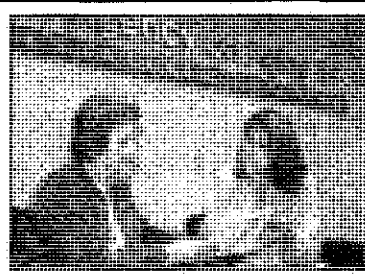




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OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Trying to make  
sense of Part D

HEALTH - PAGE C8

The power  
of the purse

PINK PAGE - C10

SUNDAY  
November 6, 2005

# WESTLAND Observer

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Marlene Ferguson of Westland, a member of Warm Hearts, puts together a care bag with handmade blankets and other baby supplies that were donated to local charities.

## Clerk predicts 20 percent voter turnout

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

City Clerk Eileen DeHart has predicted that 20 percent of Westland's 55,484 registered voters will decide the mayoral and council races in Tuesday's election.

Many voters already have turned in absentee ballots, leading DeHart to predict a smooth day at the polls. "I don't anticipate any long lines on Election Day," she said Thursday.

The busiest times, DeHart said, will be when workers go to the polls before and after work.

Voters will choose between incumbent Mayor Sandra Cicirelli and challenger Elenor Swistak to fill a four-year term that pays \$93,178 a year.

Cicirelli, a former 12-year

councilwoman seeking her second mayoral term, has touted her experience. She also said she has improved city services despite cuts in state-shared revenue.

Swistak, in her first bid for public office, has accused the Cicirelli administration of wasteful spending. Swistak has portrayed herself as the people's candidate.

Voters also will fill four council seats by choosing among four incumbents - Cheryl Graunstadt, Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer - and challengers Normie June Brazier, Lori Brist, James Davis and former Mayor Robert Thomas.

Council positions pay \$12,150 a year. The top three vote-getters will receive four-

PLEASE SEE TURNOUT, A7

## Warm Hearts

Volunteers find joy  
in giving, helping needy

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Single, poor mothers who had no money to buy blankets, toys, bibs and other baby items benefited when a Westland-based group threw a baby shower at The Salvation Army.

Low-income children this Christmas will receive hand-sewn bags filled with school notebooks, stuffed animals, crossword puzzles, hand-held games and educational books.

Orphans as far away as the Ukraine have received blankets to keep them warm.

It's all in a day's volunteer work for Westland resident Carol Sharp and some 20 women who belong to

Warm Hearts, a group that helps the needy. Volunteers come from such communities as Westland, Plymouth, Canton and Redford.

"What we're dealing with here is a group of volunteers who want to make a difference and help people," said Sharp, 63, a part-time accounting employee for Daimler-Chrysler. "Our bottom line is that we want to warm the spirit and warm the body."

To that end, volunteers make homemade blankets and hats that they distribute through such organizations the Westland-based Salvation Army.

On a Friday in late October, they brought their sewing machines and



Carol Sharp of Westland sews on a bag that will be filled with items for children from low-income families.

PLEASE SEE VOLUNTEER, A7



A bank camera produced a photograph of the man who held up the Charter One Bank on Ford Road in Canton Thursday and is linked to a Tuesday robbery at the Comerica at Wayne and Warren roads, Westland.

## Photo links suspect to Westland holdup

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

Canton police have excellent surveillance images of the man who robbed the Charter One Bank on Ford Road Thursday.

They say they also have evidence linking the robber to a robbery in Westland last week.

"The one thing we don't have is someone calling to say they know this guy," said Canton Police Sgt. Rick Pomorski.

According to police records, the robbery at Charter One Bank occurred Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Within minutes of receiving the call, Pomorski

had excellent images of the robber, and sent it out to every patrol officer in Canton. He also had images from bank robberies in Dearborn and Westland, which occurred during the two days before the Canton hold-up.

"That's three in three days this guy was involved in," Pomorski said. "It's definitely the same guy. He was even wearing the same hat in the other robberies."

Police said the man walked into the bank at 9:30 a.m. and handed a note to a teller. There

PLEASE SEE ROBBERY, A7

## Judge adjourns exam in 11-year-old murder case

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A court ruling was delayed Thursday for murder suspect Boydie Walker, accused of shooting an Inkster drug dealer and dumping his body in Westland.

Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos adjourned until Nov. 30 a preliminary hearing that will determine whether Walker, 46, should face trial on first-degree murder and felony firearm charges.

A defense attorney asked for

more time to review the 11-year-old case. Walker, of Battle Creek and formerly of Inkster, is accused of killing a 33-year-old Inkster man, Billy Ford, whose body was found Dec. 14, 1994.

Westland police arrested the suspect on Oct. 25 after an informant told authorities that Walker killed Ford, whose body was found on the county's old Eloise property that once housed psychiatric patients and poor people at Michigan Avenue and Merriman Road.

Walker, jailed without bond,

will face life in prison, if convicted as charged. A not-guilty plea has been entered for him in court.

The informant told police that he was with Ford on the day he was killed. He said Ford gave him a ride and stopped by an Inkster house where he was abducted at gunpoint by a hooded gunman who ordered the informant out of the car.

The informant learned the next day that Ford had been shot dead. He identified Walker as the gunman and

told police that he remained silent for 11 years because Walker threatened to kill him if he talked.

Now facing a six-year prison term for drug charges, the informant told authorities that he is no longer afraid of Walker.

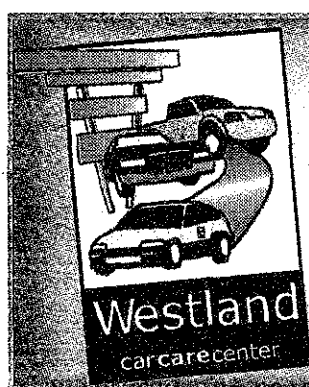
The investigation is continuing, and police said last week that they didn't know what might have caused a fatal dispute between Ford and Walker.

