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# WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY  
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## Important part of their lives

Pink hearts, kind  
words remember  
their 'Miss Shock'

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

School was an important part of Kimberly Shock's life, especially Edison Elementary School in Westland.

She was a student, parent and volunteer there and president of its PTO for 10 years. Her three children - Lauren, 20, Rachael, 18, and Michael, 13 - also attended Edison.

But all she did for the school and its staff and students came to an end on June 24 when the Westland resident died of cervical cancer. Thursday, students and staff paused to remember Ms. Shock with music, a poem, a plaque and handmade pink hearts.

"This means a lot," said Lauren, standing near an ironwood tree planted on the west side of the school in her mother's honor. "Everyone here was important to my mom. I know she would be extremely happy with this. This school was an important part of her life."

Lauren and her son Nathan, her brother and sister, father Michael and Great Aunt Kathleen Smith were at the school for the dedication of the tree and plaque that will hang in the school near the office.

"We needed to do this," said Principal Barbara Hastings. "She died during the summer and some of us weren't here to say goodbye. We needed this to have closure."

The afternoon assembly tied in with the fact that Saturday was Make A Difference Day. Hastings pointed out to students that Ms. Shock made a difference with what she did at the school.

"She taught us all about selflessness," said Hastings. "She loved Edison."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachael Shock (from left), her sister Lauren and brother Michael look through the basket of handmade hearts students at Edison Elementary School made for the family in honor of their mother, the late Kim Shock. For more photos see Page A6.

PLEASE SEE MISS SHOCK, A6

## Officials meet to find location for church's warming center

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

What looked like the end of the line for a warming center and soup kitchen at the Full Gospel Temple in Westland is more like a bump in the road to a new location.

Two days after the Zoning Board of Appeals turned down a request for a use variance for the warming center and soup kitchen, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli announced that the city and representatives of Wayne County will meet with church officials this week to begin looking for a suitable location for the warming center.

"We plan to work with them through this process and want them to continue providing food to needy residents," said Cicirelli. "I don't think the intent was to stop them from serving the food, the issue was the overnight stay."

Cicirelli received word from Deputy County Executive Al Helmkamp Friday afternoon that the county will help find a suitable location for the warming center that the church has operated January through March out of its building on Palmer Road.

Church officials had gone to the ZBA in hopes of getting use variances to continue opening up an overnight warming center for

the homeless January through March. They took the action after finding out in March that they were violating seven city ordinances, information that prompted senior Pastor Michael Enersen to close the center two weeks early.

Citing concern about security and the possibility of problems for students at Adams Middle School, the ZBA voted 5-2 to deny the use variance. The determination was that the church's special land use under residential zoning didn't allow for the soup kitchen which had been open for 15 years.

"I had to vote my conscience" said ZBA member Barbara Pollack. "They do a good job, but we have kids walking past the center on their way to school. You have to have some security."

"What I think we have here is fear," said Enersen. "Unfortunately, in our neighborhood, people are ignorant about who the homeless are. We're not talking about substance abusers we're talking about friends and families, people who have lost their jobs, seniors who have too much of the month left at the end of the check."

Eight area churches and a cadre of volunteers had support-

PLEASE SEE CENTER, A4

## Cicirelli: Seeks to continue making positive changes

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli faced a formidable task when she made history four years ago by becoming the first woman ever elected as Westland mayor.

As difficult as it seemed, she vowed to protect city services and rebuild a depleted budget surplus, despite an onslaught of revenue cuts imposed by Lansing.

As she seeks another four-year term in the Nov. 8 election, Cicirelli feels confident that she has achieved - even surpassed - her own goals.

"I want to finish what I've started and continue to make positive changes in Westland," said Cicirelli, 53.

After serving 12 years on the Westland City Council, Cicirelli became mayor amid a financial crunch that had left the budget surplus virtually depleted.



Cicirelli

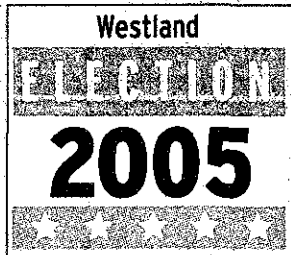
embroiled in political turmoil, in the aftermath of a Westland City Council recall campaign.

And, she has weathered her first term by ruling with a firm hand while avoiding any reputation-damaging scandals.

Cicirelli, seeking to keep her \$93,178 job, talked with the *Observer* about her first term of office and her re-election campaign.

She cited the following accomplishments as some of the highlights of

PLEASE SEE CICIRELLI, A4



### MAYORAL CANDIDATES

In today's *Observer*, we offer stories about the campaigns of incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and challenger Elenor Swistak. The mayoral race is historic, in that it is the first time that two women have squared off for the mayor's job. The winner will get a four-year term. The post pays \$93,178 a year.

## Swistak: 'Common sense' candidate says money issue

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

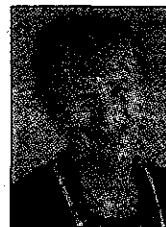
Mayoral candidate Elenor Swistak has become a fixture at Westland City Council meetings - relentlessly questioning what she considers wasteful spending.

That philosophy has framed her campaign as she challenges incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli for a four-year term.

"I'm running for office because I am interested in watching the spending in the city and making sure the money is being spent properly," Swistak said, discussing her campaign with the *Observer*.

"My main issue is money and that it is spent well," she said.

Swistak's candidacy has made this the first Westland mayoral campaign between two women. She advanced to the Nov. 8 election after she became the only opponent to rise up against Cicirelli.



Swistak

Westland and the entire country.

"We don't have jobs. We don't have the money. But we hear from the administration that everything is fine," she said.

Swistak, 67, is a retiree who worked for Michigan Bell and as a claims adjuster for the Automobile Club of Michigan. She "grew up on rock and roll," got an associate degree in accounting and was married for 20 years to an accountant.

