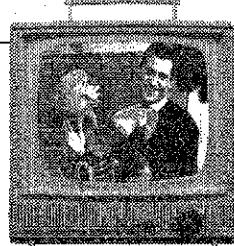
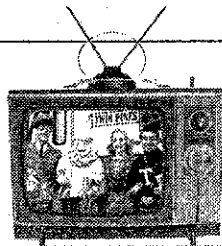


MU baseball team wins tournament
SPORTS - SECTION B



Writer brings back the golden days of TV
hometownLIFE - SECTION C



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'Big box' gets new life as amusement center

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It won't exactly be Cedar Point, but it'll be closer to home.

Area youths — and the young at heart — could soon have a new Westland hangout complete with an indoor rollercoaster, merry-go-round, ferris wheel, go-carts, arcade games and miniature golf.

Housed in the former Service

Merchandise building on Nankin Boulevard near Warren, the Westland Amusement Center also would offer some of those same amenities outdoors during warm weather.

Business partner Jamal Beydoun said Thursday that he hopes to open for business within two or three months, "if things go well."

City officials don't see any major hurdles. Beydoun will simply have to

comply with zoning regulations and receive the necessary inspections.

Westland Amusement Center would be next to Laser Quest — a longtime laser tag business popular among youths and young adults.

"I think it's going to be a great fit for that site," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said.

While the business certainly would appeal to youngsters, Cicirelli said she also believes that families would

use it.

"Even adults like the miniature golf," she said.

As for the rollercoaster, don't expect the Gemini, Magnum or other huge rides common in theme parks. Nonetheless, Beydoun said, some indoor areas of the former Service Merchandise will accommodate much smaller versions.

Beydoun is hopeful that work inside the 50,000-square-foot build-

ing could begin as early as next week.

The amusement center would be ideal for birthdays and other special occasions, although it wouldn't be limited to such events, Cicirelli said.

Cicirelli and other city officials welcomed Beydoun's proposal, saying it would fill one of several vacant "big box" stores near Westland Shopping Center.

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



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Charron, who was born on the same day Westland became a city on May 16, 1966, looks at some memorabilia he has received over the years. One of the items was a certificate of appreciation from the city's first mayor, the late Thomas H. Brown.

Happy birthday to you

Born and raised here, he celebrates his 40th along with the city

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

John Charron will celebrate his 40th birthday on May 16 — the same day Westland will mark its 40th anniversary as a city.

And, he has a claim to fame. City leaders believe that Charron is the only hometown resident who was born on May 16, 1966 — the day Westland became a city — and who still lives here.

What's more, he still lives in the same Westland duplex where his parents lived when they brought him home from Garden City Hospital.

"There are a lot of memories here," Charron said Thursday, sitting in his kitchen on Emerson.

The youngest of Shirley and Leonard Charron's five children, John Charron grew up in the Norwayne neighborhood, built by

the federal government to house wartime factory workers during World War II.

The duplex Charron rents — and other Norwayne housing — was meant for demolition after the war. The neighborhood is still there, and so is Charron.

His parents are dead, but Charron and wife Sunshine are raising four children — Christopher, 5, Kelcie, 6, Breann, 10, and Timothy, 14 — in the same duplex.

Charron has been invited to be honored by local leaders as the city marks its 40th anniversary at 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 16, with an outdoor celebration and indoor prayer breakfast at the Bailey Recreation Center. The public is invited.

"I wish my mom and dad were here to see this," he said.

PLEASE SEE BIRTHDAY, A4

BE PART OF THE PARTY

Westland's 40th anniversary celebration committee may be looking for you to help make this birthday special.

Call one of the phone numbers below if:

1) You know of a former city or district court worker who has died. Their names will be read during a prayer breakfast that will begin at 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 16, at the Bailey Recreation Center, behind City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh. The public is invited.

2) You know someone who was born to a Westland family on the day it became a city May 16, 1966. They will be recognized during the same prayer breakfast.

3) You want to get tickets to a 1960s dance set for 7-10 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the city's Friendship Center. Tickets are \$40 for a couple.

4) You know a business that has been in Westland since it became a city. The committee wants to honor such businesses during the 1960s dance and to display before and after pictures. The committee can arrange for new pictures.

Get tickets or for more information, call the mayor's office at (734) 467-3200, the city cable TV department at (734) 467-2995, or the parks and recreation department at (734) 467-3256.

Republicans catch 'heat' over plan to cut state school aid

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Republican lawmakers are feeling the heat not only from school officials, but also from residents and Democratic colleagues about a plan to take \$34 million from the state School Aid Fund and use it to balance the state budget.

The measure would cut state school aid funding for 2006 by \$20 per student, costing the Wayne-Westland Community Schools an estimated \$250,640.

"Their proposal is shameful," said state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "Just after putting into place a historic change which increases curriculum requirements which passed the legislature almost unanimously, the Republicans are now attempting to take the resources away to implement it."

"It's clear schools will need more money, not less to adapt to the new requirements. We can't afford to take money away

PLEASE SEE HEAT, A5

District gets ready for Project 180 Too!

Looking for tips on surviving teens in high school or middle school? Or ways to work with a hyperactive child?

You'll find answers Saturday, May 13, at the Wayne-Westland school board's Project 180 Too!

Planned for 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Franklin Middle School on Annapolis east of Howe, Project 180 Too! will offer sessions covering a variety of topics of interest to parents with children in elementary through high school, as well as keynote address by Linda Lee of radio station WYCD-FM (99.5), a parent in the Wayne-Westland district.

This is the second installment of Project 180 and it's geared for parents, with breakout sessions covering such topics as keeping kids safe on the Internet, grandparents raising children, working with children with ADD or ADHD, funding a child's college education now and fun and educational Internet sites.

