

**Golf course beckons to sports fans**

**Parents put faith in learning program**



**Association launches free bartending school**



**HOMETOWNlife** View daily updates of photos, news and sports online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) **HOMETOWNlife**

WILLIAM P. FAUST  
Public Library of Westland

# WESTLAND Observer

SUNDAY REFERENCE ONLY  
April 16, 2006

Your hometown newspaper serving Westland for 41 years

75 cents WINNERS OF OVER 100 STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS SINCE 2001  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## Mayor Cicirelli: State of Westland still 'strong'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

As Westland marks its 40th year as a city, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli delivered a State of the City address Wednesday saluting its history and predicting it will continue to thrive. "Westland is 40 years old and going strong," Cicirelli said, receiving a

standing ovation from some 300 people inside the city's Friendship Center. Early in her speech, Cicirelli tipped her hat to former leaders who helped Westland emerge as a city from the old Nankin Township. She also praised the south-end Annapolis Park neighborhood - one of the first U.S. suburbs settled by black homeowners - for becoming the city's first nominee

to the National Register of Historic Places. "This is a high honor, and it's well-deserved," Cicirelli said. In her fifth State of the City address, Cicirelli said Westland continues to thrive despite a bleak economy, cuts in state revenue and soaring costs for fuel and employee health insurance.

She drew applause when she said Westland is expected to end the budget year on June 30 with a \$2.3 million surplus, nearly \$1 million above earlier projections. "We've cut spending, and we've tightened our belt," she said. Cicirelli singled out the fire and police departments in pledging that there will be no cuts in services dur-

ing the next year. "There will be no compromising on public safety," she said. Cicirelli also promised that city officials will demand premium service from Midwest Sanitation, the company that picks up local trash. "We've made it clear that we expect

PLEASE SEE MAYOR, A5



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Funny bunny

Seven-year-old Alexis Burd of Westland gets a little extra attention from the Easter Bunny before the start of the 22nd annual Marshmallow Drop Friday at Nankin Mills Park on Hines Drive in Westland.

## Board OKs new teacher pact

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Parents who may be wondering when the next school year will start in the Wayne-Westland district should circle Tuesday, Sept. 5, on their calendars. That's the starting date the district and its teachers have agreed to in a new two-year contract approved by the school board last week. "We're very pleased to bring this tentative agreement to you," Supt. Greg Baracy told the board. "We believe it best serves the interests of the children of the Wayne-Westland school district." Wayne-Westland Education Association President Nancy Strachan is pleased the two sides were able to reach an agreement before the end of the current school year. "We tried to accommodate the district without it being detrimental to our members," Strachan said. "We all agreed there had to be some cost containment. We're pleased we were able to come up with a settlement we believe we all can live with." Teachers ratified the contract by a vote of 615-175. The board approved it 6-0 with Trustee Terrance McClain absent. The two-year agreement will take effect Sept. 2 of this year and run through Sept. 1, 2008. The district was able to get some cost containment related to wages and health care, increased flexibility in class size in the elementary schools and flexibility in the class overload language at the middle school and high school level, according to Bernard LaPorte, the district's senior executive director of employee services.

PLEASE SEE TEACHER PACT, A5

## Salute to Excellence

Children sing praises of award winners

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Penny Tolentino has a simple yet meaningful philosophy for being a good mother. "I have patience, help from family and friends, and the knowledge that God will guide me in what He sees as appropriate," she said. As a father, Howard "Bud" Prough is just as dedicated. "I think you have to love your kids, but you also have to go above and beyond that to be involved in what's going on in their lives," he said. Tolentino was honored Wednesday evening as Westland Mother of the Year - and Prough as Father of the Year - during Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's State of the City address. They became the latest mother and father to receive the annual Salute to

Wednesday evening, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli bestowed her Salute to Excellence awards on several residents. In addition to the Mother and Father of the Year awards, she also honored a teacher, student and senior citizens. For their stories, see Page A3. Excellence awards, given to them as some 300 people watched during a ceremony inside the senior citizen Friendship Center. They received a bouquet of roses, an engraved award, proclamations from elected officials and gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses. Tolentino, a 48-year-old Gordon Chevrolet warranty administrator, has two daughters, Nina, 9, and Nikki, 8. She was nominated for the award after Nikki heard about it at school.



Father of the Year Howard 'Bud' Prough poses with his daughter Megan (left) and wife Pamela.



Mother of the Year Penny Tolentino shared the evening with her daughters Nikki (left) and Nina and husband Scott.

In her nomination, Nikki wrote that her mother works hard to pay bills and keep food on the table, and she said her mother also coaches her youth basketball team. Tolentino said she always strives to be a positive influence for her daughters. "I just hope I can prepare them for

life," she said Wednesday, before receiving her award from the mayor. Prough, a 44-year-old Farmer Jack building maintenance employee, was nominated by his only child, Megan, 17. "He's always there for me," Megan said. "He listens to everything, and he doesn't judge me." Prough has coached his daughter's

softball and soccer teams, and he is president of the Dads' Athletic Club of Westland. He also volunteers for several recreational activities at the city's Bailey Recreation Center. "It's quite an honor to get this award," Prough said Wednesday, before receiving his award. "I'm really proud of Megan. This is quite an honor."

For Home Delivery call: (866) 887-2737

© The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 41 Number 93

Your Feel-Good. Health Food SuperStore

\$5 REDEMPTION

MINIMUM \$50 PURCHASE

34164 Plymouth (E. of Stuyvesant)

734-427-3134

www.zerbas.com

**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	E2
AUTOMOTIVE	E7
COMMUNITY LIFE	C1
CROSSWORD	D6
CLASSIFIEDS	D2-F3
JOBS	D2
NEW HOMES	E4
OBITUARIES	C5
PERSPECTIVES	A7
REAL ESTATE	D5
SERVICE GUIDE	D4
SPORTS	B1

**Coming Thursday in Filter**

**Young Artists**

Local teens that rock! Read about them in the next issue of Filter



# Handley lauded

Judy Handley has received the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists' Administrative State Leadership Award.

Handley, director of elementary school development with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, was nominated by the association.

"Judy is caring and concerned for the children of Michigan," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This recognizes her outstanding leadership and service to the local and state groups and her tireless efforts to promote activities that benefit children and families in our community. 'She works tirelessly and her knowledge is incredible at the local, state and national level.' 'I'd like say thanks for the opportunity you folks have afforded me,'" Handley told the school board which honored her for receiving the award. "If not given the opportunity and chances to meet up with individuals in that group and work with them, I would not be stand here. You've been helpful as well and I appreciate that as well."

## Contest Winners

Two students in the digital media program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland have been awarded Best in Show in the Michigan Student Film and Video Competition.

Mason Green won for the film *What's Going On* and Sara Roebuck won for the film, *Silent Hill*. Green also received an award of excellence.

Their films will be premiered at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Sunday, April 30.

Other Digital Media students receiving awards of excellence (silver) for their video projects were Justin Moore, Matthew Korotney, Sara Roebuck and George

## SCHOOL NEWS

Swantner.

Moore and Korotney also were honor awardees (bronze) along with Kevin Whittenberg.

There were more than 500 student entries from high schools across the state in the contest, sponsored annually by Detroit Area Film and Video Teachers Association.

## Canned food drive

Students in the National Technical Honor Society at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center used a little competition to help the homeless. The group organized a class competition to see which class could donate the most food for the local homeless shelter. The winners were the students in morning business and computer technology class and the electronics class in the afternoon. Each class receives a pizza party.

A total of 1,519 food items and \$136.14 were collected.

## Challenging

The Student Council at Marshall Middle School recently organized a Students vs. Staff basketball to raise money for charity.