"I'm one tough cookie," she said,

PLEASE SEE SWISTAK, A4

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Number 43



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# Plan shifts some high school boundaries

Livonia Public Schools' Legacy Initiative will keep the district divided into three sections, with the idea that students stay together as students progress from the upper elementary grades through high school.

Slight changes will be made to current high school attendance boundaries to move students from overcrowded Churchill High School into the less-crowded Franklin High.

Students who live between Five Mile and I-96, and Merriman and Middlebelt will be shifted from Churchill to Franklin. Students living between Joy and Cowan, east of Wayne will also be moved from Churchill to Franklin.

However, the plan allows current Churchill students, and their incoming freshmen siblings, to remain at the school until graduation.

The district would lose one of its four middle schools in the process, maintaining middle school populations between 930-1015 students.

Additional proposed changes for grades 5-12 are as follows:

In the north end of the district: All students north of Five Mile Road will attend Riley for grades 5-6; Holmes Middle School for grades 7-8; and Stevenson High School for grades 9-12.

The southwestern portion of the district: Students residing south of Five Mile and west of a line that follows Merriman south to the railroad tracks, then west to Farmington, south to Joy and west to Wayne Road will attend Johnson for grades 5-6; Frost Middle School for grades 7-8; and Churchill for grades 9-12.

The southeastern portion of the district: Students residing south of Five Mile and east of that same line (Merriman to the railroad tracks, west to Farmington, south to Joy Road, and west to Wayne Road) will attend Cooper for grades 5-6; Emerson Middle School for grades 7-8; and Franklin for grades 9-12.

By Stephanie A. Casola

# District quakes over school shift, plan leaves some 'heartbroken'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Like many parents in Livonia Public Schools, Peggy Polumbo found out Thursday that the school her child attends could close its doors next fall.

"It's not just a school," said Polumbo, a Taylor Elementary parent. "I've lived in the neighborhood for 10 years. It's more of a home."

Under a plan revealed last week, the district's demographics committee has recommended closing seven elementary buildings, merging most school populations, and reconfiguring grades into lower elementary schools, upper elementary schools, middle and high schools.

The proposal - known as the Legacy Initiative - addresses stagnant or dropping enrollment and a decline in state funding. If passed, and put in place next fall, it would save the district \$1.5 to \$2 million next year, and up to \$10 million within five years.

Polumbo wasn't the only one left "heartbroken" by the news Thursday.

"I think it's very emotional, very sad," said Laurie Ellis, also a Taylor parent.

Should the proposal become reality, she would have three children attending three different schools next year. It poses concerns about transportation and school start times, Ellis said.

Other Taylor parents, like Lisa Tenbusch, held back tears at the announcement.

"This school is very good," she said. "That's why I built my house across the street. I pulled my child out of private school to go to Taylor."

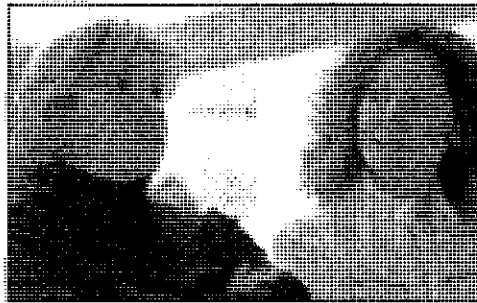
Tenbusch, Jill Ferguson and Cindy Jenaway, were very concerned that their children would be bused to Riley to attend fifth and sixth grades. It is one of three schools to be designated for upper elementary students.

While she liked the overall plan, Tenbusch said Riley is too far away.

Mike Rotter wondered why Taylor students couldn't go to school at nearby Dickinson Center for their upper elementary classes, instead. He does not support busing students to Riley. "It's just not right," he said.

Andrea Oquist, principal of Taylor Elementary School in Livonia, told parents Thursday that their children are the top priority.

"I do have great confidence in the work of the demographics committee," she said. "I have great confidence that the plan put forth is, in the long run, the best thing for children in our district and families in our district."



Julie McDonald (left) and Shirley Hay were among several concerned parents at Taylor Elementary School learned Thursday their neighborhood school was one of several which may close next year.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Linda Minsterman, principal of Hayes Elementary School in Westland, learned under this plan, her building will remain open, and become a K-4 facility. Though the proposal will mean a major shift of people and resources in the district, and job loss for some, she said overall it would be a positive, necessary change.

"It's really interesting," Minsterman said. "I think it's what's best for kids. The plan meets their needs. It really did put children and their education first."

### KEEP IT TOGETHER

The Legacy Initiative creates 12 schools for grades K-4, three schools for grades 5-6, three middle schools for grades 7-8 and maintains three high schools for grades 9-12. Only Webster Elementary School retains its K-6 status.

The plan keeps the elementary communities together, said Supt. Randy Liepa. Once students enter fifth grade, they continue through the school system with the same classmates.

"That literally is their graduating class," Liepa said.

Oquist, who served on the demographics committee, said this was the "only plan that would allow our community to be together."

Several parents attending the meeting at Taylor supported this aspect of the plan. Ellis said she's glad the children will stay together, and they'll have access to more programs.

### BETTER PROGRAM

By creating upper elementary buildings at Cooper, Johnson and Riley, the committee could increase programs. Students will still have one teacher, but they will be exposed to more special classes. The program would expand to include physical education twice a

week, as well as music, art and a foreign language at least once a week. These classes were cut from the 2002-2003 budget.

"This is a better program than we're offering today," said Liepa. Had the district kept its grade configurations the same or moved to a 6-8 grade middle school concept, while closing schools, Liepa said, the program wouldn't have been as "educationally sound."

This proposal also preserves small class sizes. Liepa said student-teacher ratios would not change under this proposal.

