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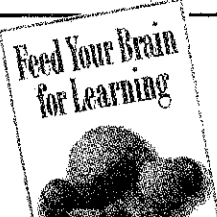
Underground  
adventure

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Writer has food  
for thought

HEALTH - PAGE C6



Go Beyond the Red  
Carpet at the Oscars  
with Linda Solomon



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SUNDAY  
February 26, 2006

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## Annapolis Park has date with National Registry

### Nomination clears state historic review board

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Annapolis Park - a Westland neighborhood that welcomed black homeowners in the 1950s despite widespread housing discrimination - made history again on Friday.

The subdivision, still populated by many original residents, became the only Westland neighborhood ever nominated for the prestigious National Register of Historic Places.

"This is outstanding, and it has been a long time coming," said Kenneth Reeves, president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

Friday's decision by the State Historic Preservation Review Board in Lansing will send the nomination to the National Park Service, where officials say final approval is virtually certain.

Annapolis Park gained national attention for becoming one of the first U.S. suburban communities where white developers actively sought African-American homeowners, particularly servicemen and their families.

Roughly bounded by Middlebelt, Van Born, Henry Ruff and Annapolis roads, the neighborhood was developed with 355 ranch homes in 1953-57, even before Westland became a city in 1966.

Friday's decision also clears a hurdle allowing local historians to move ahead with plans to seek state historical markers for Annapolis Park.

"It's exciting," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said Friday. "I'm glad that the homeowners took the initiative to start this process. I'm really happy that they will be getting their historical designation."

Cicirelli called the development especially timely as Westland, which will mark its 40th anniversary as a city in May, celebrates its history.

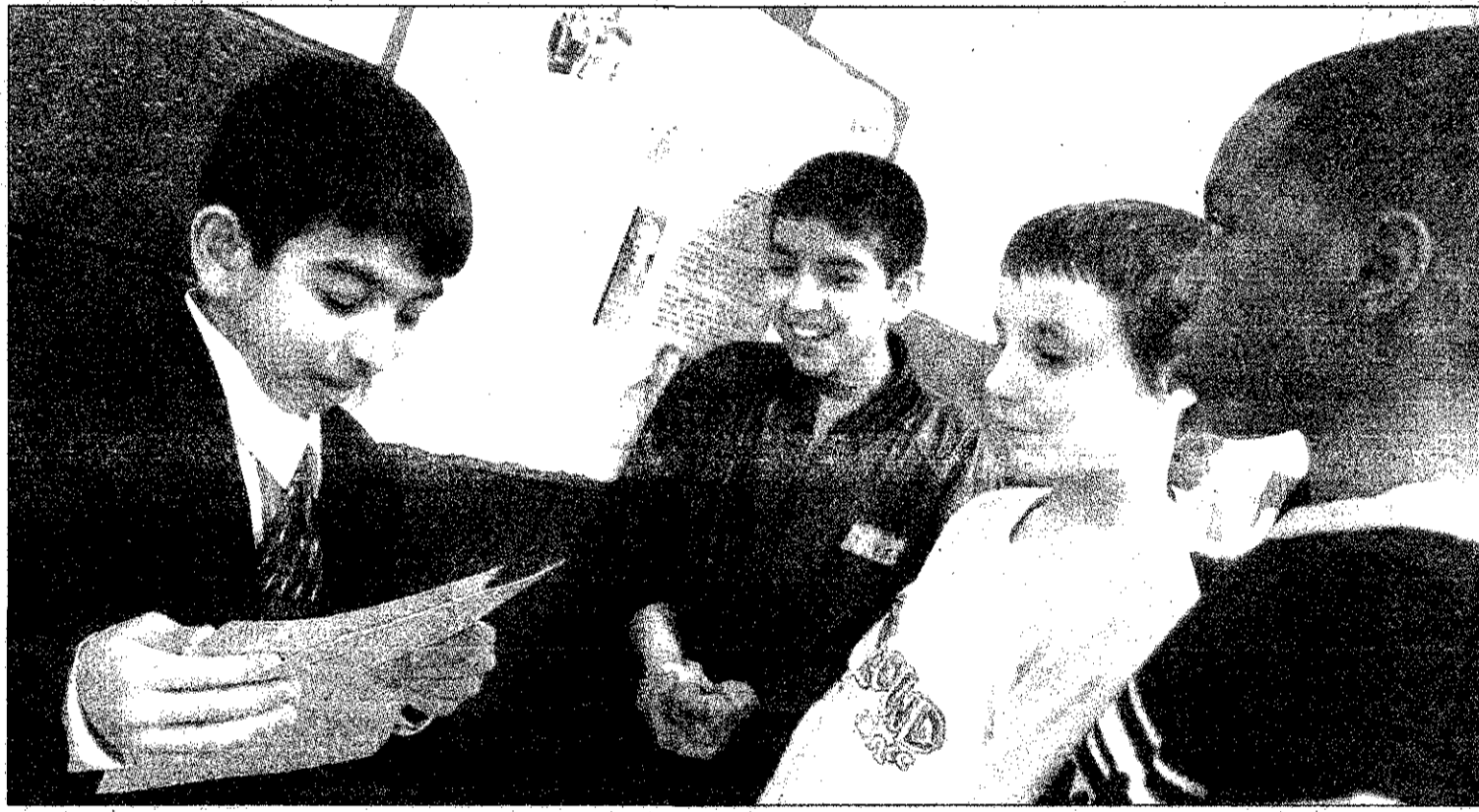
Annapolis Park was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places not for its architecture, but for its social and cultural significance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Annapolis Park resembles many suburban neighborhoods, but the subdivision's rich history has resulted in a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

PLEASE SEE ANNAPOLIS, A4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacob Rascol, who portrays Booker T. Washington at the fourth-grade wax museum at Hicks Elementary School, reads to Daniel Feraru (from left), Robert Wisner and Robert McCloud.

## Wax museum showcases Black History

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Sabrina Feraru loves airplanes, so it seems only right that she should impersonate pilot Bessie Coleman.

So, wearing a red hat and long red scarf, she stood in front of poster of Coleman, waiting for someone to push the red dot.

"Bessie Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, her parents were sharecroppers," said Sabrina, one of 60 fourth-graders at Hicks Elementary School who presented their version of a wax museum last week

as part of Black History Month.