Students playing in the game were Bonjiovanna Bonner, Damietrius Bradford, Jacob Brooks, William Brown, John Byrd, Malcolm Connelly, Terrence Gordon, Davarius Jenki, Christopher Jones, Julian Lewis, Marcus Mecks, Matthew Mitchell, Lavarro McClendon and Devin McMillan.

Playing on the staff team were Jared Baker, Ken Britton, Julie Nicastri, Paul Salah, Tim Schroeter, Derrick Townsend, Rob Miller, Larry McConnell and Don Jack.



## Cass in wax

Cass Elementary School student Nick Pearce portrays John Deere, a pioneer plowmaker, at the school's Historical Wax Museum. Three third-grade classes participated in the event, held March 24 at the school. Students chose a famous person from history to represent, and completed a full autobiographical report. They performed for visitors to the event.

# Students begin work on Octagon House

BY CONNIE WAGENSCHUTZ  
CORRESPONDENT

Restoration of the Octagon House is about to begin or may have already as you read this. The exterior of the building will be the starting point by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' William D. Ford Career Technical Center students.

Stop by on Saturdays 1-4 p.m., when museum personal are there and watch the progress as it moves forward, as well as tour the museum.



Currently there are three ongoing fund-raisers that you can support. A brick with your name or the name of a loved one engraved on it may be purchased for \$100 to be placed in the walkway at the historic Perrinsville School.

Also, two newly published books are available at the museum on Saturdays. One, *Images from Nankin Township and Westland's Beginnings*, sells for \$20 and the other, *Cooking With Friends*, containing 285 recipes from the kitchens of Westland sells for \$10. All funds raised support the ongoing development of Westland Historic Village Park.

A big thank you to those who designated a portion of their bill in support of the Friends of the Westland Museum when they ate out at Max & Erma's restaurant on March 22.

For the garden enthusiasts among our readers, come see and enjoy the Herb Garden as it comes to life these warm spring days. It is behind the Felton farmhouse complete with sundial brick walkways and markers identifying the various herbs.

Consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Westland Museum by calling or e-mailing Connie Wagenschutz at (734) 522-0438 or conwag@juno.com for a membership form or with any other questions or comments.

## INFORMATION CENTRAL

The Detroit Institute of Arts is hosting an African-American art exhibit now through July 2, *African American Art from the Walter O. Evans Collection*.

More than 500 objects will be featured, including more than 80 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper, illustrating the development of African-American art from 1848 to 1997. Visitors will become acquainted with such artists as Henry Ossawa Tanner, Edmonia Lewis, Elizabeth Catlett, Aaron Douglas, Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

The Public Library of Westland would like to make you aware of the many resources we have to offer. The

book, *A History of African-American Artists*, includes all of the above artists.

We also have a number of books about the famous artist Jacob Lawrence. Titles, such as *African-American Art by Sharon F. Patton*, *Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century* by Richard J. Powell and *Black Folk Art in America: 1930-1980* by Jane Livingston and John Beardsley, can do much to expand your knowledge of African American art.

You also will find copies of *The Detroit Institute of Arts: A Visitor's Guide* and *The Detroit Institute of Arts: A Brief History* by William H. Peck.

Although the institute is undergoing some major remodeling, the most famous artwork is still on display, and these volumes should still be helpful in preparing you for your visit.

For more information about the DIA exhibit, go to [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org), or call the DIA Box Office at (313) 833-4005. For more information about African-American art and the DIA, visit the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland or call us at (734) 326-6123.

**Medical Lecture Series - Half Hour to Health:** 7 p.m. April 17. Join Dr. Brian Brackney to learn which foods are most beneficial for your health and which are most harm-

ful. Learn how to sleep correctly and how to eat for optimal health.

**Adult Book Club:** 7 p.m. April 18. This month's book is *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper* by Harriet Scott Chessman. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

**Science Fiction Book Club:** 7 p.m. April 26. Join us as we discuss classics, new and old, of speculative fiction.

**Information Central** is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

## CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On APRIL 25, 2006 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 am at Westland Service Towing, 300 S. Newburgh, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

YEAR/MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1992 Ford	Explorer/4 Dr	Tan/Green	1FMDU34X9NUD69501
1995 Ford	Escort/2 Dr	Burgundy	1FASP11J0SW177848
1995 Ford	Escort/4 Dr	Green	1FASP14J6SW330566
1995 Pontiac	Grand Am/4 Dr	Black	1G2NW15M3SC771497
1992 Mercury	Topaz/2 Dr	Gray	1MEPM31X2NK656526
1989 Chevy	S-10/PU Trk	Brown	1GCBS14E5K2115087
1990 Dodge	PU Truck	Gray	1B7HM06Y6L8647323
1995 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Blue	1FALP52U75G237297
1991 Plymouth	Sundance/2 Dr	Blue	1P3XP24D1MN502544
1996 Mercury	Sable/4 Dr	Green	1MELM53S1TG600242
1996 Pontiac	Sunfire/4 Dr	Blue	1G2JB5245T7548779

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

YEAR/MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1983 Dodge	Ram/Van	Orange	2B7HB23H8DK369543
1993 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	White	1FALP5244PG256574
1996 Dodge	Ram 1500/PU Trk	Red	3B7HP13Z7TG139656
1988 Dodge	Omni/Expo/4 Dr	Blue	1B3BZ18DXJY158653
1996 Chrysler	LHS/4 Dr	White	2C3HC56F8TH290351
1988 Dodge	Dynasty/4 Dr	Blue	1B3BU5636JD226390
1995 GMC	Safari/Stwgn	Black	1GKDM19W0SB654122
1990 Mercury	Sable/4 Dr	Brown	1MECM50U7LG626382
1990 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Gray	1FACP52U7LG176793

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: April 16, 2006

0628426763

**On Break??**

**Let's BBQ**

**BOB'S OF CANTON**

31210 W. Warren  
(at Merriman)  
Westland

734-522-3357

Sale Dates Monday, April 17th  
thru Sunday, April 23rd

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10 am - 7 pm  
Sat. 9 am - 7 pm • Sun. 10 - 6 pm

We Accept Food Stamps

E-mail Address:  
[www.bobsforcanton.com](http://www.bobsforcanton.com)

Thank You!

We Accept:

USDA GRADE A	SELECT CORN FED BEEF	FROM OUR DELI
<b>Boneless Butterfly PORK CHOPS</b> <b>\$2.79</b> lb.	<b>Bottom Round RUMP ROAST</b> <b>\$2.29</b> lb.	<b>Lipari - Old Tyme MUESSTER CHEESE</b> <b>\$2.99</b> lb.
<b>Boneless • Lean English Cut Roast</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Get the Grill Out T-BONE STEAKS</b> <b>\$4.89</b> lb.	<b>Lipari - Turkey BREAST</b> <b>\$3.09</b> lb.
<b>Boneless - Juicy PORK LOIN ROAST</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Boneless - Skinless CHICKEN BREAST</b> <b>\$1.69</b> lb.	<b>QUICK FIXINGS</b> <b>Beef-Pork-Veal MOCK CHICKEN LEGS</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.
<b>Great-on-the-Grill</b> <b>MADE FRESH HOURLY</b> <b>Ground Beef from GROUND ROUND</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Select Corn Fed Beef</b> <b>PORTERHOUSE STEAKS</b> <b>\$5.39</b> lb.	<b>US#1 PRODUCE</b> <b>Red - Green GRAPES</b> <b>\$1.59</b> lb. <b>Green PEPPERS</b> <b>2/\$1.00</b> <b>Jumbo Size SPANISH ONIONS</b> <b>39¢</b> lb.
<b>Family Pac</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Lean BEEF STEW</b> <b>\$2.19</b> lb.	<b>Crock Pot Idea</b> <b>Lean BEEF STEW</b> <b>\$2.19</b> lb.