Lower elementary ratios would remain between 21 and 25 students in a class, while upper elementary ratios are about 28 students in a class.

"Class sizes will be much more average," said Liepa.

The plan would limit combined classes and kindergarten overflow, while increasing professional development opportunities for teachers. Currently, when kindergarten enrollment exceeds class size, some students are relocated to other elementary schools which have fewer kindergartners.

Liepa said within five years the plan will even out enrollment at the three high schools.

### WHAT IT COSTS

Demographics committee members created this plan to save money and improve programs. Over the past five years, the district has had to cut \$19 million from its general fund to address a state funding freeze and rising operating and health care costs. At the same time, enrollment has declined, particularly at the elementary level. Since 1995, the district has lost 1,100 students in grades K-6. The enrollment high of 38,000 students in 1971 has fallen to about 18,000 students who attend today.

To save money, the proposal does cut staff in the district, due to buildings being closed. Liepa noted there would be fewer administrators, secretaries, custodians, librarians and paraprofessionals. But classrooms are expected to remain the same, for the most part, meaning teachers should be spared from the staffing cuts.

While cost savings are expected overall, the district would incur higher transportation expenses. Children who walk to school this year may be bused to school next year, Liepa said.

Bus ride times may increase an estimated 5-7 minutes, with the maximum time of 40 minutes estimated to increase to 45 minutes.

"This is a big change for us, without question," Liepa said.

# Elementary restructuring calls for 7 closed schools

Livonia Public School's demographics plan calls for the closing of seven elementary school buildings. The district will, in turn, reclaim one school that is currently being leased to Redford Union School District.

The elementary schools in the district will encompass 12 buildings for grades K-4 and three buildings for grades 5-6. The lower elementary schools will hold between 360-560 students, while the upper elementary schools will house 770-920 students.

### SOUTHEASTERN END

Adams will close and those students will attend Roosevelt. McKinley will close and students will attend Grant. Nankin Mills will close and students will attend Hayes. Cooper's K-4 population will shift

to Cleveland.

For 5-6 grades, these students will attend Cooper, which also becomes an upper elementary school.

### SOUTHWESTERN END

Washington will close, and students will attend Randolph. Hull will close and students will attend Kennedy. Garfield will draw students from a portion of the current Grant attendance area (south of Plymouth, west of Farmington).

Johnson's lower elementary students will attend Rosedale, a building just north of Churchill High School which is currently leased to a neighboring district.

For 5-6 grades, all of these students will attend Johnson, which becomes an upper elementary school.

Webster will remain unchanged, and

will be the only elementary to keep its K-6 configuration. The magnet school draws students from other districts in its special education and gifted and talented programs.

### NORTH END

Taylor will close, and students will attend Hoover. Students from the Quakertown subdivision will also move to Hoover.

Tyler will close, and students will attend Coolidge. Cass remains the same; Buchanan adds a square mile south of Six Mile and east of Middlebelt, which shifts from Roosevelt.

For 5-6 grades, these students will attend Riley, which will change from a middle to an upper elementary school.

By Stephanie A. Casola

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# Here's how to learn more, give feedback

Community members have a month learn more about or offer reaction to the Livonia Public Schools' Legacy Initiative plan, before it is presented to the school board. Here's how:

- Check for daily updates on the district's Web site at [www.livonia.k12.mi.us/demographic/demographic.html](http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/demographic/demographic.html).
- Watch LPS Cable for re-broadcasts of the Legacy Initiative. The station - Channel 15 for Bright House and Wide Open West subscribers and Channel 19 for Comcast viewers - airs the program at noon, 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily.
- Attend the next informational meetings at 7

p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Frost Middle School or Franklin or Stevenson high schools.

- Send feedback and recommendations by e-mail to [demographics@livonia.k12.mi.us](mailto:demographics@livonia.k12.mi.us).
- Attend the school board open meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, at the board office, 15125 Farmington Road, to hear the presentation to trustees.
- Share comments at a public hearing before the board, set for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, at the board office.

By Stephanie A. Casola

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# Oooh, that's so (non) scary

## Volunteers enjoy rewards of doing annual Halloween Walk

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

With less than a week to go, Julie Barrett is working on clothes for scarecrows; Linda Rosa is considering what wig she'll wear, and Barbara Pollack is prepping to do her behind the scenes counting.

The three women are just a few of the 40-50 volunteers who turn Westland's Central City Park into a mystery forest for three days, providing a non-scary Halloween Walk for young children.

"It's fun and the parents really love it," said Pollack, a member of the Westland Civitan Club which started doing the Halloween Walk in the late 1980s. "It's a good program."

"It's a neat project," added Rosa, a Garden City resident. "It doesn't scare them, but it's Halloweeny."

In its 15th year, the Halloween Walk will take place Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27-29. Youngsters will meet some friendly characters like Little Bo Peep and the Friendly Troll in the forest while helping the little scarecrow retrieve his clothes that flew away after the good witch accidentally washed them with her flying potion.