"We've been doing this at least six years and it's proven to be fun and educational," said fourth-grade writing teacher Lynn D'Angelo. "The students gain an appreciation of what people of other races achieved and they get comfortable with speaking in front of the public."

The wax museum was like the who's who of famous African-Americans. Lining the walls of the gymnasium was baseball player Satchel Paige and educa-

PLEASE SEE MUSEUM, A4

## Starbucks joins city's retail lineup

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Starbucks Coffee Co. expects by early summer to open a Westland shop designed to appeal to both laid-back and clock-racing java drinkers.

The coffee giant plans to launch its newest shop on the southwest corner of Warren Road and Central City Parkway, in a former Oakwood health care building.

Starbucks will include an outdoor seating area, with landscaping features, such as a fountain, for customers who want to spend leisure time with their favorite coffee drink.

"It will be a neighborhood type gathering place," said Frank Monaghan, a vice president for the developer, MJM Group.

But, the company also will offer drive-through service for its busy, on-the-go customers.

Monaghan projected that the new Starbucks will open by late fall or early summer. The company received a nod Tuesday from the Westland City Council, which approved a special land use proposal.

"I think it's going to be a great fit on that corner," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said. "I'm sure it will be very busy."

Starbucks will locate in a 15,000-square-foot building that is expected to house at least five other businesses. Monaghan said he couldn't yet divulge what those might be.

Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson said the former Oakwood facility's facade will be changed. He said the city has pushed for developers to consider pedestrian-friendly businesses.

"We've asked them to consider certain higher-end uses, and they're going after people that we'd like them to go after," Thompson said.

Starbucks will become part of an increasingly pedestrian area along Central City Parkway, where residents can walk to such places as the city library and several restaurants.

"I think it's a great location," Cicirelli said.  
dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

## Grand opening is a Mexican fiesta at new Casa Fiesta

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A mariachi band made for a festive mood Wednesday as Westland's newest Mexican restaurant, Casa Fiesta, celebrated its grand opening.

As entertaining as it was, the band Especial Alma de Mexico didn't steal the show from the real star here - authentic south-of-the-border cuisine ranging from spicy chiles rellenos to shrimp fajitas, mushroom quesadillas and grilled tilapia.

"The people have been nice to us - so far it's good," manager Giovan Casillas said. "We have had a good response."

Casa Fiesta actually started serving its authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex dishes in mid-December, moving into the former Sign of the Beefcarver restaurant on Wayne Road north of Warren. The restaurant has joined others - Uno Chicago Grill, Panera and LongHorn Steakhouse - that dot the perimeter of Westland Shopping Center.

It didn't even require margaritas from the bar to bring rave reviews from city officials who joined Casillas, part-owner Agustin Martinez and other employees.

Deputy City Clerk Nancy Bonaparte tried the taco salad.

"I thought it was good. It had a lot more meat in it than some taco salads I've tried at other restaurants," she said. "And I thought the decor in the restaurant with all the (colorful) tile was very nice."

The chiles rellenos packed a spicy

punch, but Casillas said the restaurant also has some tamer recipes for those who fear the heat.

Martinez said the 188-seat Westland Casa Fiesta has become the second in Michigan, with the other in Ypsilanti.

Casa Fiesta will join two other Mexican restaurants - Little Mexico II and Carlos' Mexican Restaurant - within a short distance on Wayne Road. New Mexico Restaurant on Ford, east of Wayne, also draws loyal customers.

Westland Chamber of Commerce President Lori Brist said she believes that all of the Mexican restaurants can thrive - much as they do in Mexican Town in Detroit.

"You can have four Italian restaurants near each other, and they all prepare their food differently. It all depends on what your taste is," Brist said. "I don't think it's a problem at all. I think we're very fortunate to have all of these restaurants here."

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Bellydance!

The Superstars of shimmying come to Royal Oak. Read about it, and where to learn bellydance.

# Cruiser provides drug benefit information

The Blues CruiserSM is coming to Westland. An extra-wide semitruck, the Blues CruiserSM will be located in front of the Westland Meijer store, 37201 Warren, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 27-28.

The stop is part of a statewide campaign by Meijer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to educate thousands of Medicare-eligible individuals and their families on the new Medicare programs - the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit and Medicare Advantage plans.

The Blues CruiserSM is equipped with a presentation

area, information center and workstations for meeting one-on-one. No reservations are required to visit the Cruiser. Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers will have an opportunity to see and hear from Blues product specialists about the recent changes in Medicare, and from a Meijer pharmacist about how to better manage their prescriptions during the "Medicare & More" tour.

"We are reaching out to communities throughout Michigan because people want to find out more about the recent changes to Medicare, including information about the new Medicare prescription drug plans," said Mark Giroux,

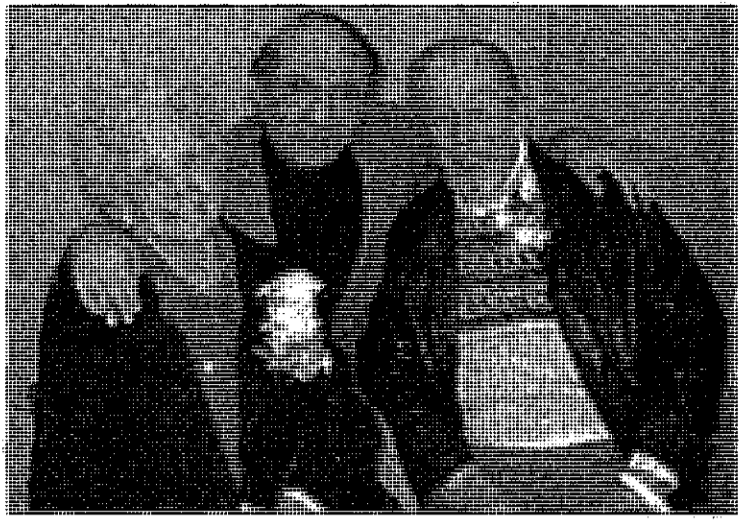
director of government programs for the Blues. "Meijer is ready to help Medicare beneficiaries put their prescription list in order so they can make an informed decision on what Medicare plan is right for them," said Nat Love, Meijer vice president of drugstores.