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### INDEX

APARTMENTS	F1
AUTOMOTIVE	F4
COMMUNITY LIFE	C1
CROSSWORD	D7
HEALTH	C8
JOBS	D1
OBITUARIES	C4
PERSPECTIVES	A9
NEW HOMES	E4
SERVICE GUIDE	D7
SPORTS	B1

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# Middle school Teacher of the Year aims to be 'high-level educator'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Ron Wilson doesn't just teach at Emerson Middle School, he's an advocate for lifelong learning.

The Livonia Public Schools Middle School Teacher of the Year has spent the past 10 years at Emerson, heading up classes including Materials and Processes, Drafting and X Technology, a class that affords students the opportunity to explore an array of careers from animation to plastics to desktop publishing.

In his Materials and Processes class, Wilson is attempting to incorporate more home improvement-oriented projects, to give students a chance to complete more hands-on activities like wallpapering or roofing.

His teaching has also earned statewide attention. A week before Wilson received news he would be the 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year at the middle school level, he earned the Outstanding Teacher award from the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society.

"I was just overwhelmed," said Wilson, a Garden City resident. "I was overwhelmed from the last award. I was emotional. Very happy and pleased, and just proud."

Wilson started working in the field of industrial design right out of high school. At the same time he began assistant coaching a hockey team. That's where he discovered his inter-

est in teaching. "I really liked working with kids," said Wilson. He sought a degree in industrial technology and became vocation-certified at Western Michigan University. His first job was at the State Technical Institute Rehabilitation Center, where he worked to train adults with disabilities. He then obtained teaching certification and worked with Kalamazoo Public Schools before coming to Livonia.

## A PLACE TO COLLABORATE

Almost 10 years ago, he applied for a position as a Materials and Processes teacher at Emerson and was granted the job by current principal, Thomas Tobe. There, he's found a "great" staff of experienced and new teachers to collaborate with him. Two years ago, after a colleague retired, Wilson took over Drafting and X Technology courses.

He jokes that as a teacher he takes up "a lot of real estate" within the school. His classrooms are large and well-equipped with computers and machinery.

"I've established a tradition with high goals," he said, noting that siblings of his former students sign up for his classes knowing they will work hard and learn a lot.

He treats every student equally, he said, and strives

shows them that they are important. Though he's a father of two, Wilson said he spends a lot of time at school. He arrives eagerly at 6:30 a.m. when the building opens, and stays late to oversee clubs and activities.

"That excites me," he said. "When they feel good about what they've accomplished. They're willing to learn, and I'm here for them."

## 'SELFESSLY GIVES TIME'

Wilson said listening to his students is truly important. And he is confident that they can all be successful, especially once they find their niche.

"I teach because I love the kids," said Wilson. He also oversees the Industrial Technology Club, a Girl's Engineering Club, and the Aviation Flight Club where students build remote control airplanes.

Jennifer Prouty, another Emerson teacher, nominated Wilson for the award. "He is amazing," said Prouty. "He selflessly gives his time to all students, our staff, other teachers in the district, our parents and our community. He is always after school working with kids in his tech club. He helps me with my Science Olympiad Team. He helped to organize a breakfast program last year for our students. The list goes on and on."

Wilson also knows the importance of staying educated. He takes courses to stay current in his field. "I want to be a high-level educator," he said.

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Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano shakes hands with Wu Jia'ngong, the vice mayor of Chongqing, at the Compuware headquarters in Detroit.

# Chinese trade mission cements ties for county

BY KURT KUBAN  
STAFF WRITER

Some called it an eye-opening experience. Others called it a cultural awakening of sorts. But almost all of the business leaders that traveled to China last week with Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said the trip made them realize the tremendous opportunities that exist for American companies to invest in China, and vice versa.

Ficano and the business leaders went on a weeklong trade mission to several Chinese cities, including the major industrial city of Chongqing. In addition to several county officials, the delegation consisted of 15 people representing 10 local companies. Most, like the Plymouth Township-based Superior Controls, are related to the automotive industry, but the delegation did include representatives from the local legal and real estate fields.

"Cheap labor isn't the only thing China has to offer. There are so many opportunities over there," said attorney Jerome Hill of the law firm Butzel Long, who served as a language and cultural translator for the Wayne County delegation. "I don't think Americans have the slightest idea about China. The capabilities of the Chinese is something we don't

understand." On Monday, some of the Chinese officials returned the favor by visiting Detroit, including Chongqing Vice Mayor Wu Jia'ngong. Wu and Ficano signed a formal agreement that will cement ties between Chongqing and Wayne County. Both will set up committees that will look for investment opportunities both here and in China.

It was Wu's fourth visit to Detroit in the last two years. He said the Chongqing government will actively promote the new partnership with the county. He said his city, with its large industrial base, has much to learn from Detroit.

"I will continue to come here and visit Detroit, and Chinese entrepreneurs will continue to come to Detroit to better understand how business is done here," Wu said through an interpreter.

Mulugetta Birru, director of economic development for Wayne County, was largely responsible for setting up the trip to China. Before he came to Wayne County, Birru already had numerous business ties in China, and utilized them during the trade mission.

"The trip exceeded our expectations and exceeded the expectations of the businesses that went," he said. "The companies were very happy. They were able to meet with groups of people they would've never met on their own. We really helped facilitate for them one on one meetings with business officials over there."

The mission did produce some immediate results. Covisint, a subsidiary of Detroit-based Compuware, announced Monday that it will set up an office in Shanghai to support its growing Asian busi-

ness. In addition, Ficano announced that Century Automotive, a division of China-based Tempo Group, is opening a research and design facility in Canton Township, which will employ 200 people. According to Birru, company officials from Tempo Group are expected to be in town on Monday to meet with Ficano and staff to discuss other possible investment opportunities in the area.