Each half-hour session will be offered twice, so parents can take in two during the course of the event. There also will be prizes given out at the end of each session, as well as several grand prizes.

Child care will be provided for youngsters ages 5-10, with employees of Wayne Parks and Recreation coming to the school to provide activities in the school gymnasium.

There also will be facepainting and plenty of food. Chef Tony Paquette of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center will be doing the cooking, providing hot dogs, cookies and/or brownies, A&W Root Beer and bottled water.

Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza is again providing pizza. He partnered with the district for the first Project 180 You Can! in October 2004, baking and serving 50 pizzas to participants.

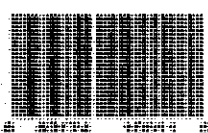
Parents can call the center at (734) 419-2709 to preregister. The sessions will be held in classrooms with seating for about 30 people. Parents, however, can show up the day of the event and still participate.

- By Sue Mason

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Volume 41
Number 99



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Coming Thursday in Filter

Birmingham Art Fair kicks off the festival season



Salvation Army is 'Doing Good'

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army has long done good work in the community. Now, it has a new theme reflecting that.

The organization will debut its new theme, "Doing the Most Good," on Mother's Day Sunday, May 14.

The theme emphasizes the work of the Salvation Army and its scope of services, said Capt. Matt O'Neil, corps commander with wife Mindie of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

As part of "Doing the Most Good," the Salvation Army in

southeast Michigan is working to raise \$750,000.

"We are allocated money through the division," said O'Neil, meaning some of that money returns to Wayne-Westland.

"We're not just about bell-ringing," he said of that familiar Christmas scene in which people ring bells for the Army at storefronts and other locations. There are many other programs, including after-school offerings for students and summer day camp.

The local Salvation Army is at 2300 Venoy in Westland 48186. It can be reached at (734) 722-3660.

Students from the Old Village School in Northville perform on stage during the VSA arts Festival at the Livonia Mall on Friday.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VSA arts fest bigger than ever at mall

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The Southeast Region Committee of VSA arts of Michigan kicked off its two-day festival Friday, May 5, with several hours of performances at Livonia Mall. More than 200 students from Garden City, Pontiac, Northville, and Detroit sang, danced, drummed, and signed at the showcase for children and adults with disabilities. Among the performers was the choir from Burger School for the autistic. The students dazzled the audience with their rendition of "Thankful for the USA."

"This is our largest festival ever," said Connie Lott who coordinated the festival. "Last year, a total of 178 students performed Friday and Saturday. We'll have another 50 adults tomorrow."

Lott and a team of volunteers, including her daughter

Kelly, Gwen Dietrich of Canton, Ken Ditttrick of Westland, and committee member Cindy Babcock, helped children with art projects at the hands-on activities table. Visitors stopped by to listen to the music and view the VSA arts of Michigan art exhibit that tours throughout the state all year long.

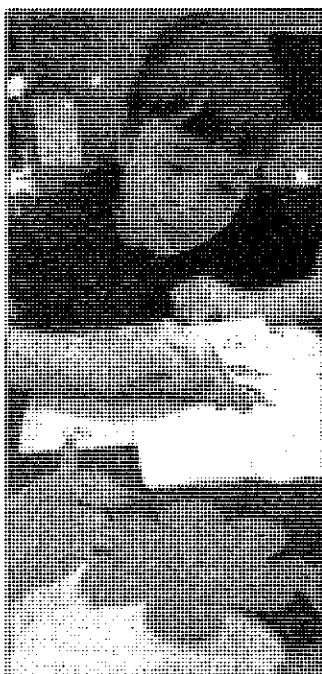
On Saturday, The BROE Therapy Choir and students from Visions Unlimited in Farmington Hills were scheduled to perform along with Raymond, a pianist from the Plymouth Opportunity House, the FAR Conservatory dancers from Birmingham, and a Livonia dance group under the direction of Karen Barsy.

This was the 16th time the Southeast Region Committee presented the festival to allow children and adults with disabilities to showcase their talent. VSA arts of Michigan is a nonprofit affiliated with VSA arts which was founded by

Jean Kennedy Smith to provide people with disabilities access to the arts. VSA is affiliated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the festival the Southeast Region Committee gives grants and scholarships for arts education. For more information about the festival, call (248) 568-0816. The mall continues to celebrate the arts by presenting local talent May 7-13, during National Music Week. Performers include the Ladywood High School Choir; Renaissance Barbershop Chorus; Shades of Gold jazz trio; Redford Union High School Madrigal Choir; Strutters, a senior dance group; and Charlene Berry who plays dulcimer. For more information, call (248) 476-1160 or stop by the mall to pick up a schedule.

lchomin@hometownlife.com



Eleven-year-old Mary Anne Muldoon, a student at Burger School for Autism in Garden City, works on an ornamental bag during the VSA arts Festival at the Livonia Mall Friday.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

According to Chase's 2006 Calendar of Events, Cinco de Mayo is the "Mexican national holiday recognizing the anniversary of the Battle of the Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three to one, defeated invading French forces of Napoleon III."

Should you wish to observe this celebration in Mexico proper (and after the wonky weather of April in Michigan, who wouldn't?), we have many books to help you with your travel plans.

The traditional Fodor's/Frommer's/Moon handbook type travel planners can be found at 917.89, but there are other books and Web sites you may consider.

Packing for many is a tricky thing. Many pack too much, others not enough. For packing tips, try *Smart Packing for Today's Traveler* by Susan Foster.

Should you get into trouble while you are away ("But honestly, officer, I thought I was in the shower in my room, not the fountain in the middle of the plaza."), you might need *Traveler's Rights: Your Legal Guide to Fair Treatment and Full Value* by Alexander Anolik.

To brush up on your Spanish, check out one of the several Spanish language tapes we have, such as *Spanish for Gringos*.