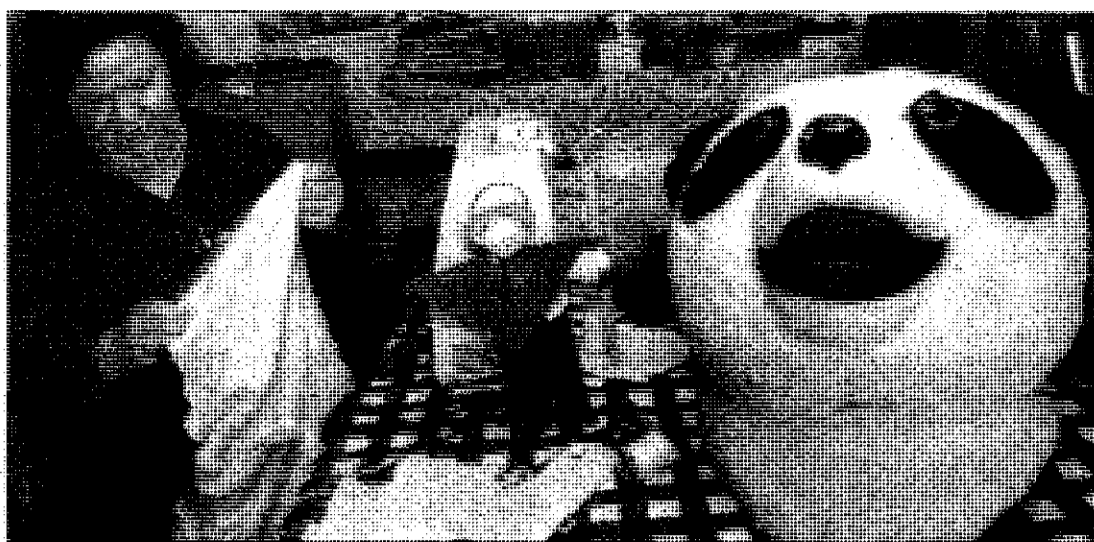
Tours start every 10 minutes, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and run through 9 p.m. The program runs rain or shine. If there is rain, tours will take place inside the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Preregistration is required, and tickets are available at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$3 per person.

Pollack credits former Civitan Karen Gregory with coming up with the idea. She had five books with non-scary themes. She scripted them while fellow Civitans did the costumes and props, some of which were made from cardboard.

The club kept the walk going until 1995 when members didn't have the time to put one together. But then recreation director Chuck Skene liked the idea and in 1996 the Westland Parks and Recreation Department took it over. With the help of the Civitans, they also got other clubs involved. That year the proceeds were used to help build a playscape in Central City Park.

Today, the walk is sponsored by the recreation department, Westland Civitan Club, Dad's Athletic Club of Westland and the Westland Breakfast Lions Club, and the money raised goes to Fun-4-All, a scholar-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A miniature scarecrow keeps the panda head company as Julie Barrett repairs the body of the costume that will be worn by her daughter, Jessica, during the Halloween Walk.

ship program for disadvantaged youngsters.

Each year volunteers use a different one of Gregory's five stories. Recreation Program Supervisor Margaret Martin comes up with the scripts. *The 13 Days of Halloween* is the kids' favorite, according to Pollack.

"There's a script, but very few follow it," she added.

"It's fun to ad lib," said Rosa who plays the Friendly Troll. "You don't have to follow the script. You can hop around and be silly."

Rosa played the friendly witch that guided youngsters through the forest for several years until she answered

Martin's call to play the troll after the actor failed to show up. She went home, grabbed some old clothes and a piece of rope and has been working on her costume ever since.

"I was in Wal-Mart last year and walked by the shoe department where I saw some monster feet," she said. "They're brown and furry with toes. I only have to put on socks and I have warm feet."

She also wears purple thermal underwear to set off the feet and is thinking about switching to a red, white and blue wig this year.

As the troll, she gets to sprinkle the kids with fairy dust to help protect themselves

from the flying potion.

"I had so much fun leading the kids around, but I think being the troll is the best because I get to see all the children," she said.

Barrett doesn't get to sprinkle fairy dust, but anywhere families look and anyone they see, Barrett will have had something to do with it. She got involved in the walk through her daughter Jessica, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School.

Jessica had been helping out as a member of the Theta Rho Lodge of the Oddfellows and Rebekahs. She stayed on after Theta Rho faded out and volunteered her mother when

Martin needed someone who could sew.

Over the years, she has made costumes to the point where she's more or less making repairs or replacing things that get lost and making props. This year she has made 15 small scarecrows and clothing for each and every one plus extra pieces in case some are lost. Youngsters go into the forest to help the scarecrow retrieve clothing piece by piece.

"I do simple things, so they're easy to do, but it's like doing Barbie clothes," she said. "I'm getting ready to replace the body of the panda costume."

That will please her daughter Jessica whose become known as Panda around Wayne High because it is a role she plays yearly at the walk.

"My daughter loves doing it," said Barrett. "She absolutely enjoys the heck out of acting for the little kids. It's great and it's how I met Margaret and that's evolved into a great friendship."

Barrett's daughter recruits her friends to help at the walk, and Martin uses her involvement in an outdoor club to get more volunteers. That's how Rosa got involved and that's how the event keeps growing, said Pollack.

"But we should thank Chuck Skene and Margaret Martin," she added. "They got it started and we go along with them."

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## '50s with a Mission benefits Goodfellows

The Westland Goodfellows will be on the receiving end of the Women of Westland and Westland Jaycees '50s with a Mission benefit slated for Friday, Nov. 18, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy in Westland.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for the '50s themed party which benefits a local charity or organization. The Goodfellows are the 2005 beneficiary.

A diner of hamburgers, coney dogs and fries will be served at 6:30 p.m., while The Reflections will take to the stage at 8 p.m.

There also will be a contest for the Best '50s Costume, 50/50 raffles and a Duck Pond game.

Tickets are available for \$25 each or \$225 for a table of 10. Food is included in ticket price, and a cash bar is available for

those age 21 and older.

Tickets are available at Mary Dennings Cake Shop, 8036 N. Wayne Road, or at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The also are available by sending a check to WOW/50's Dance 5719 N. Berry, Westland, MI 48185. Be sure to include a name and return address.