John W. Carroll, Jr., who is the executive director of the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, also went with the delegation. He said Americans are wrong to fear the growing economic power of China. In addition to the Tempo Group, he said other Chinese companies are currently looking to invest in the area, though he would not give specifics.

"I see Americans bringing their hands about losing jobs to China, but this is globalization taking place," he said. "There are so many opportunities over there. So many companies are going over there to get into that market."

Randall Brodzik, co-owner of Superior Controls, which has been in Plymouth Township for six years, said he went on the trip to try to cement ties with American automotive facilities already in China. He said his company's biggest client is Ford Motor Co., and he was able to meet with Ford officials in China, as well as other automotive officials. Although he didn't make any deals during the mission, he said his company will try to utilize the contacts he was able to make.

"It's an opportunity. How great, we'll have to wait and see," he said.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:00, 11:30

**WEATHER MAN (R)**  
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55

**GRIME (PG-13)**  
12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

**ELIZABETHTOWN (PG-13)**  
11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

**IN HER SHOES (PG-13)**  
11:10, 1:50, 6:50

**SERENITY (PG-13)**  
4:25, 9:20  
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
November 17, 2005

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment of Section 154.036 Performance Guarantee:

**ZA 05-013.** The proposed amendment would modify Section 154.036 Performance Guarantee, the Ordinance which regulates the process of submitting performance bonds for large scale developments within Garden City.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

G. Palmer  
Community Development Dir.

Publish: November 6, 2005

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The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment of Section 154.403, Review and Action (of Site Plans):

**ZA 05-014.** The proposed amendment to Section 154.403 would add language that would require builders and developers to submit digital copies of the final approved plans to the Community Development Department prior to Certificate of Occupancy approval. This would only affect large-scale developments within Garden City.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

G. Palmer  
Community Development Dir.

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# Piano Man: Marathon helps pop chorus

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Randy Blouse figures it will be his back, not his fingers, that will get sore during his marathon piano-playing benefit next weekend.

Blouse will tinkle the ivories from 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Dearborn Heights in what is being billed as the "Marathon Man's Piano Extravaganza."

"It's a long time to be sitting, I may have to stand and play like Jerry Lee Lewis," said Blouse who will play in 50-minute segments with 10 minute breaks around the clock.

The musical marathon is a benefit for the American Liberty Pops Singers, a chorus Blouse founded about a year ago. The chorus, 28 singers strong, pulls members from Westland, Garden City, Livonia and throughout the tri-county area.

It's carving a niche for itself by performing American music - classical, jazz, pop and rock-'n-roll, but no rap - that is composed and arranged by Americans.

It's also finding its niche in

## THE PIANO MAN

**What:** Marathon Man's Piano Extravaganza

**Who:** Randy Blouse, director of the American Liberty Pops Singers

**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12

**Where:** Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 25535 Ford, east of Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights

**Why:** The free "one-of-a-kind performance" to benefit the American Liberty Pops Singers. The public is invited to come and listen, and admission is free. For more information, call (313) 278-8878.



The American Liberty Pops Singers dress to suit their name, wearing patriotic ties for their performances.

partnering with groups doing fund raising. The group will present a concert free of charge with money raised through freewill donations going to projects like disaster relief or citizens serving in the armed forces overseas.

Blouse's marathon is intended to raise money to cover the chorus' expenses like purchasing sheet music and sound equipment, said member Rick Shaw.

"We're here to work with the community," said Shaw. "If it's a benefit, we perform for free." There will be no admission charge for the marathon performance. The chorus is looking for donations and pledges of a specific amount or per hour amount.

The chorus also is looking to partner with other community groups who will get 50 percent commission on solicited donations their organization actually collects. Their job would be to distribute pledge forms to members, students and employees and return it to a chorus representative.

According to Shaw, the effect of 9/11 on the nation gave Blouse the idea to form a chorus that primarily does patriotic songs "to make people feel good."

And that's what the chorus accomplished when, with just two weeks of rehearsals, it performed at the JARC in Farmington Hills. The agency

cares for handicapped adults and Blouse said the audience was "probably the most appreciative I've ever had."

The chorus also has done a concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran that benefited the families of National Guardsmen who were on active duty and at the American Legion in Livonia as part of a 9/11 commemorative ceremony.

Blouse is an accomplished musician who has been playing the piano since age 4. A graduate of the University of Michigan where he majored in music and trumpet performance, his experience stretches from southeast Michigan to Europe.

He has worked for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools since 1973, and his theatrical experience includes the Crosswell Theater in Adrian the Wayne-Westland Players Guild and the Players Guild in Dearborn. He also was the musical director and pianist for the musical Side By Side, performed at the Jewish Cultural Center in West Bloomfield.

As the director of the Ford Motor Co. Chorus, he toured throughout Europe, including Germany, France, Austria and Italy, and in 1997 performed at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

He left the Ford chorus after 10 years to pursue other inter-

ests, but came back to music.

"I wanted to have more creative control and a say in who the singers would be," he said of his decision to form the American Liberty Pops Chorus. "I look for people who can blend in. I want to create a full, total sound of chorus music."

Currently, Blouse is music director at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City, the organist at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills and the leader of the contemporary service at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westland.

If that isn't enough, he hopes to have a youth chorus and teen chorus up and running in January and is preparing for a Dec. 16 performance of a Christmas cantata, "Jesus Is Born! Hallelujah!" His own composition, it also will be presented at Christus Victor Church.

"I wasn't happy with the works that were out there and thought I could do better," he said. "I wrote it for the people and like Bach I wrote it for the musicians I had and the singers I had."

"We're not even a year old and I think we're doing great," he added. "Usually wherever we sing we find someone interested in joining. We see the concert as advertising for the chorus."