Visitors will find information about new Medicare plans from the Blues as well as information from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and a refreshment area with healthy snacks.

The Blues Cruiser provides full access for everyone, including visitors who are disabled or challenged by limited

mobility. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan offers five different Medicare plans: two options that combine medical/surgical and prescription drugs benefits, another that offers medical/surgical benefits only, and two more options that offer prescription drug benefits only. BCBSM's Medicare plans are available to residents throughout the state.

The Blues Cruiser is scheduled to make more than 120 stops at Meijer stores and other community sites and events in towns and cities throughout Michigan in 2006. For a calendar of scheduled stops through May, visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com).



Celebrating with Pauline (left) and William Hartley (left) was Dr. Neil Jahan.

# Staff helps couple mark 60th anniversary

For as long as he can remember, William Hartley has been performing magic tricks to make people happy. But recently it was his turn to see magic.

The staff at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital played a magic trick on Hartley and his wife, Pauline, with a surprise celebration in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

The Hartleys have been visiting Oakwood Annapolis Hospital once a month for regular blood-work for the past 15

years, always together. They've come to know the staff well, and Laboratory Support Technician Kim Austin explained what an honor it was to do something special.

"They're the sweetest couple you could ever meet," said Austin. "It's rare to see someone married for that long, so we decided to do something nice for them."

Austin and fellow co-worker Danya Hogans organized the celebration with the support of the lab and admitting staff. The hospital administration provided cake and beverages, while the staff handled the decorations and purchased a gift for the happy couple.

The Hartleys were overjoyed by the gesture. "I guess they think a lot of us and we think a lot of them, too," said William. "They're always so good to us."

The couple's physician and family joined the celebration as well.

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**EIGHT BELOW (PG)**  
12:00, 1:25, 2:25, 3:50, 4:50, 6:15, 7:15, 8:40, 9:40  
FRI/SAT LS 11:05

**MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R)** 3:45, 6:10

**CAPOTE (R)**  
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

**THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN (PG-13)**  
1:20, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25

**KING KONG (PG-13)**  
12:05, 8:30

**NANNY MCPHEE (PG)**  
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FRI/SAT LS 11:45

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Wednesday, March 8 & Friday, March 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

**COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL**  
Friday, March 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Appointments can be made beginning February 27, 2006 by calling (734) 467-3160 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Written appeals must be received by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2006. Meetings are held at Westland City Hall, 2nd Floor - Council Chambers at 36601 Ford Rd.

Publish: February 26 & March 2, 2006

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# McNamara's families, public and private, say goodbye

More photos of the funeral can be viewed at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

More than 1,500 people — family, friends and political leaders — packed Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Detroit's Corktown Friday morning to say goodbye to Ed McNamara.

McNamara, 79, died early Sunday morning, Feb. 19, from heart failure at Harper Hospital in Detroit with his family by his bedside.

The former Wayne County executive and Livonia mayor spent more than 40 years in politics, mentoring people like Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Detroit Medical Center CEO Mike Duggan. Both spoke at the funeral Mass, with the central theme about McNamara's family, both immediate and extended.

Duggan delivered the eulogy, chronicling McNamara's early childhood; growing up in Detroit's Brightmoor area; accelerating his high school education at Redford High School in Detroit to enlist in the Navy, where he earned three medals; and numerous — often funny — stories about McNamara during his time as county executive.

But despite his political connections and public accolades, Duggan said his wife, Lucille, and their five children and five grandchildren were always the most important in his life.

"He talked about his kids incessantly," Duggan said. "You never met anybody more proud of his kids."

"And in retirement years, he got to spend more time with his grandkids," Duggan added. "Those were the things he talked about all the time."

The most touching part of the ceremony came when four of McNamara's grandchildren spoke, remembering their grandfather.

"I love grandpa because he took me swimming. He called me Snookums and said I'm a pain in the butt," 9-year-old Marisa McNamara said. "I love my grandpa because he loved me."

"My grandfather was a really great man who dedicated himself to his family, friends and community," reflected Cullan McNamara, 11. "I am proud to be his grandson, and I hope to

emulate him in my life. I will always love you, grandpa, and will look for your guidance."

Granholm said it was fitting McNamara's funeral was held at Most Holy Trinity, built by Irish-Catholic immigrants and now serving a disadvantaged area of Detroit.

"He was a poor kid from Brightmoor, who raised a middle-class family in Livonia, made it in America and never forgot where he came from," Granholm said. "He made you all important, because we're important to him, no matter where you came from. Your race, your gender, your title, meant nothing."

"He filled our extended family with people who were political in the very best sense of the world ... who knew that all politics was local, and they represented their communities like they did their own families," she said. "I surely would not be governor of the state of Michigan if it weren't for Ed McNamara."

Many of those who attended the two-hour service were political figures, like U.S. Rep. John Dingell, former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and former Gov. Jim Blanchard.

Blanchard met McNamara in 1970, as his driver and advance man during McNamara's bid for lieutenant governor.

"He loved local government, he loved Michigan and he loved Detroit," Blanchard said. "Today, everybody wants to go to Washington. He was happy to stay here, and he really got things done."

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin said McNamara was an old politician, in the true sense of the word.

"Ed loved people, loved service, loved his constituents and making a difference for average people," Levin said. "My memories are very fond and deep."

Not everyone who attended was a high-profile politician. Kellianna Nagy of Northville got to know McNamara well after getting her first job in 1978 — in the Livonia assessor's office — during the time McNamara was mayor.

"He was like a mentor, and I got to know him pretty well," Nagy said. "He was always laughing and smiling, but always forward-thinking with great visions for the city."

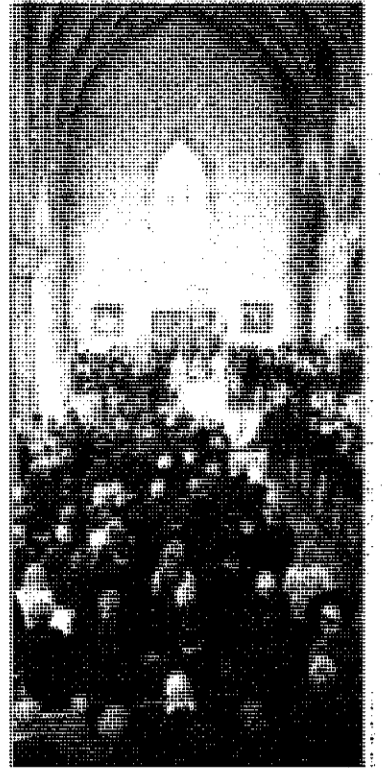
"He was always somebody's friend," she added. "He will be missed."