If you aren't sure what vaccinations

or other medication you might need to travel, check out the Center for Disease Control's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Finally, if you'd like to know if it is even safe to travel to a given country or a specific area in a country, try the State Department's Web site for descriptions of different countries, safety issues they may face, and whether or not there is a "Traveler's Advisory" against traveling to a given country. This site can be found at <http://www.state.gov>.

Hasta Luego! Enjoy, and don't forget the sunscreen!

Internet 101: 1 p.m. May 11.

A beginner's guide to the Internet. What is a mouse, how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site?

Internet 201: 7 p.m. May 15.

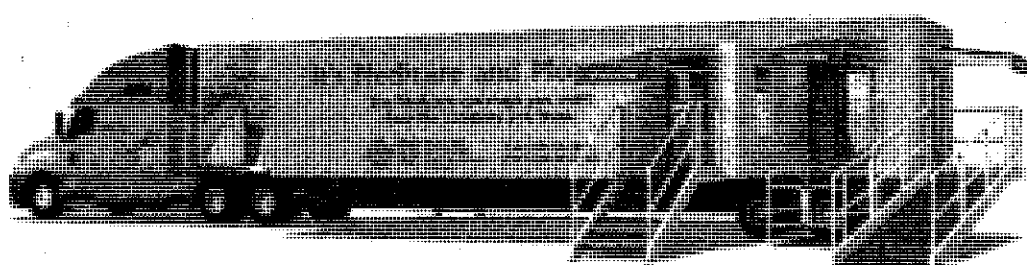
Learn about search engines - which ones do what, how to evaluate them, and how to pick good Web sites.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. May 16.

Join us as we discuss *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

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.

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The Blues Cruiser provides full access for everyone, including visitors who are disabled or challenged by limited mobility. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, please call 1-800-485-4415 (TTY 1-800-481-8704), 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications.



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For more information, visit: www.bcbsm.com/medicare

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Cruisers of the Week

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week for May 3 goes to Rick and Mary Vock of Westland with their 1951 Ford Club Coup. It's always been a dream of the Vocks to own their own classic car and it came true last year with the '51 Ford which has been completely restored. Westside Car Club member of the week is Bill Durant, with his 1949 Ford two-door sedan. The engine is a flat head V-8. The paint and body work is by Motor City Classics. More than 100 classic cars and 20 motorcycles showed up for the May 3 show which are held 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesdays at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road in Westland. The next show will be Wednesday, May 10.

Ready to roll

Motorcycle riders rev up for annual Ride for Life

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It rained. It poured. It was downright nasty, but that didn't stop 124 motorcycle riders from having a good time on the Ride for Life last June.

This year, Robin Murphy is planning to more than double the number of participants and have better weather.

"As nasty as it was, everybody had a ball," said Murphy, who organized the inaugural event as part of the 2005 Westland Relay for Life. "Everybody was soaking wet, but when you go through that, you just got to laugh."

The Ride for Life will leave the Bailey Recreation Center at noon Saturday, June 3, for an 80-mile ride to South Lyon Township Park and back to Chatters Lounge on Wayne Road in Westland.

This year's ride is being sponsored by the Motor City HOG (Harley Owners Group) Chapter, which helped with the event last year.

"They're really excited to be a part of it," Murphy said. "They've made it a run card event and are highly encouraging their members to participate. That should double the participants."

The event also has attracted riders out of the American Legion in Livonia. All bikes are welcome, however, groups that want to ride together need to show up at the Bailey Center together "because we're going to park them when they show up at Bailey for the ride," Murphy said.

There will be food and refreshments provided during a stop at the park and live enter-

tainment, door prizes and drawings that include a silver chopper donated by Steve Becher of Wayne.

Becher won the bike at the recent Westland Chamber of Commerce-Westland Community Foundation Derby Night and, after hearing about the event, tossed the keys to Murphy.

"I felt something hit me and he said, 'Here you go, it's yours,'" she said.

Murphy plans to sell \$5 tickets for the mini-chopper drawing. People interested in a ticket can call Murphy at (734) 237-4127 to find out the locations where they're on sale.

There also will be prizes provided by E Salon, Beaver Creek and Strykers, as well as numerous restaurant certificates. Murphy has also been able to create several packages for NASCAR, pampering and the Firing Line.

"The Firing Line was a big one last year, everyone wanted it," she said.

Last year's ride raised \$2,000 and Murphy hopes to double that amount this year. Registration is \$15 per person payable at registration the day of the ride.

The ride will take place one week in advance of Relay for Life. The 24-hour American Cancer Society event celebrates and honors cancer survivors and pays tribute to those who have been lost to the disease, while raising money to help fight it.

The relay will take place from 10 a.m. Saturday, June 10, to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 11. Twenty-two teams have signed up for the event, which will be held in Central City Park in Westland's

Civic Center complex on Ford West of Wayne Road.

Pam Shaw, who is team captain for Wings of An Angel, and Lynette Hobyak are chairing this year's event.

The teams have been raising funds and recruiting members in advance of the event. To date, the team of Hope Walks, with Stephanie Carlington as captain, is closing in on its \$2,500 fundraising goal and has exceeded its goal of recruiting 15 team members.

Also doing well is the Women of Westland, with Joy Ebel as captain. The team has raised almost half of its \$5,000 goal.

There also are teams from neighboring communities like Romulus — Romulus PMN Team led by Michelle Amos — and Garden City — the Garden City Youth Athletic Association with Pat Guziak as team captain.

The relay will include a victory lap by cancer survivors at 4 p.m. and the lighting of luminaries at 10 p.m. to remember those who have lost their lives to cancer.

People can sign up to participate in the relay by joining a team or by making a donation. Money raised goes toward research, education, advocacy and services for patients and their families.