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# Woman facing prison if convicted in fatal crash

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

It was just after 8 a.m. on July 26, 2005, when Nancy Levy was leaving the Real Life Farm daycare on Geddes Road in Canton.

Levy

The 41-year-old Plymouth woman didn't see Joe Stubblefield's car coming when she pulled onto the roadway, she would later have to tell police officers. According to Canton Township police, she did pull into traffic, and 81-year-old Stubblefield's car crashed into Levy's. The next day Stubblefield, of Westland, died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident.

Levy was arraigned Thursday at the 35th District Court in Plymouth on charges of negligent homicide, a high misdemeanor that could land her a two-year prison term. According to police, Levy wasn't charged until now because the police department was waiting for a completed autopsy report from Washtenaw County.

"She was pulling out of

the driveway after dropping off a child at the daycare. She pulled into the roadway and into the path of an oncoming vehicle. She told police she didn't see him," said Sgt. Rick Pomorski of the Canton Police Department. "It will be up to the prosecutor to determine if it was a crime or an accident."

According to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, whether the crash was an accident or was the result of a crime will need to be determined in court.

"We have probable cause to believe she did not obey the traffic laws, she did not yield and did not slow down as she should have, and that's why she's been charged," said Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

According to police reports, Levy and Stubblefield were involved in the crash at approximately 8:15 a.m. on July 26. The crash occurred on Geddes Road, just east of Denton.

Levy was released on a personal bond. Her preliminary examination is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

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# Toy: YWCA award is 'great honor'

For state Sen. Laura Toy standing at the podium at the Dearborn Inn last week was a "great honor."

The Livonia Republican was at the club to receive the YWCA of Western Wayne County's Women of Achievement Award for government and law.

"I am especially touched to accept the Women of Achievement award as this important organization in our community marks such a meaningful milestone," she said.

The 14th annual awards program, held Oct. 27, recognized seven women for their work as well as celebrated the 50th anniversary of the YWCA of Western Wayne County.

Toy was selected by a committee of community members based on her qualities of leadership, areas of achievement, both past and present, demonstrated commitment to improving western Wayne County through work-related and volunteer activities, and facilitating opportunities for other women.

Her accomplishments include her sponsorship of the Western Wayne County Senior Celebration Day for the past seven years, as well as her work in the Senate to preserve hold harmless funding for public schools in her district.

And as a former state representative, she secured funding for Schoolcraft Community College's VisTaTech Center.

Toy also coached local women's volleyball, track and field, basketball and softball teams.

"Sure it's hard work sometimes, but I feel very fortunate

to serve the public and make a difference," Toy said.

This is isn't the only time she's been recognized for her governmental work. She is a past recipient of the YWCA's Honorable Legislator Award for her commitment to children and families during her tenure in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The awards ceremony was hosted by Eleanor Josaitis, CEO and co-founder of Focus: HOPE who introduced the 2005 YWCA of Western Wayne County Woman of the Year Kathleen Ligocki, president and CEO of Tower Automotive.

Ligocki gave a moving keynote address detailing her journey to the top ranks of the automotive industry, and urged audience members to take every opportunity presented to them.

"Kathleen Ligocki is truly inspiring," said Karen Murphy,

YWCA CEO. Audrey Monaghan and Judith Quinn, co-chairs of the Women of Achievement Awards program presented plaques to the winners. In addition to Toy, the honorees included:

- Young Woman Honoree Tawney Rose Fay of Dearborn.
- Professional Woman Honoree Dr. Anisa Abdul-Ghafoor of Dearborn.
- Volunteer Honoree Lucille Flint of Romulus.
- Arts Honoree Kari Guido of Dearborn.
- Senior Honoree Frances Mifsud of Canton.
- Business Honoree Jumana Judeh of Dearborn.

Closing out the ceremony was Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry, chair of the YWCA board, who stressed the importance of supporting the work of organizations that help the less fortunate in the community.

# Project links Westland to community in Brazil

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Westland's not exactly next door to Brazil, but ties can still be found between Rotary clubs in the two countries.

The Westland Rotary has partnered with the Rotary club in Cascavel, Brazil, to provide artificial larynx devices which allow cancer patients to speak.

"They had requested that we sister with them and put together a project to help impoverished cancer patients in that area," said Ann Elliott, past Westland club president who organized the effort.

The local Rotarians gave \$2,230 for electronic larynxes for a hospital in Cascavel, money matched by the South American Rotarians and then again

by Rotary International.

Three years ago, Elliott and her family hosted Rotary exchange student Camila Columbo from Brazil. Columbo's dad is president of his club in Brazil, which coordinated the project on the South American end.

"So they're able to purchase a number of them that are needed," Elliott said of the money being spent in Brazil.

Rotary International, headquartered in suburban Chicago, matched the funds, boosting the total. Local Rotarians were glad to lend their support.

"I think it was a wonderful thing to do," said Todd Blevins, Westland Rotary president. "The club tries to do something international every year."

# Openings available for YWCA preschool program

Parents still have time to register their child in preschool.

The YWCA of Western Wayne County still has openings available in its Michigan School Readiness Program which is available to children throughout western Wayne County.

Michigan School Readiness is a home-based preschool program for four-year-old chil-

dren. It consists of 30 weekly visits from the child's teacher, plus monthly center visits and field trips.

All children enrolled in the program are brought together for socialization and classroom experiences during the monthly center visits. While there, they have story-time, snack, playtime and activities to foster all areas development.

During those visits, par-

ents are able to discuss important parenting topics with other parents whose children are enrolled in the program. Speakers also are brought in to talk to the parents about health, education, nutrition, and other topics.

Field trips take children, parents, and their teachers to places like the cider mill, library, bakery, fire station, police department and the

post office. The program is free for families whose children meet eligibility requirements. Children enrolled in the program must turn four-years-old on or before Dec. 1, 2005.