[tbruscato@hometownlife.com](mailto:tbruscato@hometownlife.com)

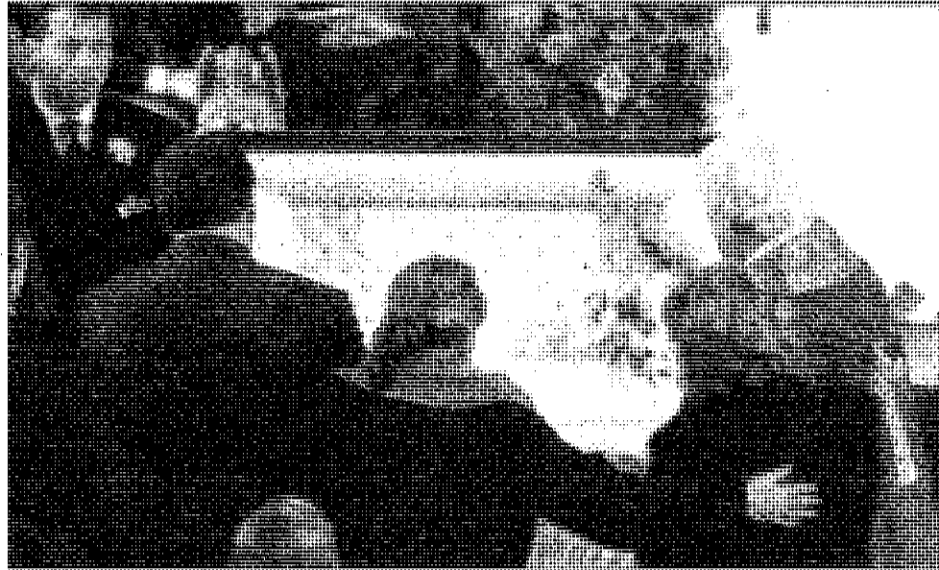


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm said that she would not be governor, nor who she is, but for Ed McNamara. The funeral crowd was a who's who of Michigan politics. Besides Granholm, this photo includes Mike Duggan, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Rep. John Conyers, U.S. Rep. John and Debbie Dingell, and former Michigan Gov. Jim and Janet Blanchard.



Corktown's Most Holy Trinity Church was filled with those saying farewell to Ed McNamara.



The Rev. Russell Kohler, surrounded by McNamara's daughter Colleen McNamara, widow Lucille and other family, sprinkles holy water at the beginning of the service.



Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Colleen McNamara hug during the peace greeting.

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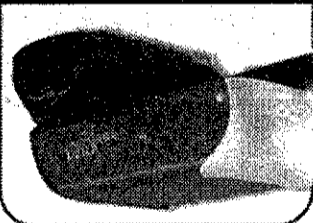
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Ann Arbor — A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-293-2595 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.free-disc-report-4u.com](http://www.free-disc-report-4u.com)

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**INFORMATION CENTRAL**

March 31 is the first anniversary of Terri Schiavo's death, the culmination of a seven-year court battle between her husband and her parents.

Her husband Michael Schiavo contended that she never wanted to be kept alive artificially, while her parents felt recovery was possible. The courts finally ruled that she was in a "permanent vegetative state" and her feeding tube could be removed.

The pivotal problem was the fact that Terri Schiavo left nothing in writing about her intentions.

On Saturday, March 25, please join us as Vicki Foley and Penny Thomas of Community Hospice explain Advance Directives (sometimes called living wills), documents which state a person's wishes on extreme measures, feeding tubes, ventilators and so on. This type of document could have prevented the entire Schiavo tragedy.

They will be joined by Bonnie Hilberer, an Advanced Funeral Planning Professional from Vermeulen Funeral Homes, who will explain the advantages of funeral preplanning. The presentation begins at 2 p.m. in Meeting Room A/B. All are welcome.

You may also want to check out what we have in the library on the subject, such as the video, *Before I Die: Medical Care and Personal Choices*.

Death has always been a difficult subject, but as the Schiavo case proves; not talking about death in advance can lead to more pain and difficulty for the family.

To learn more, or to register for this program, come by the William P. Faust Public Library or call (734) 326-6123.

**A Drug-free Approach to ADHD:** 7 p.m. Feb. 27.

Join Dr. Brian Brackney to learn about safe, natural solutions to help improve behavior and performance. This program is specially designed for parents, teachers, day care supervisors, or anyone who interacts with children.

**Landscape Design for Gardeners:** 2 p.m. March 11.

Join Michigan Nurserywoman Sandra Healey (of Earthenjoy Flowerscaping) to learn the basic principles of landscape design, from testing the soil to choosing plants. Call or come to the Reference Desk to register.

**French/English Bilingual Storytime:** 7-7:30 p.m. March 14.

Enjoy stories, rhymes and songs in both French and English. For children of all ages, with an adult. Nous presentons les histoires, les chansons, et les rimes en Français et Anglais. Bienvenue a tous!

The library is looking for volunteers to deliver books to homebound patrons. Contact our Homebound Coordinator at (734) 326-6123, if you're interested.

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

**MUSEUM**

FROM PAGE A1

tor Booker T. Washington and singer Josephine Baker, while in the hallways notables like nurse Mary Eliza Mahoney and poet Maya Angelou were talking about themselves.

Bernard McCoy was another student well-matched to his subject, Paige. Bernard's dream is to one day finish school and play professional baseball.

"I want to finish college and try out for the New York Yankees because Babe Ruth played for them," he said, adding that his favorite sport is baseball ... football ... basketball ... and soccer.

Students found out who they would portray about three weeks ago and researched them, using the school library and Internet sites. The information they gathered was used for their presentations as well as posters that hung on the wall behind them.

"It encourages them to learn about famous black American pioneers and inventors," she said. "They do their presentation first in class for their grade and then in the wax museum."