For more information, or to sign up, visit the Westland Relay for Life Web site at www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/westland. Teams also can register for the event by calling Jenny McFarlane of the American Cancer Society at (248) 483-4343.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Assistant city attorney files in Plymouth district judge race

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The race for 35th District Court judge intensified this week after Northville Township attorney Jim Plakas announced he's throwing his hat into the fray.

Plakas, 38, filed 995 petition signatures to enter the three-man race. State law requires between 600-1,000 petition signatures to run for the judgeship, a six-year term which pays \$138,272 annually.

Plakas, an 11-year attorney with the Westland law firm of Angelo Plakas & Associates, said his experience includes representing plaintiffs, as well as prosecuting cases as an assistant city attorney for Westland. Plakas said it's that experience, from both sides of

the courtroom, that gives him the experience to be a judge.

"The more I've been practicing law, the more I feel this (becoming a judge) is something I want to do," Plakas said. "I love to mediate disputes between people, and I love the law. There's nothing better than sitting on the bench and applying the facts of the law and making a decision based on it."

Plakas will face incumbent Ron Lowe of Canton Township and attorney Brian Stacey of Plymouth Township in the Aug. 8 primary. Lowe has held the position for 12 years. Stacey has practiced law for 25 years. The candidates with the highest vote totals will challenge each other in the Nov. 7 general election.

Nominating petitions to enter the race for 35th District Court judge are due by 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, and can be filed at the Wayne County Clerk's office in downtown Detroit.

The 35th District Court in Plymouth serves the communities of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Northville and Northville Township.

Chief Judge John MacDonald, who has been on the bench for 21 years, will face mandatory age restrictions and be forced to retire after his term expires in January 2009. Judge Mike Gerou was elected to an eight-year term in 2003.

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DEATHS

A
Epraim Abraham
 Abraham, 39, of Rochester, died April 3.

C
Barbara J. (Nussmeier) Copeland
 Copeland, 57, of Pendleton, N.Y., died May 4.

D
Louise Devor
 Devor, 92, died May 3.

G
Robert John Gilfert
 Gilfert, 85, formerly of Birmingham, died May 1.

H
Sydney R. Hall
 Hall 83, of Rochester Hills, died April 18.
Alfred Eugene Hiveley
 Hiveley, 77, of Wayne, died April 30.
Joseph E. House
 House, 85, of Rochester Hills, died April 28.

K
Ruth M. Kay
 Kay, 84, of Sterling Heights, died April 30.
Roger J. Kukkola
 Kukkola, 72, of Amherstberg, Ontario, died April 21.

L
Mayme D. LaPalm
 LaPalm, 87, died May 5.

M
Ruel E. McKenzie
 McKenzie, 90, of Rochester Hills, died April 28.
Lois I. Mills
 Mills, 87, of Auburn Hills, died April 16.

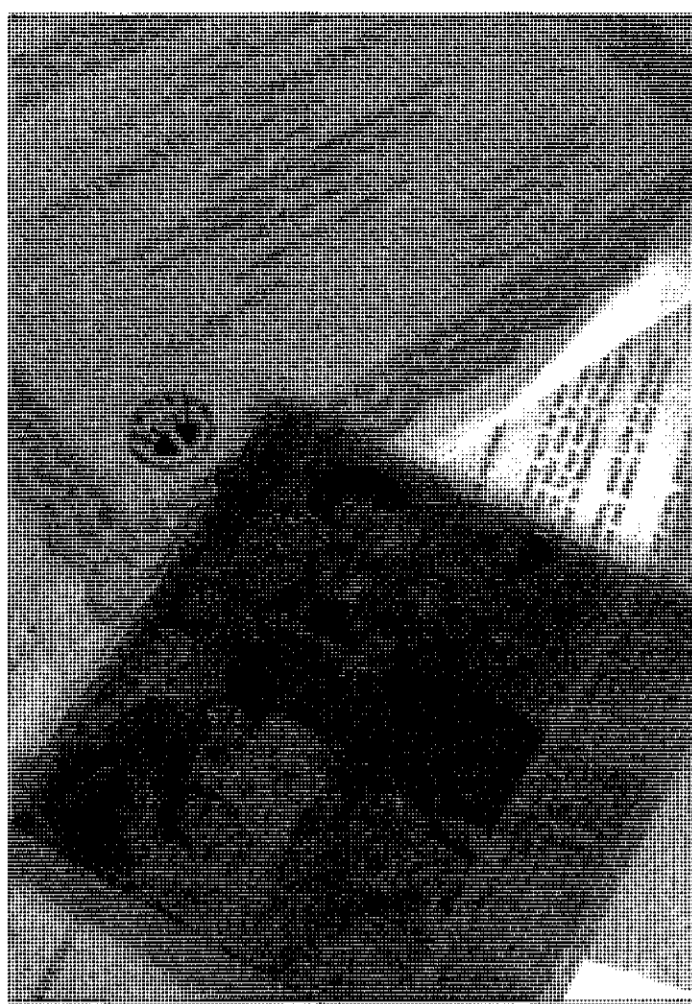
S
Howard J. Sanford
 Sanford, 61, of Rochester Hills, died April 30.
Vern Wallace Schilawske
 Schilawske, 90, formerly of Plymouth, died April 19.
Helen B. Schneider
 Schneider, 82, formerly of Farmington Hills, died May 3.
Tessie M. Souders
 Souders, 93, of Rochester Hills, died April 24.
John Stupka Jr.
 Stupka, 89, of Rochester Hills, died April 23.

T
Margaret D. Thompson
 Thompson, 80, of Lake Orion, died April 20.

V
Marylou Vickers
 Vickers, 76, of Rochester Hills, died April 21.

W
Sherry A. Winkel
 Winkel, 65, formerly of Rochester, died April 12.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C4.