Why play Truth or

# CONSEQUENCES

with your mortgage?

**Financial Fact:**  
An unexpected mortgage prepayment penalty can equal five months worth of loan payments.\*

Truth in lending can be a murky concept for some lenders. Not for DFCU Financial. Our way of working is to be upfront and clear about every aspect of your mortgage. We even offer a closing cost guarantee. Meaning no add-ons, no hidden fees, and no surprises. No kidding! So for great rates and a variety of terms, call 800.739.2770 to schedule an appointment or visit [www.dfcufinancial.com](http://www.dfcufinancial.com).

And don't miss our special limited time offers:

- Free preapprovals through May 31
- \$100 off closing costs for new home purchases; coupon given at preapproval



\*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



CE0842998

**CANTON CINEMA**

Goodrich [www.GCFL.com](http://www.GCFL.com)  
734-844-FILM

1 Mile West of I-275

**ALL DIGITAL SOUND**

No passes Free drink refills & 25¢ soft refills

ALL STADIUM SEATING TIMES: 4:14 - 4:20

FREE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 & 11 AM  
MADAGASCAR (PG)

**SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13)**  
 12:45, 2:45, 4:50, 7:10, 9:15  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:15  
**THE WILD (G)**  
 (SAT/SUN 11:55)  
 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:25  
**THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)**  
 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:25  
**ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG)**  
 (SAT/SUN 11:00)  
 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:00  
**FAILURE TO LAUNCH (PG-13)**  
 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:40  
**TAKE THE LEAD (PG-13)**  
 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50  
**LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN (PG-13)**  
 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25  
 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

COUPON

FREE

20oz. DRINK

with \$2.50 purchase  
of 4oz. bag of bakery popcorn  
www.hometownlife.com



# Teacher-student awards

## Recipients share similar passion for education

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Andrea Griffin remembers playing school at home, even before she started kindergarten.

"I can't remember ever not wanting to be a teacher," said Griffin, a Schweitzer Elementary fifth-grade teacher.

Sara Michael has a similar

passion for being a student. She maintains a 4.5 grade point average as a Wayne Memorial High School senior, while participating in the National Honor Society, Upward Bound, the German Club, the student marketing group DECA, and varsity tennis and track.

"I hope to someday have a career managing a firm or running my own business," said Michael, 18, who will be a class valedictorian this year.

Griffin was honored Wednesday evening as Teacher of the Year - and Michael as High School Senior of the Year - during Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's State of the City address.

As some 300 people looked on, Griffin and Michael - like other winners of the mayor's

Salute to Excellence awards - received a bouquet of roses, an engraved award, proclamations from elected officials and gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses.

"I can't even put into words what an honor this is," Griffin said, after accepting her award.

She serves on the Wayne-Westland school district's English Language Arts Committee, and many admire her for the good relationship she has with her students. She and husband Ben also have two children of their own, daughter Cady, 14, and son Benjamin, 10.

Michael, in addition to being a top-notch student, works part time for CVS pharmacy and reads twice a week to second-graders at Kettering Elementary School. She also



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

According to Wayne Memorial High School Principal John Albrecht, High School Senior of the Year Sara Michael "understands what it means to work hard."

works in Wayne Memorial's school store.

After she graduates, she plans to attend Wayne State University and major in business management.

Wayne Memorial Principal John Albrecht said Michael

deserved the award "for her leadership among her peers and for her willingness to be helpful."

"Her classmates look up to her," Albrecht said. "She understands what it means to work hard, and she's somewhat



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Griffin's dream of being a teacher had its roots in her childhood. Today, she is Westland's Teacher of the Year.

humbled by her accomplishments."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

# Seniors show meaning of service, leadership

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Beverly Kaminski started a crocheting group, Angel Wings, that has made more than 40,000 blankets, hats and outfits for newborn babies since 2001. Her husband, Frank, helps her deliver them to 10 hospitals.

Like the Kaminskis, Helen Comstock continues to help her community by volunteering with hospice, the Westland Commission on Aging, the Wayne-Ford Civic League and pinocle clubs at the senior citizen Friendship Center.

Young in spirit, they're the kind of seniors who make Westland a better community, Friendship Center Director Peggy Ellenwood said.

For their efforts, they were honored Wednesday evening with Salute to Excellence awards given by Mayor Sandra Cicirelli during her annual State of the City address at the senior center.

Beverly Kaminski, 61, and husband Frank, 63, received the award for Seniors of the Year for Service. Comstock, 80, was honored as Senior of the Year for Leadership.

The winners were showered with bouquets of roses, engraved awards, proclamations from elected officials and gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses.

"We were very surprised and honored by this," Beverly Kaminski said.

Their work to help newborns also includes delivering burial outfits for newborns who don't survive. Frank Kaminski also is president of the Friendship Center bowling league and is in



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors of the Year for Service recipients Frank and Beverly Kaminski help the community through their volunteer efforts.

charge of the golf league. He also serves on a committee for the Wayne County Senior Olympics.

Comstock also serves on a "constituent cabinet" for U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Michigan, and she volunteers for Friendship Center activities ranging from pancake breakfasts and special parties.

"I was very excited to get this award, and I was very surprised," Comstock said Wednesday, just before the ceremony began.

Those who know the Kaminskis and Comstock didn't voice any surprises that they won the awards. Said Ellenwood: "They're wonderful people."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior of the Year for Leadership Helen Comstock volunteers for the Friendship Center and serves on a "constituent cabinet" for U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter.

# Help sought to fight disease

Few people are familiar with epidermolysis bullosa - inherited disorders in which the skin and mucous membranes of victims are so fragile that the slightest touch can cause severe irritation and painful blisters.

A local group, Wayne-Westland Friends of EB, not only understands the disease, but is dedicated to raising money to help local victims.

The nonprofit WWFEB will sponsor a bowling event 1-3:45 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at Town & Country Lanes, on Wayne Road near Avondale, said WWFEB Chairwoman Robin Holbrook. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for those 16 and younger, and need to be bought in advance. For more information, call Holbrook at (734) 844-1899.

The cost will include three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, pop and a chance at door prizes. "We literally have hundreds of dollars in door prizes," Holbrook said.

EB is a lifelong disease, often from birth, that causes physical, emotional and financial hardships for victims and their families. Some 100,000 Americans, mostly children, have it.

For more information, visit the organization's Web site at [www.wwfep.org](http://www.wwfep.org).



## ROBERT'S

### BUDGET AUTO CARE

**734-729-3306**

38521 Ford Road • Westland (just W. of Hix, on the S. side of Ford Road)

## GRAND OPENING!

### Specialists in Hot Rods and Classic Cars

*We Offer Complete Car Care to Keep Your Car Running Smooth!*

• Engines	• Brakes	• Electrical	• Alternators	• Suspensions
• Tune-ups	• Shocks	• Batteries	• Transmissions	• and much more

<p><b>OIL CHANGE, FILTER &amp; LUBE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">only</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;"><b>\$15.99</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Up to 5 qts. brand name oil. Most vehicles. With ad. Coupon expires 5-31-06.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>25% OFF</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;"><b>ANY REPAIR</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">With ad. Coupon expires 5-31-06.</p>	<p><b>REGULAR MAINTENANCE TUNE-UPS</b></p> <p>4 cyl.....<b>\$34.99</b> 6 cyl.....<b>\$39.99</b> 8 cyl.....<b>\$49.99</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Replace spark plugs. Reset idle. With ad. Coupon expires 5-31-06.</p>	<p><b>Engine Light On? COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC CHECK</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;"><b>\$29.99</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Engine analyzer service. Most vehicles. With ad. Coupon expires 5-30-06.</p>
---	--	---	--

## THINK SPRING

### AT CLYDE SMITH & SON

# EASTER PLANTS

*Fresh Cut Flowers and Arrangements!*

- Premium Lilies 6-8 Blooms
- Also Specimen Plants 2-3 Stem
- Azaleas • Easter Egg Mums
- Hydrangeas • Regal Geraniums
- And Much More!