The wax museum kicks off the Inkster school's week-long celebration of Black History Month. In addition to the museum, students also gathered for a sing-along and for skits related to black history.

Wearing an oversized suit coat, Jacob Rascol stood in front of his poster, telling whomever pushed the button about Booker T. Washington. Born a slave sometime around 1856, Washington would go on to found the Tuskegee Institute and hire another famous African-American, George Washington Carver, to work at the school.

"I picked him from a list and I needed mine, my teacher's and parents' signatures to do it. It was fun to do," said Jacob. Monica Blackwell portrayed Sarah Breedlove who also was born into a slave family but went on to



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachel Montgomery portrayed singer Josephine Baker for the wax museum.

become Madame C.J. Walker, an entrepreneur who built her empire developing hair products for black women. When she died in 1919, she was considered to be the wealthiest African-American woman in America and known to be the first African-American woman millionaire.

"I feel sorry that she was born in a slave family, but that's what makes her accomplishments wonderful," said Monica, pulling out a hair crimper, curling iron and hair products from a bag to show what Walker manufactured. "I use all of them."

Chelsea Crooks has a lot in common with her subject, Maya Angelou. The fourth-grader also enjoys writing poetry, but her research showed that Angelou has done more.

"She did a lot of things, not just write poems," said Chelsea. "She is an author, poet, historian, songwriter, playwright, dancer, stage and screen producer, director, performer, singer and civil rights activist."

In doing her research, Chelsea not only learned about Angelou, but discovered something to guide her



Hicks Elementary fourth-grader Sabrina Feraru portrayed Bessie Coleman, the first female African-American pilot, at the wax museum.

through her beginning poetry.

"Work hard, try to find new poems and don't copy off of other ones," she said.

Down the hall from Chelsea, Jessica Burks was busy talking about her subject, Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first African-American woman to study and work as a professionally trained nurse. She was one of three members of her class graduate from the New England Hospital for Women and Children nursing school,

according to Jessica. "She was the only black person at their school," said Jessica. "I didn't know a lot about her."

Jessica didn't mind the standing in front of her class and in the hallway talking about Mahoney. She likes doing that.

"My mom says that whatever I do, a test or presentation, I should do good," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2112

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Dem Club officers**

The Westland Democratic Club will elect officers during a meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Dorsey Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy. Current officers will meet at 7 p.m.

Also during the business meeting, club members will decide whether to change the time for future meetings to 7 p.m. for members and 6:30 p.m. for officers.

Membership dues also will be accepted: \$12 per year except for seniors, who pay \$6.

**Senior dinners**

The Wayne Ford Civic League is offering a dinner for seniors noon-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5 and 19, at the league hall, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The price is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members for a buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop, and dancing to live entertainment. The event is for people age 60 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information.

**Pancake Breakfast**

The Westland Senior Resources Department will

have an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, March 9, at the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh Road south of Ford.

The cost will be \$4 for buttermilk pancakes, multi-grain pancakes, bacon, sausage and beverage. The public is invited to attend.

**Dancing classes**

Dancing Singles in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering beginner square dance class plus workshop Monday, March 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The class will be at 7 p.m., followed by the workshop at 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$30 for six weeks. For more information, call Ray Wiles at (313) 383-2783.

Round dance classes, covering a variety of dance rhythms and choreographed step routines, are available Wednesday evenings at the Bailey Center. The cost is \$12 per month.

Round dances also are being held 6-9 p.m. Sunday, March 5, May 7, July 9 and Sept. 10, and cost \$3 per person. Phase 2 and 3 and some easy Phase 4 dances will be featured. Call Judy at (734) 422-8738.

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**ANNAPOLIS**

FROM PAGE A1

nificance, said local historian Ruth Dale. She and longtime Annapolis Park resident Edna Parker spearheaded the effort along with the long-active Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

"Everything went great," Dale said of Friday's state vote, adding that some 25 Westland residents attended the session along with state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

Robert Christensen, state coordinator for the national register, has said that housing discrimination made it difficult for African-Americans to find decent, affordable, sin-

gle-family homes in the Detroit area in the 1950s. Officials say white developer Julius Schwartz changed that by offering quality homes near Detroit's industry.

Reeves actually moved from Annapolis Park once, only to return.

"I wanted to raise my two sons in the same community I was raised in," he said Friday. "Annapolis Park has always been a tight-knit family. Everyone knows everyone there. It's a place where your children can walk in the neighborhood and be protected by the neighbors."

"It's a village type of environment," Reeves added. "Everyone is always looking out for one another."

Some longtime residents have died. Some others are

getting up in age, making the historical designation important so that it can be realized by those who made it possible.

Annapolis Park will be Westland's first listing on the national register and the city's first historic district, Dale has said. She and others collected essential information, such as neighborhood maps and historical documents, that streamlined the process for Friday's vote by state officials.

Some residents of Annapolis Park also made history on their own. The late Annie Gilliard, for example, became the first black woman to enlist in the U.S. Marines. She achieved the rank of sergeant.

"It is exciting for us to nominate Annapolis Park to the

National Register of Historic Places," said William Anderson, director of the state Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

Anderson issued a statement in which he lauded Dale, Parker and other residents who provided the documentation necessary to support Friday's decision.

"This represents the successful conclusion of a project that began several years ago with contact from the city of Westland and the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association," he said.

Mayor Cicirelli said she is eager for the day when local residents and city officials can celebrate the placing of state historical markers at entrances to Annapolis Park. dlem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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# Programs offer something to do during midwinter break

If you're not one of those families heading to warmer climates during next week's midwinter break in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, you may want to take a look at activities available to keep the kids busy.

At the William P. Faust Public Library at 6123 Central City Parkway, midwinter break activities kick off this weekend with a performance by percussionist Kevin Collins.

Collins will share his love of African music through a lively family concert at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Free tickets are available at the Children's Desk.

Also on tap are:

■ Family Storytime at 7 p.m. Monday Feb. 27, and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 1.

■ Make It Take It Craft Program 2-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. The Children's Activity Room open for kids to stop by to make a craft.

■ Birthday Read-a-Thon and visit by Cat in the Hat beginning at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2. The library will be celebrating the 102nd anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birth.

