double the number of college graduates in our labor force and vastly improve the quality of our K-12 schools — should get absolute top priority in Lansing.

And there are some things government can do to help in the next few months.

The state should immediately follow the lead of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in insisting that every city, county and township should be wired for broadband Internet connection.

Our business tax structure, anchored by the archaic and clumsy Single Business Tax, should be overhauled. A good start could be made by repealing the SBT and replacing the revenue by extending the sales tax to services, but at a reduced overall tax rate.

And since much of our economic future is going to come from newly formed companies, why not offer startups a holiday from paying state taxes for the first couple of years?

My gut tells me that over the long run, Michigan is going to thrive on identifying and deploying our basic resources.

Those include the human capital resident in our universities and (potentially) our schools; our extraordinary natural resource base in our water, forests and shorelines; and the energy and vision of those few entrepreneurs who have the guts to start companies and the grit to drive them to success.

I only hope we have the wisdom to concentrate on the long run. What President Bush said in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is far more true in our case: We really have no time to waste in finger-pointing now.

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



Phil Power

# If it is fall, it must be the start of the 'silly' season

The calendar says fall, but it's also the start of the silly season in Birmingham, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia and other local communities.

It started some months ago in the city of Detroit. It's the election season, that period leading up to Nov. 8, the date of the general election when charges, countercharges and all sorts of ridiculous claims and statements are made. But, more importantly, it's one of our basic rights in a democratic society to vote for the individuals who we want to govern for us, whether it is city council, mayor or library board.

Let's begin in Birmingham, where three city commission seats are open. In a usually contentious town where issues have been growth or no growth, big foot or "small" foot housing and large garages, only four candidates submitted nominating petitions.

Sounds like a quiet election season — maybe not. Under the surface is information circulating that an incumbent was pressured to not run because his seat was targeted by one of the challengers. One of the candidates has started his own e-mail campaign and from a cursory reading of the e-mails it sounds like he has already been elected. He should be reminded that even Birmingham holds elections and that self-appointment does not work.

Libraries are usually quiet places and library boards even quieter. Nothing much really happens. Not in our towns. I don't know what it is with libraries these days, but they sure have drawn a lot of attention. There is no election for the library board in Bloomfield Township; they're just fighting a battle in court with Bloomfield Hills over who can and who can't use its library and how much they have to pay to use the library.

The library board election in Birmingham looks more interesting than the city commission. Three seats are open. All three incumbents are running for reelection and all are being challenged. There are six candidates running for three seats. One candidate, Seth Chafetz, is a former city commissioner (is this a back door for another run for the city commission?)

I am sure charges of mismanagement, poor fiscal responsibility, undercharging for services such as free DVD rentals (my local Blockbuster charges \$4.49 for a week

rental) will surface.

It all arose when the library asked the city to allow it to seek a Headlee millage override. What came to light were the library finances. While the city was exercising good fiscal policy in tight economic times by canceling out-of-state conferences and other cost-saving moves, the library did not. It may not be a lot of money, but optics is just as important as actual dollars.

When a trustee is quoted as saying: "It's clear that some of our procedures are not as tightened up as the cities," what that does that tell you? I am sure the incumbent trustees have their hearts in the right place, but before you ask voters to ante up, make sure your fiscal house is in order. In this case, it appears not. What else are we missing?

Moving to Livonia, the opt out of funding for SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) is on the ballot. In case you missed it, Livonia residents have voted in prior "flush" times to tax themselves to fund SMART. The tax represents 0.6 mills per thousand (\$60 per year for a house valued at \$200,000), not a lot of money, but when times are tough — and if you don't think they are today, just call me — you look for every penny to save and you challenge every spending decision.

It becomes more interesting when studies show that Livonia residents are not the ones who make use of SMART. Now I firmly believe that our area needs a broad regional transit system, especially if gasoline is going to stay around \$3 or higher per gallon. But let's treat the entire area equally; we are either all in or we are all out.

That's part of the story in Livonia. They believe and they are right that everyone is not paying their fair share, so they say, let's get out.

Other communities are watching carefully what happens in Livonia. If opting out of SMART wins by a vast majority, you can bet that others will soon follow. What does this say about the future of a regional transit system?

Whatever your views or choices are, understand the issues or learn about the candidates and their positions and make sure you exercise your right to vote. If you decide not to vote, don't complain. You got what you asked for.

Richard Aginian is president and publisher of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He welcomes comments via e-mail at raginian@oe.homecomm.net.