For more information about the YWCA of Western Wayne County's Michigan School Readiness Program, call the YWCA at (313) 561-4110.

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## INFORMATION CENTRAL

Whether you are a high school or college student writing a paper or a lifelong learner, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is pleased to offer an excellent electronic resource called the Gale Literature Resource Center.

Inside the Literature Resource Center is Gale's Literary Index, a master index to the many literature products published by Gale, a major publisher of research materials. It combines and cross-references about 151,000 author names, and listings for more than 202,000 titles into one source.

The database contains much of the same material as found in the multi-volume reference sets here in the library, only it is easier to use and searches many places at once.

Gale's Literary Index provides quick and easy access to author and title listings from more than 130 literature products. The referenced products themselves will contain complete biographies on authors and critical essays on their writings.

You can use Gale's Literary Index as a starting point to locate authors and titles covered in many of the volumes that were published through September 2005.

For example, a student writing a paper on Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* would simply type in a title search and find several critical essays and articles on the book.

From this same page of results, a series of tabs will appear at the top of the page where the student could then retrieve biographical articles on Steinbeck, a timeline that shows when the book was published, and a list of reputable Web sites for further information.

It is important to keep in mind too that using this database is simply an electronic version of reputable, printed books and not something "off the Internet" which teachers and professors generally discourage. In short, this resource has everything a student needs for a paper in one place.

This database is accessible here in the library or at home by going to our Web site: [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us) and clicking on the "Reference" tab, then "home user" and "Literature."

We encourage all adults and high school or college students to give it a try. For help getting started feel free to ask a librarian by calling (734) 326-6123.

Preschool Fair: 7-8 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Learn more about area preschools at our Preschool Fair. Several area preschools will have their representatives available to relay information and answer questions. No registration required. Call the Children's Services Department for more information (734) 326-6123.

Fifth/Sixth Grade Book Club: 7 p.m. on Nov. 15.

Discuss great books and enjoy fun activities. This month's book is *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. Pick up your copy at the children's desk.

Adult Book Club: 7 p.m. on Nov. 15.

The Lone Ranger and *Tonto Fight in Heaven* by Alexie Sherman.

The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## Indoor flea market

Vendors can get tables for \$25 each at an indoor flea market being held Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale.

The flea market will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Send name, address, e-mail address, number of tables requested and a check VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland 48186, attention: flea market. Checks should be made payable to VFW Post 3323.

For more information, call Richard Eberhart at (734) 812-7078.

## Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey.

Eligible residents living north of Michigan Avenue will pick up their commodities on the third Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt.

Seniors living in Taylor Towers should call the building manager for the date of the distribution at their facility.

Administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services, the program this month food will distribute corn cereal Shelf Life milk and vegetable oil.

For more information, call the surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

## Workout benefit

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will be on the receiving end of a benefit at Nu-Lady Fitness in Westland Shopping Center, Warren at Wayne Road, Westland. The workout benefit will be Monday, Nov. 7, through Saturday, Nov. 12. To register for the program, call Nu-Lady Fitness Center at (734) 525-0000.

## Open house

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds

Sensibly) Chapter MI-53 in Westland will host an open house 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road. The event is free and open to the public. Women, men, teens, preteens and seniors interested in losing weight are invited to attend.

Gail Washburn, a T.O.P.S. member who lost 108 pounds and has kept it off for almost two years, will speak about her weight loss success with T.O.P.S.

For more information about T.O.P.S., visit the Web site [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

## Shopping Extravaganza

The Westland Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with Westland Shopping Center and Marshall Field's to sponsor an exclusive half-day shopping event Friday, Nov. 18.

Participants will enjoy discounts and give-aways at participating stores and will be able to sign up for a free holiday eye makeover by Clinique. Clinique also will do a holiday makeup presentation during the continental breakfast.

The day starts with the continental breakfast, provided by Panera Bread, at 9:30 a.m. at Marshall Fields. It will end at noon with lunch and door prizes at the Lakeshore Grill.

The shopping extravaganza costs \$25 per person and is limited to the first 100 people to respond. To reserve a spot, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

## Holiday party

Westland senior citizens are invited to the Holiday Extravaganza, a Christmas party, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, Thursday, Dec. 15.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with the "fabulous feast" will be served at noon. There will be a chance to have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, dancing to the music of the Tommie James Trio and gifts galore.

Tickets cost \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. They're available at the Friendship center, 1119 N. Newburgh,

Westland.

Taste Fest

Tickets are on sale for the Westland Chamber of Commerce's seventh annual Holiday Taste Fest which will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Hellenic Cultural Center at 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh.

Participants

## Texas hold 'em

St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne, will sponsor a Texas Hold 'Em tournament 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the church's social hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$40 to buy in. Tickets must be bought in advance by calling (734) 564-8222 or (734) 421-9315. Participants must be at least 18 to play and at least age 21 to drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. The event is being sponsored by St. Theodore's Men's Club and Confraternity of Christian Women.

## 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. Thursday, Nov. 10, 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.

## Las Vegas Party

St. Bernardine Men's Club is sponsoring a Pinochle/Euchre Card Party on Fridays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, at the church, southwest corner Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland.

Participants don't need a partner to play. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the \$5 charge. Games start at 7:30 p.m.

## Craft show tables

The Village of Westland will be having its Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at complex, 32001 Cherry Hill between Venoy and Merriman in Westland.

Tables and/or space is still available for an indoor fall craft show Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Tables and/or space costs \$35 for a 12-foot table/area. Electricity is an additional \$5. Call (734) 728-5010 and speak with Terri for more information.

Crafters are needed for the annual Holiday craft show at Hawthorne Valley on Nov. 27. For information, call Sue or Paul at (734) 844-3128.