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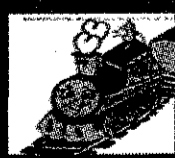
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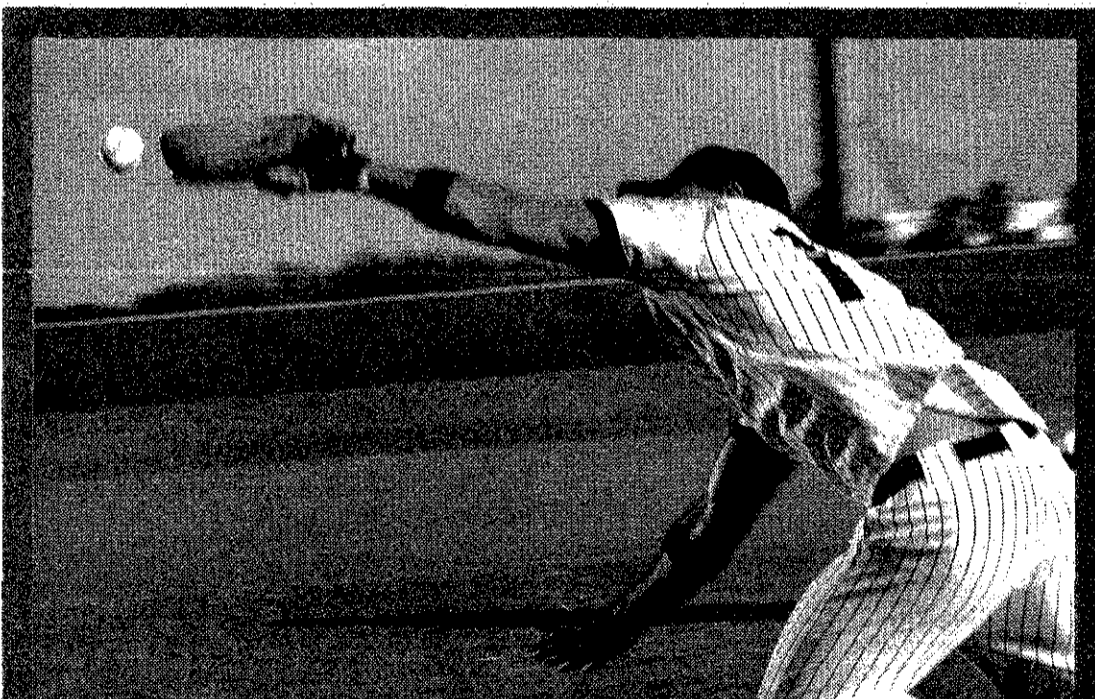
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# Salvation Army assists area's homeless people

The plight of the homeless will be the focus of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's observance of Homeless Awareness Week Nov. 13-19. "We do have programs available," said Capt. Mindie O'Neil, corps commander with her husband. She has a proclamation from Gov. Jennifer Granholm recognizing the week's observance. There's a family shelter for homeless people in Westland, although a warming center in a local church was recently

closed over zoning issues. The local Salvation Army is seeking business help with collection boxes for food and personal care items. Most homeless in this area are single men, O'Neil said. The Salvation Army can be reached at (734) 722-3660. Information on the homeless also is available online at www.mihomeless.org. "We'll tell you how you can help," O'Neil said.

By Julie Brown

## CENTER

FROM PAGE A1

ed the warming center which housed homeless residents from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., offering them a hot meal, a place to sleep and clean up. It had been in operation for five years. The churches also provided the sandwiches and area restaurants provided the hot soup that was served to needy people who came to the church for a hot meal. The decision came as a shock to volunteers who packed the City Council Chambers for the hearing. Many spoke out in support of the center and soup kitchen. Thursday, when 45 people, including children, showed up at the soup kitchen for lunch, they received milk and coffee instead of hot soup and chicken. "We had to throw the food away because we couldn't feed them," said the Rev. Ruby Beneteau of the Lighthouse Ministry at the church. "We do no cooking here, all the food is catered in. We've done it for years and had no complaints." Because it was a ZBA deci-

sion, the church's only recourse was to appeal to Wayne County Circuit Court, and Enersen had been in contact with an attorney before the mayor made her announcement. He maintained that the decision had a constitutional overtone, that in denying the request the city "was telling us what it would accept" and going against the separation of church and state. "They said the warming center and soup kitchen was not an accessory to the church," Enersen said. "They shut down the soup kitchen, they shut down the warming center. What comes next? Are they going to tell me what I can preach about and how many people can hear it?" "We're not trying to do something weird. I could give you Bible verse after Bible verse about taking care of the needy." Cicirelli doesn't want the church to stop what it's doing. Her concern is for the people who come to the center, the people who work there and the people in the neighborhood. "We're concerned about everyone's safety, that's why we're going to work with them to find a more appropriate location," said Cicirelli.

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## SWISTAK

FROM PAGE A1

adding that, as mayor, "I would be there for the people." Swistak didn't hesitate when asked to cite her top three issues: "Money, money, money." She added that city officials need to be more accountable for their spending practices and that they should be more thrifty. "We are trying not to increase the taxes," she said, "so we have to watch the spending." Swistak also said that, if elected, she would not be indebted to anyone.

"I don't make any promises to anybody," she said. "I tell it like it is." One of her first actions in office would be to call for an independent audit of city finances, she said. Swistak also suggested that city officials need to stop referring to state and federal grant money as though it is free money. "Grant money is still our tax dollars," she said. Swistak has been campaigning door-to-door, and she said residents have responded kindly to her campaign. "I do listen to the people," she said. Among her goals:

- Determine whether the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program should be cut or restructured.
- Revamp some city boards and commissions, and determine whether laws could be changed to abolish the Local Officers Compensation Commission, which sets salaries for elected leaders. She has previously said that salaries are too high for many officials.
- Determine what steps should be taken with homeland security to make sure that Westland and its citizens are prepared for disasters.

areas who would know the neighborhood and how to get to people who need things like insulin and water," Swistak said. She also has spoken out against the city's new blight ordinance, saying she fears it essentially will be used to take property from citizens. Swistak referred to herself and her supporters as "freedom fighters" who want to defend freedom of speech and other rights that she has said are being eroded. Summing up her candidacy, Swistak said, "I am the common-sense mayor."