Dr. Seuss' stories will be read and there will birthday cake in the Children's Activity Room.

■ American Girl Program Sunday, March 5. The library program will feature the doll "Kit." Pre-registration is required.

When the Wayne-Westland students return to school on Monday, March 6, the library will begin its Fabulous 1st Readers program. The annual event invites first-grade students and teachers to the library for a special story time and tour.

For more information about the activities, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department also has a full lineup of activities, beginning with a Bowling Party at Westland Bowl on Wayne Road north of Ford Road on Monday, Feb. 27.

Cost is \$3 per person for three games of bowling, a hot dog and a beverage. There will be prizes and other special activities. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children but can't bowl on bumper lanes.

The bowling party is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is for kids in kindergarten through eighth-grade. Pre-registration has closed, but call the Bailey



FILE PHOTO  
Tyler Styrk and his mom, Karen Styrk, take a spin around the ice during open skating time at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena.

Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620 to see if openings are still available.

Also on tap for the week are:

■ A golf outing 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 29. Enjoy an hour of golf instruction on the golf simulators at the Westland Municipal Golf Course. These simulators are just like golfing on a real golf course.

The cost is \$5 per student in first-sixth-grades. Preregister by Friday, Feb. 24, at the Westland Municipal Golf Course, 500 S. Merriman south of Cherry Hill. For more information, call the golf course at (734) 721-6660.

■ Gym Fun and Beyond with Young Champions 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 1. Spend a morning playing in the gymnasium with Young Champions. There will be a variety of games to play and the emphasis will be on having fun. Wear comfortable clothes, athletic shoes and bring a water bottle with your name on it.

The cost is \$12 per student for those in first-eighth-grades. For more information, call Young Champions at (800)

940-7469.

■ Rocker Soccer Clinic with the Detroit Rockers 2-4 p.m. Thursday, March 2. Get ready for soccer season by learning technical skills and the fundamentals of soccer with Detroit Rockers Soccer team. At the clinic, players will learn how to reach the next level with the most important technical skills and techniques through individual attention and game situation drills. Wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes and bring a water bottle with your name on it.

The cost is \$15 per student in first-eighth-grades. Preregister by Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Bailey Recreation Center or through the Rockers. For more information call the Rockers at (734) 427-6017, visit the Web site at www.detroitrockers.net or by e-mail at rockerssoccer02@aol.com.

■ Detroit Pistons' Youth Basketball Clinic 1-2:30 p.m. Friday, March 3. Kids will have a great time learning about basketball from the pros. There will be five different skill stations, ball handling, passing, shooting, defense and rebounding. In addition, there will be prizes, contests, games and every participant will receive a Pistons T-shirt.

The cost is \$20 per student in first-eighth-grades. Preregister by Wednesday, March 1, at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information call the Pistons at (248) 377-8653.

There's also midwinter activities planned for the Mike Modano Ice Arena at 6210 Wildwood north of Ford.

The arena will be offering open skating noon-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, and Thursday-Friday, March 2-3, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, and Wednesday, March 1, and 1-2:20 p.m. Saturday, March 4.

Cost is \$2.50 for children and senior citizens and \$3.50 for adults. Skate rentals are \$2.50 during the week and \$3.50 on Saturday.

The arena also will be offering Stick and Puck clinics 10-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, and Wednesday, March 1. Cost is \$5 per skater.

People interested in learning to skate can register now for the next session which starts Monday, March 6.

For more information, call the arena at (734) 729-4560.

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# Schoolcraft studies culinary exchange with China

A team from Schoolcraft College will journey to China in early March to explore the possibility of providing training in Western food preparation to Chinese culinary schools and chefs.

The trio of Schoolcraft entrepreneurs includes: John Walsh, executive director of development and governmental relations; Bruce Konowalow, director of Culinary Arts; and Shawn Loving, culinary instructor and owner of Loving Spoonful restaurant in Farmington

Hills. They will be on the road March 4-14.

The idea for the trip came about through the intercession of Laura Wang, a Northville business consultant who is Chinese. Wang, who is familiar with the Schoolcraft Culinary Arts program, recognized a growing demand for European and American cuisine in China.

This stems from the large number of Western business representatives and tourists traveling to the country since it began relaxing its economic

polices in the early 1980s. Furthermore, with the Chinese economy growing by more than 9 percent a year for the past 25 years, more affluent Chinese citizens want, and can afford, all things Western, including food.

This prompted Wang to set up a link between Chinese culinary schools and Schoolcraft officials, which led to the forthcoming trip. Walsh described the trip as a cultural exchange, perhaps leading to a workable contract between Chinese entities and

Schoolcraft.

"This trip is investigatory and demonstrative," said Walsh. "It also is an opportunity to test the feasibility of Schoolcraft entering into training contracts for which we would provide instruction in American and European culinary techniques to Chinese chefs and instructors.

Instructors from Chinese culinary schools would be taught both in China and Livonia, preferably during the summer.

The Schoolcraft group will

make three stops while in China. First, they will visit Beijing, stopping at the Beijing Western Cuisine Association, which houses a training center and university-based culinary school. They also will meet with a representative of the Escoffier International Society to assess the overall culinary scene.

The second destination is Shenzhen, where they will spend time at the Shenzhen Polytechnic Institute. Walsh said this was described to him as a state-of-the-art culinary

training facility. Chef Loving will test this out with limited demonstrations of Western cooking.

Shanghai is the third stop on the itinerary, and includes visits to another vocational and technical school, as well as talks with the executive staff of China's only Ritz Carleton Hotel. Here the group will explore opportunities for Schoolcraft instructors to train the Ritz Carleton's Chinese staff, especially as the chain expands its hotel locations.

Loving may do a number of demonstrations - depending on the equipment, the schedule and what the Chinese hosts expect as the group moves around the country.

"I will be representing all the chefs at Schoolcraft," said Loving. "Every one of our chefs' names will be on my coat. I am meeting with our chefs for their advice on how to best represent our cooking and how I will display it."

"I also plan to push for the opportunity to sit in on a demonstration or class in the Chinese culinary schools to see what the students are capturing. The learning experience will be endless."

Loving said an agreement to train Chinese chefs would create a more powerful Schoolcraft program and make the department globally strong.