John Charron has saved the different proclamations, certificates of appreciations and newspaper clippings that honored him for being born on the same day Westland became a city.

BIRTHDAY

FROM PAGE A1

The only time Charron spent away from Westland was when he was a U.S. Marine serving in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1987-91. He drove a truck in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A former machinist, he has worked for three years as a custodian at Marshall Middle School. Wearing a U.S. Marines T-shirt, Charron sat in his kitchen and reflected on how he and the city of Westland grew up together. He recalled playing baseball and basketball in open fields where houses now stand. He remembered walking as a child in the still-protected Sassafras Trails nature area, where he has taken his own children on occasion. Charron recalled going to the old Quo Vadis indoor theater on Wayne Road and to two drive-in theaters - the Algiers at Wayne and Warren and the Wayne Drive-in on Michigan Avenue.

years ago. "I remember when they had the big donkey (statue) standing outside," he said. Charron attended Lincoln Elementary, Adams Junior High and Wayne Memorial High School. He grew up listening to WRIF-FM. "He still does," Sunshine said, smiling as she stood in the family kitchen. Charron's family shopped at the Kmart store at Wayne and Cherry Hill roads. "I remember you could walk through Kmart and go into the old Chatham's grocery store," he said. Charron has noticed that many new retail shops have replaced older ones in Westland. And he said computers have taken the place of outdoor play for many children. "Kids are not as innocent as I was back then because of the Internet and everything they see on TV," he said. Charron still enjoys the outdoors, bow-hunting near Jackson and taking walks in the woods. May 16 won't be the first time he has been honored by city leaders. As he talked of his childhood, he showed an old newspaper picture in which Westland mothers, including his, were holding babies who turned 1 year old with the city. Standing with them was then-Mayor Thomas H. Brown, who has since died. Although he has a claim to fame, Charron is humble about it. He almost shies away from the spotlight. "To me, it's not really a big deal," he said. His wife quickly corrected him. "This is your 15 minutes of fame," she told him. "It is a big deal. We can tell our children about this as they get older."

His mother shopped at the old A&P grocery store - now The Palace - at Palmer and Venoy, and the family enjoyed getting neighborhood pizza from Marina's, which still exists but in a different location. "I loved their pizza," Charron said. Charron recalled eating at the now-closed Daly Drive-In restaurant and ordering food from an outdoor speaker. "My mother always liked the Daly dogs," he said. "I never liked them that much. She went there a lot when she was pregnant with me. Maybe that's why I didn't like them." Charron also remembers having Bray's hamburgers before the restaurant moved to its new building a few

Car show benefits villages

Rev up those classic car engines for the city of Westland's 40th anniversary celebration. The fun will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 21, with a car show at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road south of Marquette. Cost will be \$10, with proceeds going to help restore the city's historic Octagon and Rowe houses, which are on the village park site. A best-of-show trophy will be awarded. A classic car cruise is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., going from the historic village south on Wayne Road to Michigan Avenue, east to Telegraph Road, north to Plymouth Road and south on Wayne Road, stopping at Chatter's Bar & Grill on Wayne near Central City Parkway. Chatter's will offer 25-cent coney and other food specials, shot specials, 50/50 drawings and music from the 1960s. For more information, call Tonya Cramier-Onca at (734) 595-0288, ext. 235.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On MAY 16, 2006 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The 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
1986	Chevy	S-10/Stwgn	Black	1G8CT18R0G0125713
1996	Chevy	Cavalier/4 Dr	Green	1G1JF524XT7150377
1996	Plymouth	Voyager/Stwgn	Blue	1P4GP44R9TB339697
1992	Olds	4 Dr	Red	1G3AL54NXN6377065
1998	Ford	Escort/2 Dr	Blue	3FAKP1136WR222771
1997	Chrysler	Cirrus/4 Dr	White	1C3EJ56H3VN596409
1991	Mercury	Topaz/4 Dr	Blue	2MEPM37SXMB621485
1993	Chevy	Blazer/Stwgn	Black	1GNDD13W5P2201624
1993	Ford	Escort/4 Dr	Green	1FAPP14J0PW372891
1987	Ford	Mustang/2 Dr	Black	1FABP41A7HF234332
1994	Chrysler	New Yorker/4 Dr	White	2C3ED46F7RH654911

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: May 7, 2006

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orange Co. will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 3650 Enterprise Dr., Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-8117 on 5-24-06 at 10:30 am. Personal property described below in the matter of:

B168-Kim Butler-mattress, couch, totes
 B071-Lynn D. Walsh-misc. items
 B072-Michael Kowalski-power tools, washer, totes
 B152-Evelyn Finn-dresser, couch, boxes
 B181-Peri Crim-toys, box spring
 B204-Julia Karapetian-box spring, couch, toys
 B265-Steven Weaver-coffee table, toys, boxes
 B298-Andre Broughton-totes, bags
 B367-Michael Campbell-boxes, ac unit, wheel chair
 B374-Marshawn Robinson-couch, mattress, box spring
 B401-Barbara Kelley-clothing, toys, bicycle
 B406-William Ferguson-TV, totes, golf clubs
 C023-Kimberly Moore-Barnes-misc. items
 E047-Robert Mayo-dryer, washer, toys
 F047-Brian Thiel-clothing, desk, dresser

Publish: May 7 & 14, 2006

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On the premises where said property has been stored and in which are located at Public Storage, 20080 Allen Rd., Trenton, MI 48034 (248) 263-3880, on 5-24-06 at 9:30 am. Personal property described below in the matter of:

1025-Nicole Hellens-boxes, bags, misc. items
 1101-Lashunda Miller-dresser, 3 bikes, boxes
 947-Ken Paul-misc. items
 831-Timothy Harpster-chair, couch, dresser
 918-Jason Appleby-dresser, boxes, end tables
 924-Amanda Genton-boxes, bags
 712-Jamie Walls-computer, dresser, big screen TV
 623-Eric Johnson-dining table, end table, 2 TV's
 519-Marilyn Ewings-boxes, misc. items
 513-Roy Poore-misc. items
 213-Michael Kearns-couch, dresser
 153-Cynthia Clemo-boxes, 3 dressers
 148-Milton Engle-misc. items

Publish: May 7 & 14, 2006

Bill would limit funeral protests

Legislation that would shield funeral guests from the barbs of angry protesters was approved last week by the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs. "Families have rights too," said state Sen. Laura Toy, the committee chair. "Families have the right to mourn the loss of their loved one in peace. If protesters want to share their opinions they can do so at a respectful distance." Under the bills, protesters would have to stay at least 500 feet away from a funeral service or risk prosecution under the state's disorderly conduct laws. The legislation comes in response to a wave of protests at military funerals in the state where groups have hurled insults and threats at the family and friends of fallen soldiers attending their memorial services. Senate Bill 1229, sponsored by Sen. Toy, and four other bills in the package will now go to the full Senate for a vote.

Cheer for the hometeam read today's SPORTS section

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HEAT

FROM PAGE A1

from our children and their education just to balance the budget."

In her proposed budget released in early February, Gov. Jennifer Granholm had proposed a \$200 per pupil increase in state school aid for fiscal 2006. The Republican proposal, which Anderson said has already been approved by the state Senate, would trim that amount to \$180 with the remainder going to balance the general fund budget.

Democrats are referring to the proposal as "raiding K-12 school funds," and Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy agrees.

"This is another attempt to steal valuable resources from the School Aid Fund and transfer them to the Community College budget," said Baracy. "The original intent of Proposal A was never to use

this money for higher education, they were intended to be used in K-12 classrooms."

Baracy said residents would be better served if the legislature worked toward "solving this structural budget crisis so Michigan can once again become a financially solvent state."

Wayne-Westland has seen \$23 million in reserves dwindle because of three years of frozen state school aid payments and proration. The district has tried to hang on to the surplus through cost containment, but it appears the money will be gone by the end of the 2007-08 school year.

"Every resident in Michigan needs to let their legislator know that enough is enough," Baracy said. "Districts across this state have cut to the bone and children are suffering educationally. Our leaders in Lansing must work toward solving this structural budget crisis so Michigan can once again become a financially solvent state."

Anderson calls the proposal "wrong-headed," adding that it is reflective of a "culture" in the legislature that has come about because of the "unbridled control by the Republicans."

"I know it sounds partisan, but I have witnessed it," he said. "It defies logic. They have the votes and they're going to run it through come hell or high water."

Anderson added that lawmakers would be wiser to "give more money to education to provide our children with the tools they will need to compete for the jobs of the future."

Baracy agrees. "The political rhetoric must stop and a bipartisan collaborative effort must be made to take action now," he said. "Their priorities must be on improving Michigan's economy, bringing in new businesses, creating jobs and dealing with the fundamental issues that are hurting all of us."

sinason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Day campers rely on generosity

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Kids ages 6-12 have a great time at Salvation Army summer day camp in Wayne-Westland each year. Some of those youngsters need a little help affording camp, so corps officials are seeking help from generous community members.

"We do tons of activities," said Tyrone Peterson, community programs director for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army on Venoy in Westland,

This year's program starts June 26 and runs six weeks, ending with an Aug. 5 block party.

Activities include arts and crafts, a computer lab and Bible learning.

There are a couple field trips each week to such places as the Detroit Institute of Arts and swimming facilities.

The camp costs \$25 per child per week or \$125 for the six weeks.

There is a camp director, along with six-eight counselors.

"It's a well-rounded day

camp, especially for the price," Peterson told Westland Rotarians at an April 20 luncheon.

Camp organizers try to take Norway area children first, offering a structured program of summer activities.

Donations payable to the Salvation Army are welcome at 2300 Venoy, Westland 48186. The camp can accommodate 40 kids, and there are usually 10-20 who need financial help.

For information, call the Salvation Army at (734) 722-3660.

GOLF OUTINGS

D.A.R.E.

Westland police have announced the 16th annual golf outing for the department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program on Tuesday, June 13.

Registration will start at 7 a.m. with the event following at 8 a.m. at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse Road, east of I-275, in Wayne.

Cost is \$125 per person and includes a golf cart, lunch and dinner.

Businesses and others also may be a par sponsor for \$100, which includes getting a sign placed on the course and a quarter-page ad in the program; a birdie sponsor, which

includes providing a cash or door prize and being recognized in the program; or an eagle sponsor for \$700, which includes four green fees, two signs placed on the course, a full-page ad in the program and a special framed certificate.

There will be a hole-in-one contest sponsored by North Bros. Ford.

For more information, call D.A.R.E. instructor Ken Kline at (734) 722-3273.

Rotary

Westland Rotary Club will have its 2006 golf outing Thursday, May 25, at the Golden Fox Golf Course, 8768

N. Territorial.

Peg as a for the "Classy Outing for a Classic Cause," golf packages at \$160 per golfer, \$600 for a foursome and \$685 for the Eagle, a four-some and birdie hole sponsorship, and includes a 11 a.m. shotgun start, scrambles format, prizes and filet mignon dinner and banquet.

Sponsorships - birdie hole for \$100, classic premium for \$300 and community champion for \$1,000 - are available.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123, Ext. 222, or (248) 474-1503. Proceeds to Salvation Army summer camp and Rotary charities.

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Drivers making their way around M-14 construction zone

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Julie Bernard chuckles a little when she's asked whether the construction on M-14 has affected business at Ilmor Engineering, where Bernard is vice president.