**Potted Flowering Bulb Plants**  
Daffodils • Tulips • Hyacinths



---

**OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY April 22nd**

- FREE TOP SOIL TESTING 10 AM-4 PM
- FREE SEMINARS!
- 10:00 PERENNIAL & WATER GARDENING
- 11:00 WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006-NEW NURSERY VARIETIES
- 1:00 COOKING & GARDENING WITH HERBS

We're excited to present June Brown a culinary arts instructor and master gardener. She will be demonstrating how to cook with herbs.

- 2:00 ROSES, ROSES, ROSES
- Our new representative Ted Williams from Jackson and Perkins
- Roses will be here to answer any of your rose questions.
- 3:00 READY SET GO GARDENING

**Garden Seeds & Seed Starting Supplies**

- Onion Sets
- Seed Potatoes
- Bulbs • Grass Seed

**Milorganite Lawn Fertilizer**  
**\$4.99**  
40 Lb. Bag

---

**Customer Appreciation Coupon**

**30% Off** Any 1 regular priced hardgood item at time of purchase.

Sales include Gazing Balls, Tools, Garden Accents, Pots, Statuary, Trelliss, Plants Stands and MORE!  
Expires 4-30-06

## CLYDE SMITH & SONS

### GREENHOUSES & GARDEN CENTERS

8000 NEWBURGH • WESTLAND

(877) 725-9937

OPEN Mon-Sat 8-8 • Sun 9-5 • Open Easter Sunday 9-3

## Great rates ... Easy terms.

Certificates of Deposit


13-MONTH CD

5.15% APY

5-MONTH CD

5.00% APY

LOYAL CUSTOMER RATE



\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on 13-month CD and 5-month CD is effective as of 04/17/06. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500 and maximum deposit is \$100,000. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Rates are subject to change without notice. †Loyal Customer Pricing - Rate applies to Flagstar Bank Loyal Customer program. Customer must maintain an open and active checking account at Flagstar Bank with at least one automatic, recurring transaction monthly to qualify for the Loyal Customer program. Customers not participating in the Loyal Customer program will receive the standard CD rate of 4.90% APY on the 13-month CD and 4.75% APY on the 5-month CD. Loyal Customer offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers and is not eligible for VIP bonus. Not available for public units. Account fees could reduce earnings. Please contact your local Flagstar branch for more information. Certain restrictions may apply.

Member FDIC
[www.flagstar.com](http://www.flagstar.com)
(800) 642-0039



# Fish, friends keep diners coming to eatery

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Joe Bauer wasn't upset when trendy restaurants began to move into the area near Westland Shopping Center.

"It's good, though," said Bauer, general manager of the Red Lobster restaurant on Wayne Road north of Ford, which marked 31 years in business March 25. "Competition brings consumers out. I think it's a good thing."

It also gives him and his colleagues a reason to offer better fare and service at the 250-seat eatery, which is packed on Friday and Saturday nights. Bauer, a Canton resident who's been on the job in Westland since 1989, noted that Lent's good for business, with many Catholics choosing to dine out on Friday.

Spring in general, and the nationally advertised

Lobsterfest, bring people out too. "Old Man Winter's behind us," he said with a smile. "It's just a good time to go out."

On a recent Tuesday, friends Mary Boron of Livonia and Gertie Beyer of Southfield met for lunch. They're part of a group of friends that meet weekly at the restaurant, which opened its first location in 1968 in Lakeland, Fla.

"Oh, years and years," Boron said of their visits. "It's really funny if one of us doesn't show up on Tuesday," Beyer added.

Server Roxanne Grant of Livonia brought iced tea and cheesy biscuits as the women awaited their entrees. "We have the same waitress every time," Boron said. "We ask for her. We don't even have to order, she knows. The drinks are right on the table."

"I can't even remember when we started," added Beyer. "It's been years. It's a great



PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

General manager Joe Bauer pauses in the bar area with utility worker Betty Nelson (left) and server Kimmie Hirsch.

place to eat. The folks here are very friendly."

Bauer, the GM, has found local diners are partial to salmon, trout, flounder and tilapia. The latter, with a delicate flavor, is found in both fresh and saltwater.

The restaurant draws from Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Garden City, Inkster, Romulus and Livonia. This time of year, there's competition from the Lenten fish fry events at churches and elsewhere.

"There's a built-in competition there," Bauer said.

He's got some good stories from his years in the business. Several years ago, a middle-aged couple came in; the man told the staff he was going to propose and wanted a photograph taken.

"They continue as regular guests," said Bauer of the now-married couple, who got their picture. "That was pretty meaningful." There are also

stories of first dates and engagements.

The fish comes from all over the world, including the U.S., Canada and South America. "Our fresh fish is three days out of the water," he said. They receive two-three deliveries per week.

He's pleased with the staff, many of whom start in high school and continue working. Bauer points with pride to such professions as attorney, pharmacist, engineer, teacher and others represented by former staffers. Out of 100 Red Lobsters in the Midwest, the Westland eatery was honored for having the lowest turnover.

"I think we represent an excellent value," Bauer said. Taking care of guests, serving quality food and offering value have made the difference.

"I think those three things have made us successful long-term," Bauer said.

## ADAMS HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll at the end of the first semester honor roll at Adams Middle School were:

Ayatte Abu-Lawi, Susan Abu-Lawi, Anthony Aionso, Angela Aitimus, Jacob Anolick, Michael Arbaugh, Elliot Arnold, Cayla Ball, Ryan Bartz, Kyle Bearden, Mahelia Benjamin, Sabrina Bizon, Jacob Black, Dustin Black-Cicotte, Holland Boertje, Deanna Boston, Erika Boyington, Aaron Bridges, Isabella Bullock, Brieanna Burgess, Silvia Carone, Jeremy Carter, Ian Cavaleto, Bradley Chandler, Kristine Chau, Katherine Chuong, Breana Cotto, Meghan Colaianne, Taylor Coleman, Margarita Cortes, Pedro Cortes, Kayleigh Crumme, Ericka Daniels, Robert Davidson, Christine Davis, Brandon Dombrowski, Dylan Dottor, Alyssa Draper, Cody Duncan, Austin Dykes, Kayla Ellis, Chelsea Everley, Anthony Ewing, Mariah Fairchild, Taurek Fikes, Jessica Fischer, John Foote, Michael Frey, Amber Frost, Ashley Frost, Jessica Fulton, Michael Gabriel, Derek Galvan, Scott Goodchild, Morgan Greig, Shakyra Griffin, Elaina Guenther, Micaela Guenther, Shaniqua Hansend, Amanda Harms, Tammie Hawkins, Zachary Hawkins, Shantee Heron, Daniel Hill, Kaitlyn Hoh.

Courtney Hooper, Kimberly Hooper, Shelby Hooper, Joshua Hubbard, Elysia Huertas, Sonia Huertas, Brooklyn Isbell, Jessica Jasinski, Jordan Jasinski, Eddie Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Michael Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Brandie Jones, Allison Jordan, Jimmy Kassis, Adam Kay, Donald Keiper, Brandon Keller, Tawni Kenyon, Samantha Kilburn.