To facilitate that possibility, Walsh said he also plans to meet with U.S. Department of Commerce officials in each city so that, "I have a name and a face to contact who, if we are successful, will help us put the deal together."

While Walsh concedes doing all this in 10 days makes the trip very intense, he sees it as very exciting. "We are dipping our toes into the international market," he said. "It gives us a glimpse of three very different potential markets and makes us part of the global economy."

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**Habitat schedules March 13 orientation**

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County is hosting an application orientation. It will be held 7 p.m. Monday, March 13, at, Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton.

The church is located on the west side of Sheldon north of Ford Road, across from Baker's Square Restaurant.

Expect to spend approximately 1 1/2 hours learning about the organization, where it plans to build and the process required to apply for a home. You'll watch an informational video, participate in a question and answer segment and hear testimonials from Habitat homeowners. At the end of the orientation, you will receive an application to apply for a home.

For additional information, visit online at [www.habitatwwc.org](http://www.habitatwwc.org) or call (734) 459-7744.

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# McNamara inspired his staff with love of life, drive to serve

With a mixture of profound sadness and fond memories we mark the passing of Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara. To the world he was the astute politician who was able to transfer a dilapidated county into a prosperous and solvent one. To those of us who had the opportunity to know Ed McNamara well, he was an old-fashioned Irish politician who believed that public service is the most honorable profession.

We had the opportunity of working with Ed McNamara and were witness to his compassion and humanity in the light of his many accomplishments. Unlike many people who reach the pinnacle of success in their lives, he was always focused on the human aspect of his mission. Those of us who were privileged to work with him remember him as a man of keen vision, high standards and virtue. We consider our time spent in his service to be the highlight of our careers.

It is not surprising to us that in those first few hours after his death, so many people used the term "love" when describing Ed McNamara. For those of us who came to work closely with Ed, love was a truly appropriate word. He cared and respected everyone.

We all felt a sense of family and kinship working for him. He managed to hire a collection of diverse people from all walks of life and make them into a loving family. Even after his retirement, this "work family" remained connected and devoted to him. We became a family dedicated to service.

People want to know his formula for his power. His formula was very simple. His power came from his humbleness and his ability to empower those around him. He enjoyed seeing his people succeed. He saw the potential in people and made sure he cultivated them. He never held anyone back, preferring to encourage and nurture his or her abilities.

Employees who worked directly with Ed McNamara often said that they loved working for him because he would let the people around him (his younger staff) develop ideas. In many instances the ideas were great and innovative. Occasionally, an idea would flop and Ed's reaction would often be to smile at the staffer and say, "Oh well, we tried and did the best we could." However, we never wanted failure as an option.

Another strength in his blueprint of power was his fearlessness and his belief that anything was possible. We worked for him in Lansing and Washington, D.C., where he worked with both Republicans and Democrats alike.

He often said: "You need to work with both sides to bring home the bacon." When the City and the suburbs were sparring on issues such as the Wayne County Parks millage and SMART, he

worked with both sides to eliminate the problem. He believed that Wayne County should be a world class county and worked diligently to achieve this status.

Friends and foes always respected Ed McNamara because they believed in his ability to deliver. He was a visionary man with a keen eye on economic development. He knew that the county could not resuscitate itself on its own so he developed partnerships with business communities and the union, building a team to work on this issue.

McNamara was a builder at heart. He built teams of successful people. He built a world class airport, parks, jail and most of all he built efficient and sustainable programs at the county that will benefit the community for generations to come.

He accomplished so much with utter humility, humbleness and humor. Just about everyone who was part of the negotiations that ultimately crystallized into Comerica Park and Ford Field knows that this deal would never have happened without Ed McNamara. Yet, when the deal was announced in August 1996, he was standing in the background, hardly noticeable with a big grin on his face.

In his private office, Mr. McNamara had this quote framed on the wall "Anything can be accomplished if you don't care who gets the credit." It was not just a framed saying, but a practiced belief.

As for his sense of humor, he was quick on his feet, always having something funny to say. We never knew what would come out of his mouth, but we always knew we would have to hold our breath and laugh.

Throughout his life, Ed McNamara befriended many that remained friends with him until his death. His collection of his friends are people he went to school with at Redford High School, former employees at Michigan Bell, Livonia and Wayne County. He cherished his friends and family as they did the same for him. The sense of loyalty to him is unmatched anywhere. He gave of himself to his friends without sacrificing his love for his family. He often told us: "Nothing is better than going home to someone you love who loves you back." He reminded us that he fell in love with his wife during high school and loved her more every day.

Another important aspect of his wisdom is his love of life and his attitude toward his life in general. Even in the midst of his illness he was actively traveling, working, advising friends, baby-sitting and of course playing golf. He had such a positive attitude about everything that it was infectious. When asked how is he enjoying retirement, he quipped that he was still doing the same thing as before but not getting paid for it and he loved it.

Ed's death and Lucille McNamara's loss sadden us. Still, we smile at his accomplishments, his energy and his love of people. During this week we, along with so many of our colleagues, just wanted to let people know that "We loved Ed McNamara."

Bob Morris and Terry Ahwal worked for Wayne County in the McNamara administration. They are married and live in Canton Township.



Bob Morris



Terry Ahwal

# Mass transit advocates find encouragement in Super Bowl

There's life in the old town after all. Suburban residents who had long abandoned downtown Detroit discovered that a big city downtown can be a fun place. They were even lining up for buses to take them down to the many Super Bowl activities.

Could this be a watershed moment for city-suburban relations and the future of what is laughingly called "mass transit" in metro Detroit?

Megan Owens, executive director of Transportation Riders United, admits that a Super Bowl is not an everyday event, but if the region wants more big events such as the scheduled 2009 Final Four or a whispered GOP convention, transportation needs to be part of the equation.

"If we want to be a venue for these events, the biggest flaw is transportation," Owens said. "It shows that people are willing to use transit if it's convenient and serves their needs. People were using the (SMART) shuttles despite the problems."

Suburbanites were actually complaining that there weren't enough buses and they had to wait.

Transportation Riders United, a nonprofit advocacy group for mass transit, and the Michigan Environmental Council used the success of Detroit's Super Bowl as an opportunity to push for mass transit and, particularly, for rail lines connecting Ann Arbor-Metro Airport and downtown and Birmingham and downtown along Woodward.