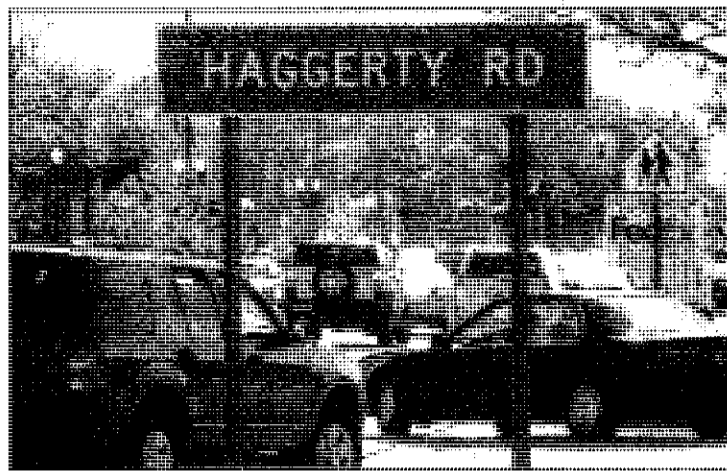
"It hasn't really affected us," said Bernard, who gets to avoid the problems because she lives south of them. "But we're trying to do some hiring, and a some of our interviewees have been late because of it."

It's all part of life since the Michigan Department of Transportation began its \$38 million project to reconstruct M-14 in both directions from Haggerty to the Washtenaw/Wayne County line. Construction is set to run through November. The project is designed to upgrade the surface condition of the roadway and do repairs to some 17 bridges, along with work on the ramps to both Sheldon and Beck.

When MDOT officials announced the project last winter, they were hoping the two basic types of drivers would find alternate routes — drivers from the Ann Arbor area who work in Detroit would use I-94, while those who work in the Plymouth-Canton area would use M-14 and its nearby surface roads.

While that's happening to some degree, MDOT spokesman Rob Morosi said the department has fielded concerns from both kinds of travelers about access to the road. The eastbound exit to Beck and the north/southbound ramps from Beck to M-14 are expected to be closed through early July.

"Local drivers want to know if there's any way to open up the Beck Road interchange, and through-traffic (drivers) have concerns about the slow-downs at Sheldon," Morosi said. "Local traffic wants more access, and through traffic wants less. We're confident we've worked it out the best way we can."



With normal M-14 drivers taking to surface streets, Ann Arbor Road gets a little busier, especially at rush hour.



Right now, eastbound M-14 is shut down, and traffic runs one lane in each direction on the westbound side of the expressway.

In early July, traffic will shift to the eastbound side and westbound M-14 will close. That will also include north- and southbound entrance ramps from Beck to M-14, and the westbound exit to Beck.

In September and October, drivers will see intermittent lane closures on both sides, along with the closing of exits to Sheldon, with traffic diverted to Beck.

Morosi said the project is on track to be completed in November. In the meantime, drivers are making the best of it.

Laurel Thomas Gnagey used to be able to get to her job at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in about 30 minutes, with M-14 as her primary route.

Now Gnagey, executive editor of *The University Record* who lives near Five Mile and Haggerty, said she bypasses the worst of the construction

by "meandering over to North Territorial or Gotfredson."

"I've noticed a lot of people doing that, so it's a little more congested that way," she said. "That slows me down a little bit, but it's a little less frustrating than being in a long line of cars."

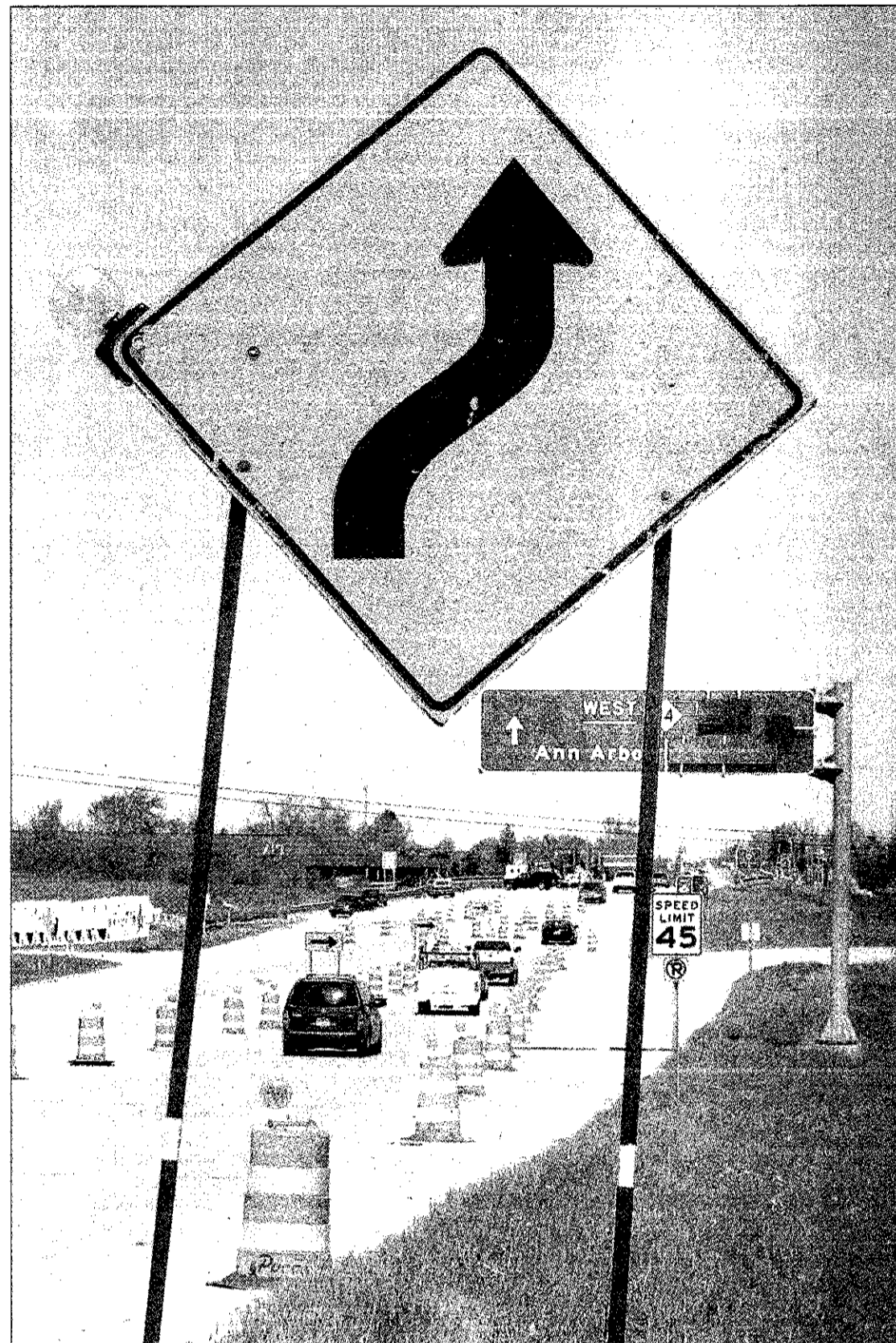
Ian Hawkins, general manager of the Marine Department at Ilmor Engineering, has to travel every day from Carpenter Road south of Ann Arbor to Plymouth. He said the drive hasn't been as bad as he thought.