Richard Aginian

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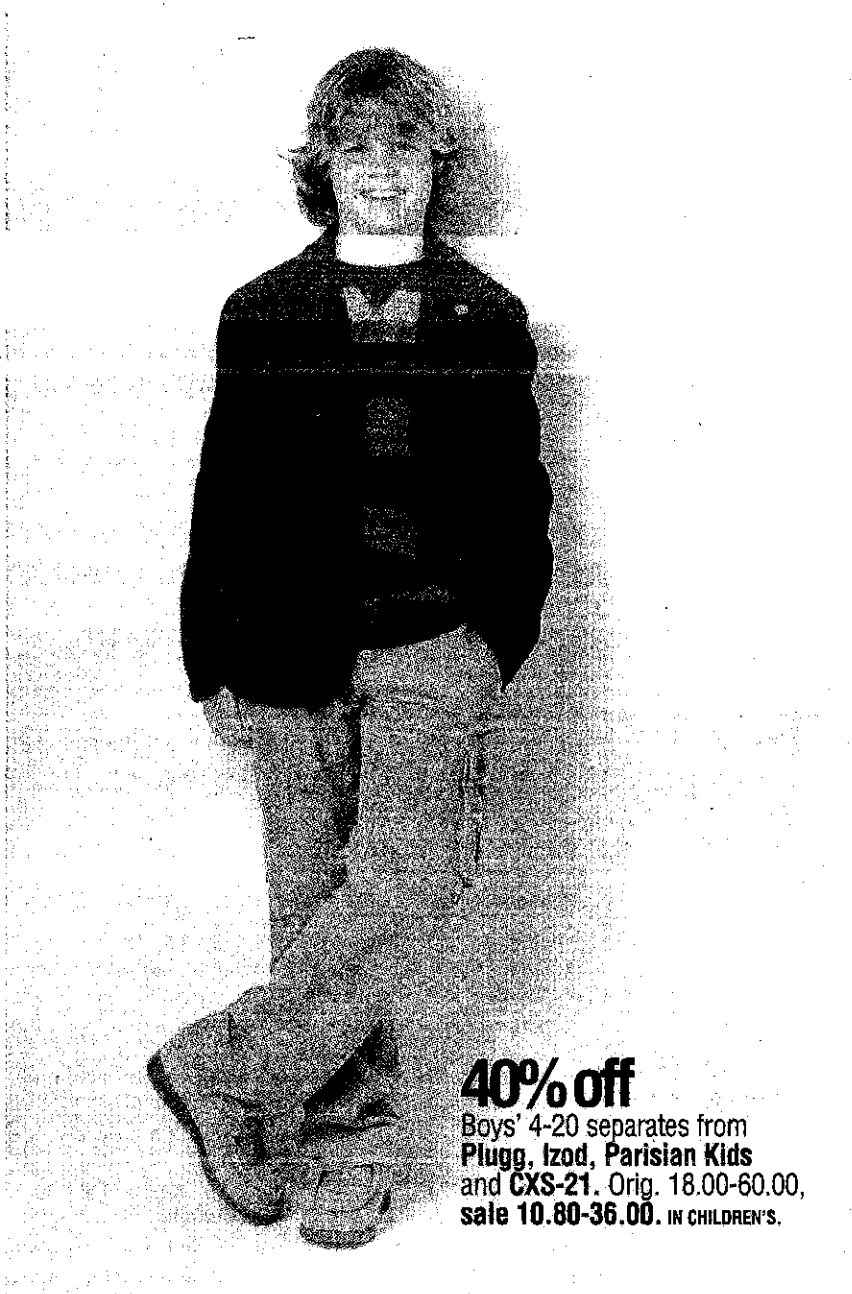
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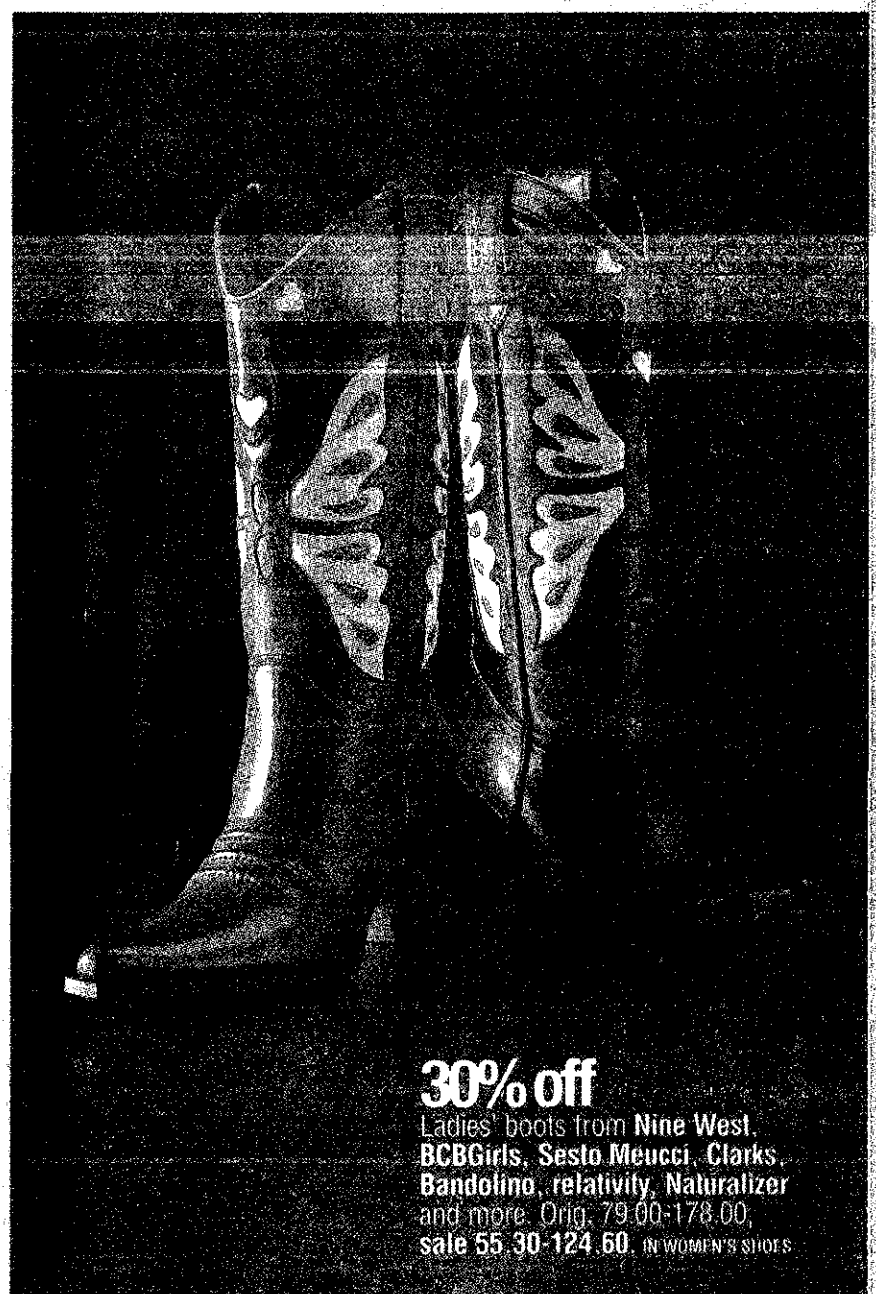