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## CICIRELLI

FROM PAGE A1

her first term:
 

- City firefighters started a project of going into neighborhoods and helping residents ensure that their residences are safe.
- Cooper Elementary School, closed off since 1991

due to a contamination scare, is being readied for redevelopment. A blight control ordinance has been approved that will give Cicirelli's administration the tools it needs to clean up some dilapidated properties. Despite revenue cuts, such services as public safety and leaf-pickup have actually been improved. City officials have helped residents with health care by providing a discount prescription program and by driving senior citizens to Canada, where they pay less for their drugs. Westland has started working with neighboring communities to try to make joint purchases - a move that will save money. The city has upgraded its computer system - a move that eventually will allow residents to handle such business as paying their taxes and water bills

online, if they choose. Those are but a few of the accomplishments cited by Cicirelli in her first term. When asked what sets her apart from challenger Elenor Swistak, she said, "I would say my experience not only as mayor, but also as a council member for 12 years." Cicirelli also said she has worked cooperatively with local school districts and with state lawmakers to move certain projects forward for the city. "I think things have gone pretty well during the last four years, especially considering our budget constraints," she said. Cicirelli has renewed certain goals, such as filling large, vacant buildings around Westland Shopping Center and trying to get a workable recycling program started. The latter issue could depend partly on which trash hauler city offi-

cials decide to hire on a long-term basis. Cicirelli predicted that she will spend less than \$20,000 on her campaign. Many political observers believe that she will not face nearly the challenge that she did in 2001, when she defeated Councilman Richard LeBlanc in a hard-fought campaign. Cicirelli, who has two adult children and two grandchildren, has taken nothing for granted. She is sending out campaign literature, giving her supporters yard signs and arranging for her supporters to work the polls on Nov. 8. And, as always, she has relied heavily on her family to manage her campaign - a decision that has proved successful in her city elections. "My family is helping me," she said. "It's always been that way."

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It is now more than a year since the possible threat of coronary artery disease from non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs came to the attention of the public, and the medical profession. Before that announcement, the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs found use not only for swollen joints, but were the first choice for pain relief.

Initially, the Federal Drug Administration focused on the hazards posed by the Cox-2 drugs: Celecoxib, Vioxx, and Celebrex. Later, the government came out with advisories on the Cox-1 drugs such as Motrin and Naprosyn to the list of medications requiring restricted use. Some experts in the area of non-steroidal drugs stated that all drugs in the Cox-1 or Cox-2 category were hazardous to the coronary arteries.

You still have options if you want a non-steroidal for pain relief. One drug that remains useful is aspirin. The side effects of gastritis and ulcer remain, but the vast majority of people can take aspirin on a regular basis with no such threat to their health. Furthermore, coated aspirin is very safe, substantially reducing the risk of stomach ulcer. A related compound salicylate is similar to aspirin but does not carry the risk of stomach ulcer. The evidence from the medical literature is that salicylate is as effective for pain relief as aspirin or any of the Cox-1 or Cox-2 medications. For recurring aches, acetaminophen (Tylenol) is an excellent choice. It is not old fashioned, rather, its staying power attests to its utility.

None of the above drugs, except aspirin, are strong against inflammation. For now, no new non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications are on the way; the quest awaits new concepts from researchers working in the biological sciences.

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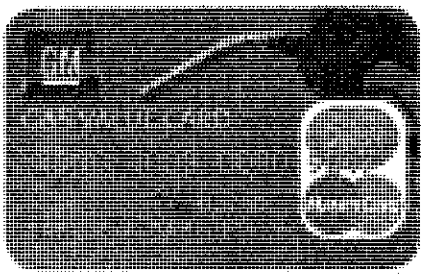
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**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Get Smart seminar**

As part of its Get Smart Seminars, Westland Convalescent Center will have Mark McCauley and Mary Schneider from the American Association for Wartime Veterans discuss V.A. Benefits for Wartime Veterans 2:30-4 p.m. at the center, 36137 W. Warren.

This informative session will include topics on V.A. Benefits for Wartime Veterans, including what benefits are available for wartime veterans; what is improved pension with aid and attendance; how can you substantially reduce the cost of a stay in a long term care facility; are you eligible if you are a surviving spouse of a wartime veteran and how do you apply for this entitlement.

Westland Convalescent Center is on Warren between Wayne and Central City Parkway in Westland. Call Judy Bianchi at (734) 728-6100 to sign up for this event.

**Toy Show**

Space is available for the Westland Rotary toy show 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. Tables are available in advance for \$30. The day-of-show price is \$35.

The show will feature new and antique toys, collectibles, slot cars, model cars, and more. There also will be lucky door raffle prizes and refreshments will be available. Admission will be \$3 with children under age 12 free.

For more information about registering, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

**Constituents hours**

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will have district office hours 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 26, at the Westland Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

McCotter and his staff will be available with issues involving the federal government, including Social Security, Medicare, military and veterans' affairs, small business concerns, student loan repayments.

**Fall concert**

Wayne Memorial High

School Instrumental music students will present their Fall Concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the high school's Stockmeyer Auditorium. The concert will include all bands and orchestra.

The public is welcome. The admission is free.

**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.

**Haunted House**

The Westland Jaycees is spooking up the neighborhood with their haunted house in the east parking lot of the Bailey Recreation Center.

Ghouls, ghosts and screams await older children, teens and adults 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

For more information, call (734) 637-8415.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seventh-graders Ashley Jensen (left) and Savannah Harris (right) of Marshall Middle School and former Edison Elementary students write out a memory message on hearts meant for the Shock family.