Coty Killen, Thomas Killen, Shane Kommer, Charles Kuder, C.J. Kulas, Jenna Langston, Danny Lees, Madeline Lefler, Scott Lemke, Morgan Levis, Elizabeth Lizyness, Remaille Lloyd, Tad Lloyd, Kassandra Lodge, Briana Lucas, Brittney Malloy, Jacob Massey, Lynn Mathew, LeChrisa Mathews, John May, Kevin McCartney, Jessica McClue,

Michael McCollum.

Trisha McCune, Tyler McCurry, Alyssa McGeorge, Richard McGinnis, Stephen McNamara, Taylor Meadows, Christina Merritt-Haase, Kyle Michael, Desiree Miller, Jeremy Mills, Nicholas Mills, Tyler Mitchell, Shanaye Moore, Chelsea Morneau, Dominick Nestor, Chantell Nolden, Jesse O'Neal, Amber O'Rourke, Nicole Odom, Wendi Overstreet, Joshua Palmer.

Leah Palmer, Jared Parker, Shannon Parker, Anthony Patania, Cory Patania, Mark Patterson, Zachary Pechin, Kristen Peck, Brenda Perales, Elizabeth Perusse, Marcus Petri, Bradley Phillips, Samuel Phillips, Brandi Pietruszka, Brooke Pietruszka, Sade Pitts, Hannah Plumley, Jessica Poster, Andrew Potter, Angela Potter, Lyndsey Potter, Chelsey Preiss.

Ryan Przybyla, Chloe Pyne, Megan Quinn, Branden Ralph, Miranda Reichow, Kyah Riley, Michael Ringholz, Kayla Roberts, Demetrius Robinson, Brittany Roden, Chelsey Roe, Mark Rowland, Emily Rudy, Douglas Rutan, Aarti Sajani, Leah Savage, Christopher Schmidt, David Schutzler, Kaily Scott, Anthony Sedlarik, Jaclyn Serna, Sarah Shefke, Justin Shepard, Devyn Simkus, Zoie Smallwood, Jered Smart, Imari Smiley, Danielle Smith, Jessica Smith, Tyler Smith, John Soltis, Kayla Sparks, Khiry Sparks, Kristina Sparks, Sean Stewart, Tyanna Stewart, Cristian Strong, Akeem Sulaimon, Adam Swetlik, Kyle Szalai, Adam Szydzik, Chelsey Talbot, Tiana Tatum, Leslie Taylor, Lawrence Tennille, Danyelle Terry, Amanda Thieleman.

Tiffany Tillmon, Stephanie Tomlin, Jennifer Troost, Zachary Tykoski, Marko Uzarek, Margaret Van Dyke, Leo Veloz, Jennifer Vinson, Christopher Washington, Edward West, Briana Williams, Nicholas Williams, Jarret Williamson, Zachary Williamson, Johnathon Willoughby, Barbara Wilson, Shane Wilson, Thomas Winkles, Brianna Winn, Amber Wiper and Caleb Witty.



Friends Gertie Beyer of Southfield (left) and Mary Boron of Livonia enjoy their Tuesday get-together at Red Lobster in Westland.

**GOING OUT OF BUSINESS!**

**25-75% OFF EVERYTHING**

at  
**DOLLARiffic**  
Dollar Store

33231 Plymouth Rd. • Corner of Farmington Rd.  
Livonia  
MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-8 • SUNDAY 11-5

*Hurry for Best Selection!*

WESTLAND  
**Observer**  
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD  
GANNETT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**HOW TO REACH US**

**Susan Rosiek**  
Executive Editor  
(734) 953-2100  
srosiek@hometownlife.com

**Hugh Gallagher**  
Managing Editor  
(734) 953-2149  
hgallagher@hometownlife.com

**Sue Mason**  
Community Editor  
(734) 953-2112  
smason@hometownlife.com

**Frank Cibor**  
Retail Sales Manager  
(734) 953-2177  
fcibor@hometownlife.com

**Cathy White**  
Retail Advertising Rep.  
(734) 953-2073  
cwhite@hometownlife.com

Newsroom ..... (734) 953-2104 Fax ..... (734) 591-7279  
Sports Nightline ..... (734) 953-2104  
Circulation/Customer Service ..... 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)  
Classified Advertising ..... 1-800-579-SELL (7355)  
Display Advertising ..... (734) 953-2153

To purchase page and photo reprints go to [www.hometownlife.com/reprints](http://www.hometownlife.com/reprints).  
For more information contact 1-866-88-PAPER.

**Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates**  
Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

If you missed a delivery please call by 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Carrier Delivery Sunday/Thursday	Mail Delivery Sunday/Thursday
One year .....\$59.95	One year (in county) \$83.95
6 Month .....\$29.95	6 Month .....\$41.95
3 Month .....\$14.95	3 Month .....\$20.95
For senior citizen rate, please call 1-866-887-2737	One year (out of county) \$108.95
	6 Month .....\$54.45
	3 Month .....\$27.25

**POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS**  
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

CAC MPA SNA GDN

DFCU Financial. Same us, only

**BETTER!**

DFCU Financial has worked hard for 56 years to meet your ever-expanding needs for personalized financial services. We recently mailed our members detailed information regarding a proposed change in legal structure that will better position us to serve members and the community for years to come. Members will still enjoy all of the same great products and services at our convenient branches. We understand that members may have questions and we want them to be as informed as possible. We invite members to contact us at 888-336-2700, visit the nearest branch, or speak directly with the President of DFCU with any questions.\*

Thank you for placing your trust and loyalty in DFCU Financial. We are looking forward to serving you for another 56 years.

**dfcu**  
FINANCIAL







# City golf course ready for season

It's tee time. Golfers who thought Westland's municipal golf course was past its prime might want to plan a return outing.

"It had the reputation of not being in the greatest condition, but a lot of work has been done to spruce it up," golf course manager Brian Gabbart said.

The nine-hole course, located on Merriman south of Cherry Hill, has received a post-winter cleanup, and the greens already have been mowed a few times.

"It's very green," Gabbart said. "It's actually in very good shape. Everything's good to go."

Gabbart urged anyone who used to golf at the former Shady Hollow course in Romulus to give Westland a try.

"I want them to know they can come to Westland's golf course and get a good price," he said.

For those rainy days, the golf course will continue to offer an indoor golf simulator.

Here's a look at 2006 rates:

■ On Monday through Friday, nine-hole rates are \$11 for city residents; \$14.50 for nonresidents; \$8 for senior residents 55 and older; \$11.50 for senior nonresidents; \$8 for those 16 and under.

■ On Monday through Friday, 18-hole rates are \$19 for residents; \$22.50 for nonresidents; \$13 for senior residents 55 and

The nine-hole course, located on Merriman south of Cherry Hill, has received a post-winter cleanup, and the greens already have been mowed a few times.

older; \$16.50 for senior nonresidents; and \$13.50 for those 16 and under.

■ Nine-hole twilight rates are \$7.50.

■ Weekend and holiday nine-hole rates are \$13 for residents and \$15.50 for nonresidents. Weekend 18-hole rates are \$21 for residents and \$23.50 for nonresidents. Nine-hole twilight rates are \$7.50.

■ Nine-hole cart rates are \$12 except for seniors, who pay \$10. However, there are no senior rates after 3 p.m., weekends or holidays.

■ Eighteen-hole cart rates are \$18 except for seniors, who pay \$14. There are no senior rates after 3 p.m., weekends or holidays.

■ Nine-hole pull cart rates are \$2.50.

Residents must show identification for resident rates. There are no junior rates on weekends or holidays.