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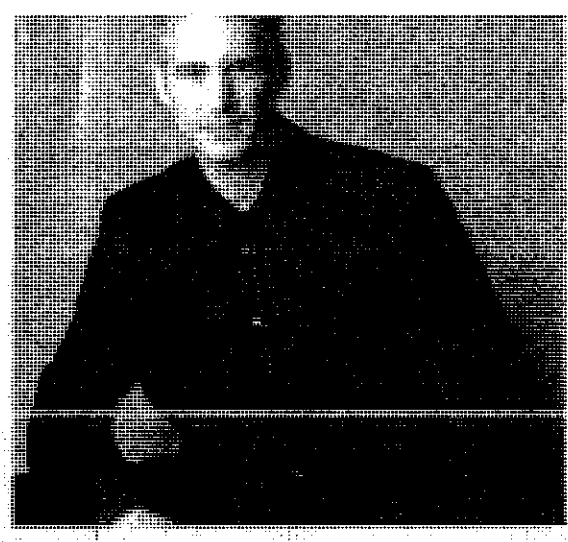
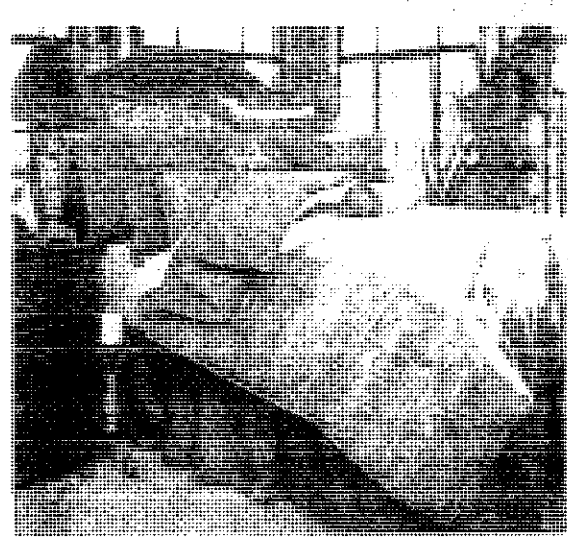
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