**MISS SHOCK**

FROM PAGE A1

The short program included Judith Muller's class singing "Lend a Helping Hand" and Danielle Saunders reading the poem, "You Can Make a Difference," as well as the reading of the plaque which recognized Ms. Shock for all she did.

"She did have a lot of connection with the people in the school," said Lauren. "She would come in and it would be 'Miss Shock, Miss Shock, Miss Shock!'"

"So many people loved her," added Smith, a retired college dean who helped care for Ms. Shock during her illness. "Her death was tough. You have to ask why she died because she was so loving and giving. She would go above and beyond to give to children and to others."

Ms. Shock was diagnosed with cancer on Sept. 4, 2004, and died almost nine months later, just 23 days after her 44th birthday. Smith who would spend weeks on end with her niece, said Ms. Shock was pleased that she was able to be at the school when it received its Blue Ribbon Award from the state.

"There were so many hugs and then the principal pinned a blue ribbon on her suit," Smith said. "It was a privilege to care for her."

Students showed their love by filling a basket by the tree with their handmade hearts. Even middle school students who had known Ms. Shock from their years at Edison came to leave hearts for the family.

"We wanted to say thank you for all she did," said Hastings.

Lauren described her mother as a leader and as having done her own thing. Her legacy to her children, she added, "is to stay in school and make something of yourself."

"We're coping a lot better," she said. "Everyone is



Edison Elementary third-grader Rachael Shollack holds her handmade heart during the assembly.



Danielle Saunders reads the poem, You Can Make a Difference, as a tribute to the late Kimberly Shock. Listening is Edison Principal Barbara Hastings.

starting to get use to it. We're a lot closer now, we have to be."

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## One political season ends as another one gears up

We were exchanging e-mails about a column that ran a couple weeks ago about the low social studies scores on the state educational assessment test. He is a seasoned "elected official."

I wrote that I didn't think "politician" was a pejorative term. In fact we need more people willing to be politicians and involve themselves in our political process to keep it vital. He objected to the term

politician, preferring elected official, public servant or statesman and argued that his job is governance not politics, even though he comes to his job through the political process.

Politics is on everyone's minds lately. Municipal elections will be winding up in a couple weeks. Some civic minded people have stepped up to seek offices that guarantee only headaches. There is no fame, glory or (despite what some cynics think) financial reward for those who serve on city councils, school boards and the various appointed boards.

Some office seekers do enjoy bathing in the glow of local news coverage and recognition. Some enjoy a feeling of empowerment. Some just like the sound of their own voices. But most seek public office to serve the public or to pursue some issue that they believe is most important (only to discover all the other important issues they have to deal with as well).

Whether they do serve the public and whether their service is productive is something that voters decide every two

or four years.

The number of "new" faces that step up for the glory of long nights, cranky calls, negative newspaper editorials and political games is understandably small. A dependable group of political regulars offer themselves time and again. Some will swear off for an election or two and then return to the arena.

In flush times, being a politician isn't so bad. Voters applaud as you walk by in the Fourth of July parade. It's easy to say yes - yes to higher wages for hard working public employees, yes to better health care benefits, yes to innovative city services that set your community apart from others, yes to smaller class sizes and better computers.

Unfortunately, these haven't been flush times. These are times when the revenue stream has dried to a trickle. The choices become harder, the complaints louder, the headaches more severe.

Still, candidates are already lining up for next year's big election. Next year is a congressional election year, the mid-term election during which members of Congress either embrace the president or run against him. Sometimes even members of a president's own party find it politically wiser to run apart.

For Michigan this will be a busy season. The governor, attorney general and secretary of state are up for election. State legislators will face voters for House and Senate seats. One of our U.S. senators (Debbie Stabenow) is up for re-election. All U.S. House members grind back into political mode again after a short break to actually serve in office. In Wayne County, the county executive's position will be up for the vote.

In the 11th District, two Democrats have stepped up to

challenge Republican incumbent Thaddeus McCotter. Talk show host Tony Trupiano and small business consultant Ray Raczkowski are both hoping that the district isn't as solidly Republican as state legislators planned when they drew new districts after the 2000 census. But McCotter took 57 percent of the vote in 2002 and 2004. In 2004 he ran a little ahead of President Bush in the district. (Bush, of course, lost the state but won the nation - for the first time.)

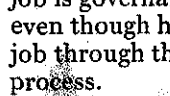
We always anticipate these kind of elections as we anticipate major sporting events. We want to see if Keith Butler can really draw votes from Detroit to defeat Debbie Stabenow. We wait to see if Dick DeVos will push just a little too far to the right in his race against a shaky Jennifer Granholm. We relish the fireworks of the always unpredictable Geoffrey Fieger in his battle against the Marine rigid Mike Cox.

But as my friend the "public servant" says, it isn't really about the politics, it's about governance. When the political games are over and the winners realize what they've gotten themselves into (again), it will be time for them to really think about governing, about making tough choices on what needs to be done and how we're going to pay for it.

That kind of governing courage has been a little thin lately. But that's the glory of elections. We have the power to mix things up a bit, keep the good ones and throw the bums out. Of course, we don't always agree on who's who. Ain't that America!

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

Hugh Gallagher



## With low tuition increase, Walsh College practices what it teaches

Realistic, prudent financial management is a central teaching theme in a student's education at Walsh College, a private, not-for-profit business college originally established in 1922.

So when it comes to managing the college's budget, we practice what we teach. At a time when Michigan students face back-to-school tuition sticker shock from their public universities, Walsh College has managed to keep its tuition increases among the lowest in Michigan. We've focused our budget on the students' needs and managed our expenses in order to keep our 2005 undergraduate tuition increase at 2.5 percent, just below the current rate of inflation. (This is the third year in a row that our undergraduate students have qualified for the

state of Michigan college tuition tax credit.) Graduate tuition increased 5.1 percent, still below the lowest level (7.5 percent) offered by a state-funded university.