In July, nine-hole rates will increase 50 cents.

For more information, call the golf course at (734) 721-6660.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland's municipal golf course manager/pro Brian Gabbart (left) and assistant pro Brian Harnos are geared up for the upcoming golf season.

## PCCU HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

# LOW

### your interest rate for the first 24 months at

# 5.9%

Payments as low as **per month**

(Based on \$25,000 balance)

**Come in today and learn more about our:**

- Lock it In Home Equity Line of Credit
- 14-Month 5.00% APY CD Special

[www.priorityccu.com](http://www.priorityccu.com)

  
**Priority Community Credit Union**  
 37250 Ford Road  
 (Just East of Newburgh)  
 Westland, MI 48185  
 1-888-388-LEND

**NCUA**

## SHAPE UP & FEEL BETTER IN 2006!

- STRENGTH TRAINING & WEIGHT MACHINES
- FREE WEIGHTS
- TREADMILLS
- ELLIPTICAL TRAINERS
- STAIR CLIMBERS
- STATIONARY BIKES
- PERSONAL TRAINING
- 30'X60' HEATED POOL
- HOT TUB
- SAUNAS
- MASSAGE THERAPY
- INDOOR WALKING/RUNNING TRACK • STEAM ROOMS

FORUM

Come try our new line of

MATRIX STRENGTH TRAINING EQUIPMENT!

FITNESS CENTER

**34250 FORD ROAD • WESTLAND**  
 (AT THE NORTH END OF THE COLISEUM BUILDING AT THE CORNER OF FORD ROAD AND WILDWOOD)  
 OPEN M-F 5AM - 11 PM, SAT & SUN 9 AM - 6 PM  
734-729-7000  
[www.forumfitnesscenter.com](http://www.forumfitnesscenter.com)

GROUP CLASSES IN:  
 • PILATES • CARDIO KICKBOXING • SPINNING • SALSA CARDIO  
 • FULL CONTACT KICKBOXING • KARATE



12 MONTH MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$29 PER MONTH!

NO ENROLLMENT FEE WITH THIS AD


<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">FREE ONE WEEK TRIAL MEMBERSHIP</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Up to 4 people. New members only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/21/06.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">2 FREE FITNESS CLASSES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Choose from pilates, kickboxing, salsa or spinning. Up to 4 people. New members only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/21/06.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">\$10 OFF ONE HOUR THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Up to 4 people. New members only. Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/21/06.</p>
---	---	--


# Where are Rich, Karen and Barry?

Rich, Karen, and Barry invite their previous customers to stop in and receive a complimentary oil change

# VARSITY

248-305-5300 • I-96 and Wixom Road • Novi

  
**LINCOLN**

  
**MERCURY**



## It's time to restrict Hines traffic and preserve park

While driving through Hines Drive recently, I looked in my rear-view mirror at the car that was tailgating me, and saw the angry face of the driver. On the shoulder were bicyclists and joggers. I kept to my 40 miles an hour, and eventually pulled over to let the speedster pass me by.

Part of the reason is that sometimes I'm the cyclist on the shoulder, and also, I was once ticketed by a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy on Hines for speeding. The deputy basically told me I could go 45, but not 50.

Hines Drive has its roots in the early 1920s when Americans were taking to the road in great numbers, and a drive through the countryside along the Rouge River in a new Model T Ford was considered a Sunday outing. Hines served its purpose very well at the time, when there weren't as many people or cars.

But these days, Hines isn't a country road, it's a freeway used by commuters going to and from work. Driving it isn't a leisurely pastime; it's a tense commute in the mornings and evenings.

Because of that, it's time to look at closing portions of Hines. Portions of it could be closed, and turnarounds established. That wouldn't be much of a shock to drivers who know that when it rains too much, Hines is closed due to flooding.

A Hines Drive with restricted access would be more open to physical activities, and goodness knows we need that in a nation that's becoming the fattest in the world. Also, by simply getting out of the car and walking, running or bicycling, we become more aware of our natural surroundings. Also, in an area so dominated by the auto industry, it would be nice to have one spot where you could get away from them for a while.

Another aspect of restricting access to Hines is environmental. Erosion is one of the worst enemies of the river, and restoration of its banks is crucial to the river's overall health. There are also plenty of community resources, such as the Friends of the Rouge and Trout Unlimited that have experience in stream restoration.

Recently, I was biking through Hines when it was closed by flooding, and realized that the places where the flooding took place were ones that should be closed because they form natural wetlands, which are in need of restoration in our nation.

This isn't to say that all the asphalt should be torn up. Hines Park is a tremendous recreational resource for residents of Wayne County, with great picnic spots and athletic fields which should be accessible to the public. A series of dead ends and improved parking lots, could improve access to such facilities, and cut down on traffic. They would be safer for children.

Also, we need to change the way we look at

parks. Grassy areas are deserts that rain water run off uses as a speedway. Native plants should be restored to those areas because deep-rooted foliage absorbs more water run off than does grass, and cuts down on erosion into the river. Wayne County is already doing that by establishing more no-cut areas, where grass lands will be established. It's also a cost saving for Wayne County.

It would be nice to see a few acres of the park restored to the way it looked 200 years ago. For example, groups such as the National Wildlife Federation and others aggressively work to leverage federal and state funds to restore and naturalize degraded riverbanks. It would be nice to see a few acres of the park restored to the way it looked 200 years ago. There is money for such programs. The National Wildlife Federation has programs to restore riverbanks that use federal money.

Restricting vehicle traffic along Hines would also put us more in touch with the way parks around the nation are now used. There has been a long-simmering debate in the Upper Peninsula at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore where occasionally a proposal is pushed to straighten and pave a rough gravel road that serves the park.

So far the paving proposal hasn't gone anywhere because outdoor enthusiasts think such a project would spoil the experience and simply put more cars on the road traveling at faster speeds.

Less auto access to Hines could also have an economic benefit to Wayne County. There would be less need for traffic enforcement, and road maintenance. That money could go to restoring natural areas or other park improvements, instead of being paid to deputies nabbing speeders or guys plowing snow.

Hines Drive was conceived during an era when it was truly an adventure to get out of your neighborhood for the day and drive to the banks of a river. Overworked factory workers and their families could enjoy nature like the more well-to-do. But now it's time for the road to evolve and serve the function of getting us out of our cars to move around and work off our fast food lunches. We also need to turn off our engines to help with the rising cost of gas and global warming.

It's time to re-think the uses for Hines Drive. We should picture a park where nature, and pathways hold sway, not the auto. There are certainly enough roads in western Wayne County to handle the traffic. We don't need to use Hines as another freeway.

Jeff Counts of Livonia is the publisher of *Michigan's Streamside Journal*, a magazine dedicate to fly-fishing and upland bird hunting in Michigan. The Journal's Web site, [www.michiganstreamsidejournal.com](http://www.michiganstreamsidejournal.com) has links to stream conservation groups in Michigan.

## Rotarians carry the motto of 'Service Above Self' in hearts

Just what would bring a diverse group of people out early on a Saturday morning at Schoolcraft College in Livonia? The Rotary District 6400 assembly April 8 was well-attended and inspirational for longtime members and relative newcomers.



Julie Brown

"Because I absolutely think it's the most phenomenal organization there is," Canton Rotary past President Lisa Kennedy said of her involvement, which includes being incoming assistant district governor. "I've never met a finer group of people who are more selfless."

She owns a Canton insurance agency, but the Rotarian crowd is full of diverse occupations. Kennedy points with considerable pride to the clock in Heritage Park her club put in. "That's kind of cool to see our name associated with the clock," the eight-year member said.