Edison Elementary will have its Holiday Bazaar 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the school, 34505 Hunter at Wildwood, Westland. There will be 25 vendors, door prizes and bake sale. Admission is \$2. Children will not be allowed in the show area, however, there will be babysitting and crafts for available. Proceeds will benefit the Edison PTO.

## Car donation

People with a car to donate can give it to Veterans Haven. The organization is accepting cars, running or not running, that are given to veterans to provide them with transportation to work, school of medical needs.

To date, the agency has given away more than 250 vehicles and three fully furnished mobile homes to needy veterans. To donate, call Veterans Haven at (734) 728-0527 or go to [vetshaven-info.org](http://vetshaven-info.org) on the Internet.

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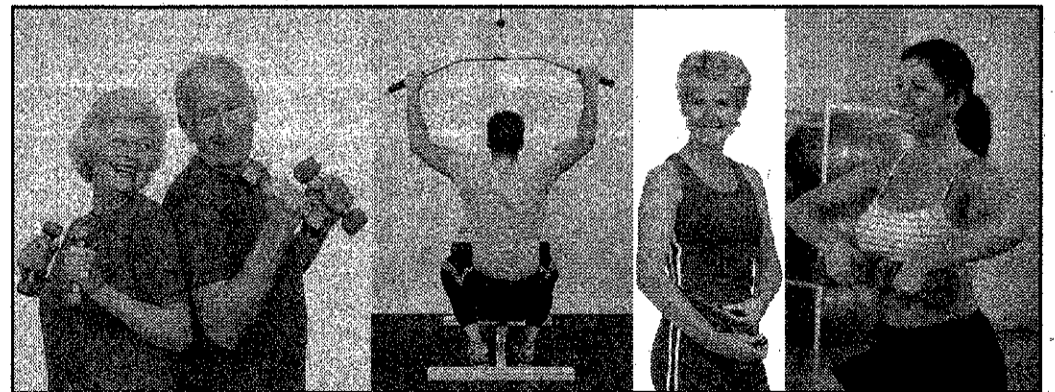
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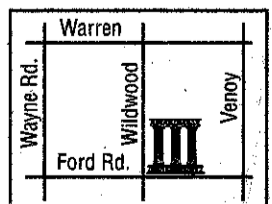


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**TURNOUT**

FROM PAGE A1

year terms; the fourth-place finisher, a two-year stint.

As of Thursday, DeHart said that her office had sent out 4,331 absentee ballots to voters. Of those, 3,588 had been returned.

In all, 3,683 voters cast absentee ballots in the last city elections.

"We're almost there," DeHart said.

Voters who want to go to the clerk's office and vote by absentee ballot will have until 4 p.m. Monday.

Voters who already have their absentee ballots and simply need to turn them in will have until polls close at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

"I'm a firm believer that voters should vote by absentee ballot, if they believe there is a chance that they may be out of town on Election Day," DeHart said.

Polling places will be using the new M-100 optical scan voting system, which allows voters to mark paper ballots with a pen and then feed them into a scanning machine.

Westland, which formerly had a touch-screen voting system, already has moved to the new system that will eventually be used throughout Michigan.

"I think things are going to go very smoothly," DeHart said of Tuesday's voting. "The election workers have been in their training classes. Our election workers are great. They handle their job without any problems. We have a lot of dedicated workers."

Anyone who still isn't sure where their to go to vote may call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3188.

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

**ROBBERY**

FROM PAGE A1

were other people in the bank at the time, but the lobby was not crowded.

"The note said something about \$100 bills and no cops and no alarms," Pomorski said.

The robber never claimed to be armed, but the teller told police he kept his hand in his pocket during the robbery.

Though Canton officers had the area contained pretty quickly, they were not able to find the man, Pomorski said.

In Westland, there were two bank robberies this week. The suspect in the Canton robbery is linked to at least one of them, a Tuesday robbery at the Comerica at Wayne and Warren roads, Pomorski said. In that robbery, the suspect handed the teller a note which warned the teller to turn over money "and no one will get hurt," according to Westland Police.

The suspect is described as a white man, 25 years old, 5-foot, 8 inches to 6 feet tall, and unshaven.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to contact the Canton Police Department immediately at (734) 394-5400 or the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

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

**VOLUNTEERS**

FROM PAGE A1

ironing boards to The Salvation Army to make tote bags that will be filled with donated items for low-income children this Christmas.

"I love to sew, and I love to help people," said senior citizen Bertha Mayfield, a Ford Motor Co. retiree. "This is a nice bunch of people to work with. We all have a giving spirit."

Warm Hearts started about six years ago and is registered as a nonprofit organization. Last year, alone, volunteers made 700 blankets for the poor. Sharp has sent items as far away as Afghanistan and the Ukraine.

What does she get from her volunteer work?

"The joy of giving," she said. "The joy of making a better world. It starts with me and you."

Senior Gloria Blakely of Taylor came to the Westland Salvation Army on Oct. 28 to help make tote bags. She talked of her involvement in Warm Hearts as she ironed straps for a bag.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cindy Bolton of Westland (left) and Gloria Blakely of Taylor iron fabric for gift bags.

"I remember a party we had for pregnant, unwed mothers,"

she said. "This one mother was 14 years old, and she was scared to death. I tried to encourage her and to tell her how important it was for her to finish school."

Blakely and the young mother stayed in touch by telephone.

Cindy Bolton, 45, said she volunteers because she likes to help others who are less fortunate than she is.

"I've been volunteering

every year of my life since I was 15," she said.

That, Sharp said, is the spirit that embodies Warm Hearts.

Anyone who wants to volunteer with the group or help with donations, such as fabric, stuffed animals, magazines, pens and pencils, or even monetary donations, is encouraged to call Sharp at (734) 595-8305.