"If you look at other major cities that have put in light rail systems, property values around the stops jump," Owens said in a telephone interview. "People want homes along these transit systems. It encourages more people to live along these lines."

As Owens points out, metro Detroit's population hasn't grown significantly in the last 20 years but the population has spread out across a wider and wider area. The Hazel Park resident, who buses to downtown twice a week, argues that the lack of good mass transit has created sprawl.

"Every taxpayer is paying more for infrastructure because we are sprawled out so much," she said.

At a recent gathering of planners to discuss options for developing an "aerotropolis" connecting Ann Arbor to Detroit and the two airports in between, three groups each proposed some form of mass transit. Owens favors a commuter train connecting with light rail to downtown and up Woodward. She said developers would welcome a fixed train route rather than a bus system that can be moved.

"It's exciting to see planners take transit into

account," she said. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments has a \$100 million grant to begin developing plans for a mass transit system connecting Ann Arbor and Detroit.

"As SEMCOG moves forward, there is a hope they can get agreement on method," Owens said. For years SMART and D-DOT have both sought bus service for "need riders" - workers from the city to suburban jobs, the disabled and the elderly. Owens said more needs to be done to serve "option" riders, those who have cars but would commute on mass transit if it were available.

"One of the things we've been focusing on is improved quality of the existing bus system," Owens said.

Owens and other mass transit advocates know that without "option" riders it will be difficult to get legislative support for mass transit. The legislature killed the planned Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority, which would have coordinated several area systems and become the conduit for state and federal funding. There is a strong resistance to mass transit as a waste of taxpayers' money for "empty buses" traveling to "empty cities" in an area where there is no center.

They also follow a long history of legislators who think funding mass transit is disloyal to the area's primary auto industry. But to Owens a mass transit system will create a center, create development and save the city. Legislators just don't understand.

"It's a challenge. I don't think they're looking at transit as an option," she said. "If they analyzed it they'd see we're not trying to kill the car. Dozens of studies show that every dollar spent on mass transit returns \$4 to \$9 in economic development for the area."

It will be an uphill trolley ride to get support from the current legislature. But maybe some of Detroit's newly minted fans can help make the case for a stronger central city, better Detroit-suburban cooperation and a 21st century mass transit system like every other major metropolitan area in the country.

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.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.



Hugh Gallagher

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# Bouchard emphasizes homeland security expertise

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Shortly after the 2001 terrorists attack on the United States, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said he sent a detailed white paper on how to improve homeland security to members of Congress and never received a response.

Now he wants to go to Congress and make his case as Michigan's senator.



Bouchard

Christian Center, and the Rev. Jerry Zandstra from western Michigan. The winner of the

Bouchard is competing for the Republican nomination against the Rev. Keith Butler, founding pastor of the Word of Faith

International

Aug. 8 primary would face Democratic incumbent Sen. Debbie Stabenow in November.

On Thursday, Bouchard brought his campaign to the Suburban Republican Women's Club in Livonia, where he emphasized his experience as a law enforcement officer and as a state senator. Butler addressed the group last month.

In an interview following his

short speech, Bouchard talked about his frustrations over homeland security issues.

"I think we're more secure than we were, but there is a lot more that we need to do and I'd love to talk about specifics, but too many specifics would give a lot of bad people ideas," he said. "I see on a daily basis vulnerabilities that I have tried to raise to people. We need a practitioner in the role to push it into law. That's the simplest

way to say it. We have very specific things that I know can be fixed."

Bouchard was appointed Oakland County sheriff in 1999 to fill a vacancy and elected to the office in 2000 and 2004. He served in the Michigan Senate from 1991-99.

Bouchard said he has concerns about a plan approved by the Bush administration to have the United Arab

Emirates-owned Dubai Ports World operate six U.S. ports.

"The core issue that needs to be examined isn't whether an Arab country is bidding on any particular project, but whether any foreign company should be involved in controlling or managing a national security facility," he said.

He said he favors having American citizens operating the ports.

"We're in a different world and we need a closer watch," he said. "It's not about being Arab, but whether it's Chinese or any foreign country. We need very close American oversight and security."

In Iraq, Bouchard said it is important to work with the leaders in the local town councils and build the country "from the ground up, rather than pushing it down." He said it is important to remain in the country and not create an unstable situation that will create a training ground for terrorists.

"We need to do everything we can to stabilize Iraq and turn power over to the Iraqis," he said.

On domestic issues, Bouchard said the federal deficit is getting worse because of too much spending, not because of too having too little tax money. He said a good place to start cutting the budget is to deal with Congressional earmarks.

"I don't have a problem doing away with earmarks or at the very least having an individual vote on them," Bouchard said. "A lot of people say it was in this big package and the package was good and I had to vote for it. That's a subterfuge."

He also said the "federal pie" was too big and too tempting for members of Congress looking to earmark special projects.

Bouchard is also leery of federal mandates such as the No Child Left Behind Act.

"I'm not a big fan of having educational policy being driven from Washington, I think there is too much being driven from Washington and I'm a believer the more you can make a decision local, the more it will reflect the needs and wishes of the people directly affected," he said.

He favors a program that would bring business and educational leaders together to discuss what is needed from the educational system and what kind of tests are needed to evaluate the system.

Bouchard was critical of Stabenow's record on the economy. He said she has low ratings with both the National Association of Manufacturers and the small business associations.

"You can't create jobs if you're not helping the providers of jobs," he said.

Bouchard said he has a political base to build on that his rivals for the nomination don't have.

"The reverends are good guys and either of them would be better than our current senator, but I have more experience on the major issues," he said.

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## McCotter opposes port deal

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said Thursday, turning over significant control of six of our largest ports to Dubai Ports World without proper investigation could be disastrous.

McCotter, a member of the House International Relations Committee, is an original co-sponsor on three bills, which will be introduced next week.

"America's homeland security must remain in Americans' hands," McCotter said.

McCotter also said he would "absolutely" support overriding a presidential veto of any of the above bills.

The legislation, if passed, will temporarily halt the Dubai Ports World deal, initiate a thorough 45-day investigation of the firm, and allow Congress to review the findings.

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P07P0044-2810