Attorney Bill Fried's active in Livonia Rotary and chairs scholarship efforts for the district. Fried's been a Rotarian since 1980 and is also involved with such efforts as the Heart Fund, Spree and others.

"It's because I give something back to the community," said Fried, who was toting applications for such things as the Rotary World Peace Fellowship and Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship. He's always been interested in education, and that works well with his Rotary involvement.

Fried's past president for Livonia, the post currently held by Mark Hammar for Plymouth A.M. "Ron Loisselle asked me to attend a meeting. It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed it," said Hammar, a member for several years and facility services director for the Plymouth Cultural Center.

He likes being able to target community needs, such as the special needs youngsters at Tanger Center and the club's annual party for senior citizens. "I'm just proud to be part of the club," Hammar said. "I think it's a great undertaking."

Plymouth's fortunate to have a Noon Rotary too, with Tom Kennedy, an airline captain and financial consultant, among active members. He's a 15-year Rotarian.

"I've flown to almost every country in the world," including Honduras, said Kennedy, who's involved in efforts to spread clean water and education worldwide. "We're building schools, we're doing hospitals."

"Any given day, there's a thousand Americans down there and hundreds of Canadians," he said of Honduras. Closer to home, the Rotarians have helped put books in

Plymouth-Canton classrooms.

"It's catching," he concluded. Rich Witkowski, outgoing Garden City club president, has found Rotary work dovetails with his work as local school superintendent. He's been a member about six years.

"We're proud of all our projects," added Bill Snodgrass, incoming Garden City president and retired Metro Airport equipment maintenance supervisor. He and Witkowski believe Rotary is a great organization.

"It makes you feel good," Snodgrass said. Westland's well-represented in Rotary as well, with Jade Smith, 2007-08 president, attending the assembly. The LaSalle Bank branch manager joined last year.

"Also to give back," said Smith, who noted the bank gets a lot of requests for financial support. "I wanted to actually volunteer and give some time."

He and Mary Gregosky, club secretary and co-owner of a Westland print shop, point with pride to their Rotary Park work, purchase of a bicycle for a handicapped boy, providing winter jackets for local needy kids and more. They're also sending sporting goods to Project Chinandega in Nicaragua.

Redford's got a club, too, and like the others welcomes new members. Mark Nadon, service chair, was recently at a Plymouth A.M. meeting for a makeup.

"I believe in supporting groups and individuals based on what I believe in," said Nadon, who likes Rotary's support of community and international endeavors.

"To serve for the purpose of serving, you'll never be disappointed," Nadon added with a smile.

Rotary marked its 100th anniversary in 2005. It's evolved with the times, including the somewhat controversial at the time decision to admit women in the late 1980s.

Club members, like Kiwanians, Lions and others, are proud of their collective efforts.

They enjoy coming together to meet diverse needs, whether in their own immediate communities or in the world at large.

Their efforts deserve recognition certainly, but most toil just for the sense of satisfaction that comes from a job well done to serve the less fortunate. They enjoy spending time with like-minded people as well.

These are busy times for many, but why not consider joining a local service club? You'll find plenty to do and lots of good people to work with.

Julie Brown is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and secretary of the Plymouth A.M. Rotary. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at [jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com).

### Kitchen Top Shop Inc.

**SALE ON**

**STARBUCK** **248.477.1515**

Laminate Solid Surface Counter Tops      Open till 8 pm Tues. & Thurs.

## 2006 CAREGIVING CONFERENCES

...For Anyone Meeting the Needs of Older Adults

**Learn valuable information about the services that are available to help you provide the best care.**

**Come early exhibit tables open 1/2 hour before events**

**Four Dates and Locations to Choose:**

**Thursday, April 20, 2006 • 6pm-9pm**  
Summit on the Park  
46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

**Saturday, April 22, 2006 • 10am-1pm**  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
5780 Evergreen, Detroit

**Monday, April 24, 2006 • 6pm-9pm**  
Redford Community Center  
12121 Hemingway, Redford

**Wednesday, May 3, 2006 • 6pm-9pm**  
Our Lady of the Woods  
21892 Gudith, Woodhaven

Presented by: Adult Well-Being Services, CSSWC/Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Our Lady of the Woods Christian Service, Redford Township, The Information Center, Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan - Elder Law Center & Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency

Funded in Part by: The Senior Alliance & Detroit Area Agency on Aging  
Sponsors: AARP Michigan & American House

**To attend this FREE EVENT and register, Call The Information Center at 734-287-7831**

0E06#20120

## The Armenian Genocide

One of the most shocking untold stories of the 20th century is chronicled in a powerful and unprecedented documentary.

Never-before-seen historical footage is included in this complete story about the deaths of over a million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks between 1915 and 1923.

Narrated by Julianna Margulies and produced by Andrew Goldberg.

**Monday, April 17 • 10PM**

WTVS CHANNEL 56

**Detroit Public Television**  
Join us at [detroitpublictv.org](http://detroitpublictv.org)



## Treasurer extends property tax deadline

The Wayne County Treasurer's Office has extended the deadline of delinquent 2003 property taxes. Payment will be accepted on or before April 27. Delinquent 2003 taxes not paid prior to April 28, 2006, will result in the sale of the property at public auction in the fall.

On Thursday, Wayne County Treasurer, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, announced delinquent tax collection results for Jan. 1 through April 10 of this year.

"I am pleased to report that we have processed 65,975 transactions valued at more than \$75 million."

Wojtowicz credits an extensive outreach program, the on-line property tax system, Web payments, and the dedication of his staff for the success.

Wojtowicz said, "It is the mission of this office to collect the delinquent property taxes in Wayne County for every municipality. We make every effort to notify homeowners of the aggressive delinquent tax collection process established by the Michigan Legislature with the passage of Public Act 123 of 1999. Our goal is to collect taxes, not foreclose or acquire property. Our efforts during these months go a long way toward achieving this goal."

In the month of February, payments on 22,071 parcels were received by the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, representing \$24,827,300, with more than \$12 million collected in the last week of the month. For the period March 1 through April 10 31,086 payments were received totaling \$36,532,185.

Of the 9,375 properties remaining with 2003 delinquent taxes outstanding, representing less than six percent of the 160,688 properties that were originally returned to the Treasurer, the collection effort continues. Approximately 2,400 of these properties are occupied.

Financial Hardship Applications are still available to taxpayers that are financially unable to make their 2003 delinquent tax payments on their primary residence.

For information or to pay delinquent taxes online, visit the Wayne County property tax Web site at [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com). More than 600,000 visitors have performed over 3,000,000 property tax searches, at no cost, since February 2004. Payments may be made via the web site, U.S. mail, or in person at the address below. Payments should be made payable to "Wayne County Treasurer."

## Levin: Follow Afghan policy in Iraq

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

What the United States has going for it in Afghanistan is what it lacks in Iraq, Michigan U.S. Sen. Carl Levin told a gathering as part of a free-wheeling speech Tuesday at Oakland University.

Levin spoke to approximately 300 students, faculty and Oakland County residents on a swing through Michigan.

After being introduced, the senator brought the crowd up to speed on the situation in the Middle East, particularly ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, both of which he visited recently.

"I'm optimistic about Afghanistan," he said. "Obviously, we have great challenges there, but there are things (there) we don't have in Iraq."

Levin said the U.S. has allies in Afghanistan in the form of UN troops, which include a Muslim force from neighboring Turkey. The entire operation there is on the verge of being turned over to NATO forces.

"There are tribal differences, but those have been overcome," he said. "They've been subsumed into the Afghan army."

That's one of the differences between that country and Iraq, where the senator is less than optimistic about the nation's interests there. He said the absence of international support, the underlying tension of disparate religious groups and mistakes made in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq make it a very different operation.