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Gloria Norman of Plymouth sorts through the stacks of children's books that will be distributed to charities on behalf of the Warm Hearts group



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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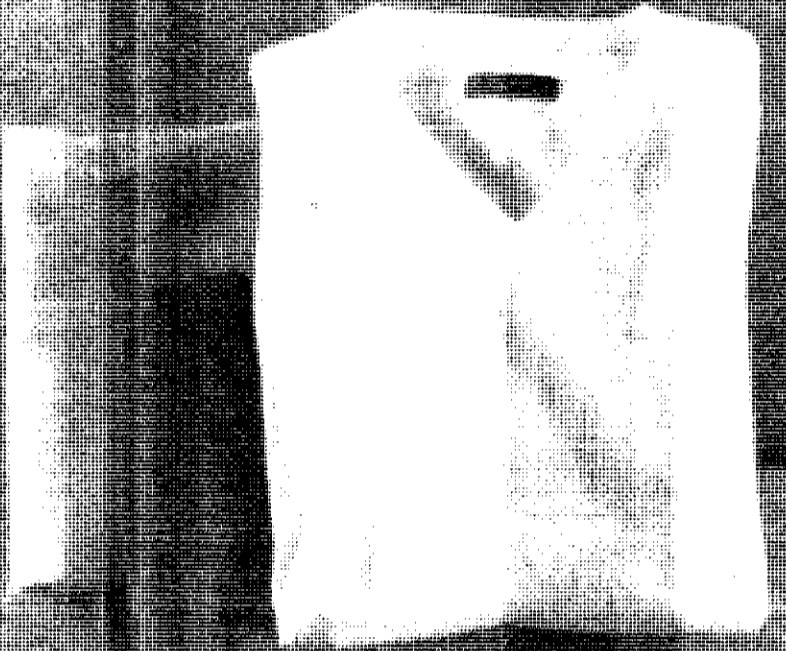
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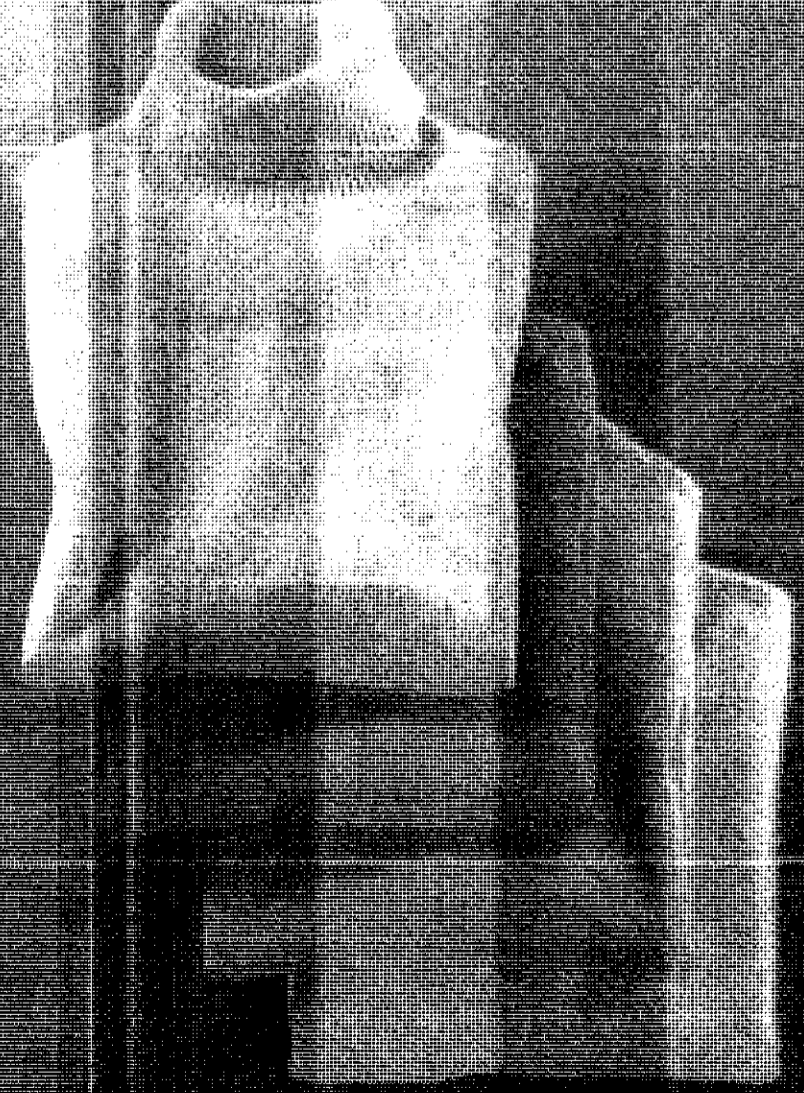


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## LETTERS

## Supports Cicirelli

The Mayor of Westland has worked hard during the past four years and brought positive changes to Westland.

She is an example of how great leadership protects the financial health of a city like ours!

Despite drastic cuts in state funding and rising costs, Mayor Cicirelli has balanced the budget all four years!

She is a person who is truly interested in the well being of Westland!

I feel safe and proud to live in Westland because we have Mayor Cicirelli taking care of our city.

While other cities are suffering the loss of state funding and rising costs, Westland has seen positive changes and new programs benefiting it's residents.

I encourage everyone in Westland to vote for Mayor Cicirelli to continue improved city services and know they are voting for a person who protects Westland's financial Health.

I support and will vote for Mayor Cicirelli to lead our city for another successful 4 years!

Georga Conant  
Westland

## LPS' greatness isn't buildings

I know that many people will be opposed to this plan, but after much thought and consideration, I believe it is the best plan for our children.