We've tried to put into practice what Gov. Jennifer Granholm has urged of Michigan's 15 public educational institutions: "Figure out a way to streamline, to tighten your belts the way the state has done."

Being private, smaller and more focused provides us with a path to control spending, yet meet students' educational needs.

Unlike public university counterparts, Walsh College has no dormitories and no football team to inspire donations. It does have generous alumni, friends and donors, many of whom provide the need- and merit-based scholarships that make a Walsh education accessible for many of our students.

We hope that the latest round of tuition increases among Michigan's public universities does not dissuade our graduating high school seniors and working adults from pursuing a college education. Michigan is already 2 percent below the national average of citizens who've earned bachelor's or advanced degrees. Only 22 percent of our residents over the age of 25 have them, according to Lt. Gov. John Cherry's 2004 Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. We're also in the bottom tier of states with adults holding post-secondary

degrees, and more than 10 percent below states that lead the nation in educational attainment and economic growth.

By keeping tuition increases to a minimum, Walsh College strives to deliver on the commission's mandate to double the number of Michigan college graduates over the next 10 years. According to the commission, increasing the number of college-educated adults in Michigan by 5 percent will increase overall economic growth by 2.5 percent over 10 years, and the real wages of all Michigan citizens by 5.5 percent.

Keeping tuition affordable places Walsh College in the lead to narrow what the commission calls the "education achievement gap" between Michigan and its competitors.

Today, education level is the central determinant in wage growth. On the average, each year of college increases annual salary by 10 percent a year (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003). Walsh College recognizes that a highly educated work force drives an economy composed of advanced manufacturing, engineering and high-tech sectors.

Walsh College recently graduated its first group of master of science in managing manufacturing operations students in June.

Higher education institutions must serve students and communities, not expect to be served by them. At Walsh College, "the power to succeed" means that we will do everything within our power to help our students and our regional communities gain that power. We practice what we teach.

Keith Pretty is president of Walsh College in Troy.



Keith Pretty

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# Schoolcraft library redesigned for 21st century

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College's Bradner Library has undergone a major renovation that encourages a collaborative learning environment and accommodates the latest information technology. "It was a 20th century library trying to meet the needs of 21st century students," said Deborah Daiek, associate dean for academic and assessment services. "It wasn't relevant. Students weren't attending the library or using its services at all because it wasn't relevant." Daiek led a process that began more than a year and a half ago to involve staff, faculty and students in the redesign of the library, working with Hobbs and Black Architects of Lansing. The renovation cost about \$3.5 million, using funds from the land-lease payments from the College Park and Seven Mile Crossing projects. The construction manager was J.M. Olson Corp. from St. Clair Shores.

Daiek was assigned the leadership position as part of a plan to merge assessment services and the library staff and move the Learning Assistance Center to the renovated library. "This is really forward-thinking, as many libraries are folding in the learning assistance area with the library," Daiek said. "So students can not only access the information, but can get assistance in learning how to organize the information, remember it and understand the content by gathering it all in one space."

Daiek said the old library was out of date and out of step with modern educational needs. "It did not facilitate group learning, there was no place for students to gather. Many of our books were outdated. We obviously had a wonderful collection, but many of our books were not checked out, so we had to do a vigorous weeding process," she said.

## TEAMWORK

A core team of 15 met each week for a year, bringing in others for their input. Team members visited libraries at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Franklin College and other community colleges.

Team members visited Wayne State University's electronic library. "We knew we didn't want to go to that extreme," Daiek said. "We thought at one point we might want primarily electronic and, although our databases have increased by 400 percent, we still realized we needed to keep the texts." The volumes in

the library's book collection were reduced from about 86,000 to 46,000-50,000. The computer databases were increased by 400 percent.

The new library features:

- six study ready rooms for students and faculty with a computer in each room
- two classrooms with state-of-the-art instructional electronics
- open space for students and faculty to work collaboratively
- wireless Internet access throughout the library
- 30 computers with Internet access
- private carrels for students who prefer quiet and independent study space
- a tutoring center that is twice the size of the former center
- a book borrowing program, MiLE, that gives the library access to books at colleges around the state

Daiek said the new library will have a different atmosphere than traditional libraries. "Students said the library was outdated, they didn't feel comfortable going into the library, no place to study, too dark, overcrowded," she said. "We don't want partying going on in the library, but we do want students to talk and work together, which is a little different than the mindset of the old library. Now we hope they'll be excited about learning."

Daiek also hopes to encourage faculty to use the study rooms as classrooms, especially for English research classes. "I'm hoping faculty will realize that librarians are an incredible resource for students and they will work more closely with them," she said. "They can create common assignments using library skills to complete a research paper and we're hoping faculty will drive students into the center, but we believe in word of mouth. We think the fact that we are creating one-stop show for learning will promote it."

## LIBRARY CLASSROOMS

Nick Scarpone, project manager for Hobbs and Black, said it was a challenge to bring all the functions that Schoolcraft wanted together. The new library is 24,300 square feet, with just 2,200 square feet added to the existing site.

"The school is really pushing toward the future," Scarpone said. "We wanted to make a fun place for students, serious but fun." He said the new space is much brighter than the old library and more comfortable. Students have been using a

temporary library in the Waterman Center. Librarians began moving to the new facility last week and the building will be open to students Monday. A campus-wide grand opening is scheduled for Nov. 10; the theme will be Celebrate Learning in the Library.

The Schoolcraft Board of Trustees recently approved DSA Architects of Bloomfield to begin design and engineering work on a new 45,000-square-foot classroom building.

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Deborah Daiek of Schoolcraft College talks about the computer system that has been installed in the renovated Bradner Library.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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