"The decision, made carelessly and recklessly, to dis-



Sen. Carl Levin talked about a wide range of topics including the Iraq war, illegal immigration and the future of manufacturing at Oakland University Tuesday afternoon.



Around 300 people showed up to hear Michigan Sen. Carl Levin speak.

band the Iraqi army was a mistake," Levin said. "The army, not the elite Republican Guard, had the support of Iraqis in general. They were seen as a national asset."

Whether one supports the invasion of Iraq or not, he said, is no longer the question. What is at issue is how the U.S. maximizes the chances of success. Success, he said, will have to be political rather than military.

"The statement is that we'll be there until we're not needed. Based on that, we'll be there forever," Levin said. "They have to promptly put together a unity government. We are not going to be there for an unlimited period of time."

In reference to tensions with Iran, he said even the discussion of a nuclear option was "hare-brained" and a tactic that could only play into the hands of religious extremists.

Of those who got up to ask questions of the senator, many wondered about the future of Michigan's economy. Levin said the administration doesn't take the needs of the manufacturing sector seriously and, until that happens, things are going to be bad for states like Michigan.

He favors an "Apollo-type" total-government initiative to transform the manufacturing economy.

Justin Zatkoff of Birmingham, a member of the Oakland College Republicans, asked Levin about the outlook for students looking for work after leaving college.

"We need more people in science, math and engineering courses," Levin said. "The administration has made the largest educational cut in U.S. history and there's a direct relation between education and jobs. If we're going to care about jobs, we have to care about education."

Oakland University sociolo-

**Levin said the administration doesn't take the needs of the manufacturing sector seriously and, until that happens, things are going to be bad for states like Michigan.**

gy Professor Linda Morrison said it was a good thing for students to hear from someone with the political experience and depth of knowledge Levin has.

"It's incredibly refreshing to hear him speak directly about his experiences," she said. "It made me feel much more connected. I liked his message that you should encourage people you agree with and challenge people you don't."

## Inventor talks about sunglasses

The Inventors Association of Metropolitan Detroit will hold their next meeting on Thursday, April 20, in the Grosse Pointe North High School, in Grosse Pointe.

Jeff Morton, a businessman and former racecar driver will present the development of his award-winning Brimz sports sunglasses that clip to the brim of a cap or visor. Nearly 400,000 pairs have been sold

worldwide.

The meeting is from 7-9:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Grosse Pointe North High School at 707 Vernier (1.6 miles southeast of the intersection of I-94 and Vernier at the Eight Mile exit) in Grosse Pointe. Admission is free and all welcome. For information, call Frank Wales, club President, at (586) 776-3658, or Keith Dunlop, (248) 391-3909.

### CUSTOM BUILT GARAGES

Includes: Vinyl Siding • With Concrete Floor • Garage Doors

### GREAT PRICES! GREATER QUALITY

Bathrooms, Kitchens, Rec Rooms,  
Roofing, Siding & Additions, Patio & Porch Enclosures

STOP BY &  
WALK THROUGH OUR  
MANY GARAGE MODELS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Miller GARAGES

& HOME IMPROVEMENT CO.

**2 CAR GARAGE Starting At Only \$99/Mo**

**NO MONEY DOWN** Monthly amount based on complete package price of \$9200 and a annual APR of 9.9% for 150 months. Qualified buyers only. Not all buyers will qualify. Please see company for details.

**CALL TOLL FREE (800) 801-4012**

**OR (313) 839-4012** RECOMMENDED BY CITY INSPECTORS

Bank Financing • Completely Licensed & Insured  
Visit Us Online @ [www.millergarage.com](http://www.millergarage.com)

13042 E. 8 Mile Rd. (Just West of Schoenherr)

### OPEN EASTER SUNDAY

## Extended Hours!

12 NOON  
UNTIL MIDNIGHT  
MONDAY, APRIL 17

### LIBERTY TAX SERVICE

31020 Park Mills • Livonia  
MI 48150 • 5 Star Service  
734-427-1099

### Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 478-7860

#### FEAR OF FALLING

None of us want to suffer a fall at any time but the older we become the more important it is to avoid this hazard. In the winter, preventing a fall concentrates on walking carefully, looking out for ice, and wearing shoes or boots that can dig into the ground underfoot.

However, your feet can be on slippery ground even in the spring. Check that stairs, especially basement stairs have good lighting and a banister at least on one side. If you are in contact with children, you need to have your eyes to the floor as children leave small toys strewn about.

Get rid of throw rugs as they invariably slide under your feet or twist like a small-log obstacle in your path. If you love the rug, pin it to a wall, or place it somewhere other than under foot.

If you have a problem of low vision or a defect in seeing depth, then consider using a cane or even a walker to aid your balance.

Other measures that increase your safety include installing grab bars in your bathroom by the path, shower and toilet. Place a night light near end in the bathroom. Of particular importance is daily exercise as such not only preserves your muscle strength but also keeps your sense of balance and coordination intact.

Wear shoes and fargo slippers even at home. If you want the comfort of slippers find roomy sandals. Finally, don't move quickly or in haste. Doing so undercuts the safety measures noted above.

[www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com](http://www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com) CE08428705

### Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

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 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midischerniation.com](http://www.midischerniation.com)

CE08416102

DUSTY FURNITURE? BREATHING PROBLEMS?

## AIR DUCT CLEANING

### CALL TODAY!

# \$99.95

Expires 04/25/06  
NO TRAVEL CHARGE

Includes up to 10 vents,  
1 return, 1 main.  
Complete system  
inspection. Additional  
vents, returns, main  
are priced separately.

## 1-800-979-0180

Professional. Licensed. Insured. Guaranteed. AE119

ALLERGIES & ASTHMA? HEADACHES?

### The Original BURTON'S Plumbing & Heating

Service • Remodeling • Construction

Family Owned and  
Operated for Over 40 Years  
34224 MICHIGAN AVE.  
WAYNE  
734-722-4170

### BATHROOM and KITCHEN REMODELING

COMPLETE  
PLUMBING  
SERVICE

Clip and Save

### \$25 off SERVICE CALL

Not valid with other offers or coupons. Call Burton Plumbing at 734-722-4170. Good thru 7-31-06

Clip and Save

### \$35 off WATER HEATER INSTALLATION

Not valid with other offers or coupons. Call Burton Plumbing at 734-722-4170. Good thru 7-31-06

Clip and Save

### \$100 off HOME REPIPE

Not valid with other offers or coupons. Call Burton Plumbing at 734-722-4170. Good thru 7-31-06

CE08424834

## Lose Weight for Life!

### St. Mary Mercy Bariatric Center...a Minimal Surgical Approach to Treating Obesity

The St. Mary Mercy Bariatric Center offers weight loss surgery, performed laparoscopically, resulting in minimal pain • less scarring • shorter hospitalization and recovery time.

Gain control of your health and prolong your life!

- Team approach to treatment and care
- Specially trained registered nurses, dieticians, behavioral specialists and exercise physiologists.

WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

April 15 • May 15 • June 14

**Tallal Zeni, MD, Bariatric Center Director**

Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery

- Fellowship, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Chicago, IL
- Experienced in advanced laparoscopic gastric bypass surgical techniques

**Paula Magid, Bariatric Program Director**

- Program Manager of the Year Award - 2004
- A post-op patient happy to share her experience

St. Mary Mercy Bariatric Center • Merlan Professional Bldg., Suite 311 • 14555 Levan Road • Livonia, MI  
Call 734-655-2692 (toll-free 800-686-9940) • [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org)

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

Great doctors and nurses in your own backyard