I will have three children in LPS next year, and they will all be in different schools. They will also all be bused. However, the greatness of LPS is in the programs and especially in the choice of teachers, it is NOT in the buildings. By remaining committed to high quality teaching standards and offering the wonderful programs that we have come to Livonia for, our children will remain competitive in their

educational lives.

I was recently speaking with some other parents about this plan, and someone mentioned the addition of instrumental music, foreign language, computer classes, etc. that will be available to five-six grades. Another parent commented that extra programs were not a good enough reason to bus his student so far from his own neighborhood. I disagree. These programs are what contribute to a well-rounded student, and give the opportunity to more students to excel. Besides, the programs are not what prompted the changes, but the need to save the district money. There is nothing wrong with riding a bus. I was raised in a mostly rural setting, and rode the bus every day to school. It was not viewed as a negative, but as a necessity.

I appreciate all the work that the district and the demographic committee put into coming up with this plan. I recognize that you truly had the best interests of the children as your focus.

April Yates  
Livonia

## Consider parents' concerns

(Re: "Our Views" editorial on Oct. 27.) You end the article by saying, "we hope parents, staff and school officials will keep in mind what's best for all our students" and I think the key word there is parents. They are our kids, and the tax dollars of all of the citizens of Livonia so I am hopeful that any concerns parents have will be given serious consideration. You really downplay the part in your editorial about kids being bused all over the city. In one case kids could spend up to 45 minutes on the bus. Do you really think that closing seven community schools and busing 5- to 8-years-olds all over the city is a good solution? You also really tried to make

people feel bad about expressing concern that three of the schools, which would probably house 1,500 students, are located in Westland. I think parents are just asking the question, "Why did I move to Livonia if my kids are going to be bused from Five Mile and Farmington to Joy and Hix?" It is a very long distance.

It just seems that gaining \$1.5 million a year isn't enough of a monetary gain to justify closing seven schools and turning so many households upside down by trying to figure out how to get their kids to school ... or whether to move them to private schools ... or to try to do school of choice.

What about closing only two schools and selling the land for a large and immediate profit so that new homes can be put in that will bring new students to the city. I'm concerned that the city's way to address declining enrollment is to make it even harder on the parents to get their kids to and from school, because most won't send a 6-year-old on a 25-minute bus ride, they will drive them. Perhaps a plan that motivates young families to move to Livonia would be better.

The other potential downside is that houses in the subdivisions will lose value where these community schools are being closed because young families won't want to move into a subdivision when they find out that the school on the corner is closed and they have to bus their child to a school that is miles away.

S. Colby  
Livonia

## Consider people, kids in plan

I was very disappointed to see that the only view expressed in your Opinion column in the Thursday edition regarding the proposed Livonia school plan was that of your views. The only feedback expressed by a parent that would be affected by the

school closings had a one-line quote at the bottom of the page. I can guarantee you that we as parents have a lot of very strong opinions that need to be heard.

I am asking that you publish at least one opinion of a parent and Livonia community member who sees a different side of this plan.

I moved to the Livonia community 10 years ago because of the highly rated Livonia Public School district. My first question to the Realtor of my first home in Livonia was - "Where are the schools that my children will attend located?" This proposed plan will close seven of our neighboring elementary schools and children all over our city will be bused to schools across the other side of town.

This plan could affect our community in a very negative direction. Families affected by these changes may decide to move out of the area. And what about the new families considering moving to the area? When they ask that question "Where will my children attend elementary school?" Well ... we used to have a school around the block but it is closed and your children will have to be bused across town. I for one can tell you I may reconsider moving here.

I know our enrollment numbers have decreased since 1995 and that we closed one elementary school since then. But now, how many years later we want to close seven schools. I do understand some of the good things we are trying to accomplish with this plan, but you have to consider the people and children that are affected. Our children are the most important. What would happen to seven vacant buildings in Livonia most of which sit next to neighborhoods? People are very concerned.

Catherine Cordon  
Livonia

## OUR VIEWS

## Who we support for mayor, council

On Tuesday, Westland voters will go to the polls to decide who will represent their interests as mayor and on council during the next two years.

We believe voters should give Sandra Cicirelli a second four-year term as mayor. During her first term Cicirelli has trimmed city expenses without sacrificing services.

She also has worked closely with the Livonia Public Schools in getting the old Cooper School site cleaned up and rehabilitated, as well as finding a development proposal suitable for the land.

We urge voters to re-elect **Sandra Cicirelli** as mayor.

Residents also will select four members of city council. The top three vote-getters will get four-year terms. The fourth-place finisher will receive a two-year term.

In that race, we believe the best choices are incumbents Charles Pickering, Cheryl Graunstadt and Robert Stottlemeyer and newcomer Lori Brist.

Pickering has proven himself as a leader. He has restored order and civility to the council meetings following the turmoil earlier in this decade. His experience with the city is expansive — he has been a city employee, mayor and a previous council member — and serves him well in making the tough decisions.

Graunstadt has served the city well during her time on council. An independent who stands by her convictions, she has become the council watchdog, asking tough questions and pressing for their answers.

Stottlemeyer also brings a knowledge of the community from its township days to cityhood to his work at the council table. He listens and acts in the best interest of residents and devotes a lot of his free time to projects that benefit the community and residents.

Brist has a strong understanding of the community through her work as president and CEO of the Westland Chamber of Commerce and her work on the Downtown Development Authority and Tax Increment Finance Authority. She also comes equipped to do the work of government as a graduate of Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program.

We believe voters should re-elect **Charles Pickering, Cheryl Graunstadt and Robert Stottlemeyer** and elect **Lori Brist** to the Westland City Council.

We also urge residents let their voices be heard and to vote in Tuesday's general election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Residents who can't make it to the polls can go to the clerk's office up until 4 p.m. Monday to vote by absentee ballot. Those who requested absentee ballots in advance have until 8 p.m. Tuesday to turn them in at the clerk's office.



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