"Some days you can stay on M-14 all the way to Gotfredson and then you have your choice of North Territorial or Sheldon; Ann Arbor Road has been remarkably quiet," he said. "It has been something of a pain, because you have to deal with all the side roads and the school bus traffic, but it hasn't been as bad as I thought it would be."

Hawkins said the finished product should be worth the wait.

"They seem to be ripping it out at the moment, but it used to be like a motocross track with all the bumps," Hawkins said. "If (congestion) doesn't get any worse, it'll be OK."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The eastbound M-14 ramps from Beck Road are closed until early July as work continues on the reconstruction of the expressway.

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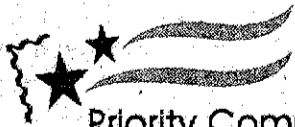
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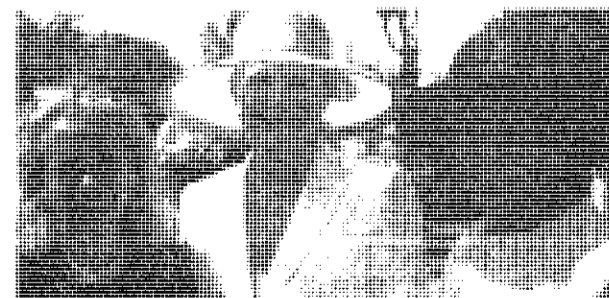
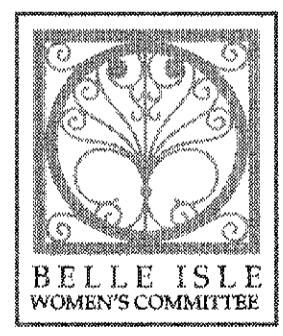
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Pets' photos star in MHS 2007 calendar

Do you use up a whole roll of film taking photos of your companion animal? Do you show their pictures off to everyone you know?

Then the Michigan Humane Society wants you - or at least your photos - for its 2007 wall calendar.

For a \$20 entry fee, your companion animal is guaranteed placement in the MHS's ninth annual calendar.

The 12 best photos will be selected as the "Pet of the Month" and all other photos will appear throughout the full-color calendar in a variety of formats.

Photos must be in color, horizontal in layout, no larger than 4-by-6 inches and contain only animals. Polaroid® photos are not acceptable.

For quality reasons, any color prints made at home on inkjet or laser printers will not be considered for "Pet of the Month." However, these types of prints will be accepted for the smaller photos used throughout the calendar.

Any photo taken at a commercial studio must include a signed copyright release from the photographer.

All entries that meet these requirements

Photos must be in color, horizontal in layout, no larger than 4-by-6 inches and contain only animals. Polaroid® photos are not acceptable. For quality reasons, any color prints made at home on inkjet or laser printers will not be considered for 'Pet of the Month.' However, these types of prints will be accepted for the smaller photos used throughout the calendar.

and are postmarked by June 15, will be included in the 2007 calendar.

Enter by mailing a photo of your companion animal (one photo per entry fee) with a \$20 check or money order to: Michigan Humane Society 2007 Calendar, 26711 Northwestern Highway, Suite 175, Southfield, MI 48034.

Clearly mark your name, address, day-

time and evening phone numbers, and your animal's name on the back of the photo using a permanent felt-tip marker. Do not use a ballpoint pen, which may damage the photo.

An entry form can be downloaded from the Michigan Humane Society Web site at www.michiganhumane.org.

The 2007 wall calendars, which are not included with the entry fee, will be available for sale beginning in the fall at the three Michigan Humane Society shelters and veterinary medical centers, by calling (866) MHUMANE 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday or online at www.michiganhumane.org.

Proceeds will support the many programs and services offered by the Michigan Humane Society, a private, non-profit organization which cares for more than 100,000 animals each year at its three metro Detroit adoption and veterinary medical centers in Detroit, Rochester Hills and at the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

Established in 1877, the MHS is one of the oldest and largest animal welfare organizations in the country.

ACHIEVERS

Olivia A. Gerhard of Westland earned a certified medical assistant credential after recently passing AAMA CMA Certification/Recertification Examination for medical assistants.

Gerhard is a graduate of the medical assisting program at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and is employed at the Family Practice Center of Livonia.

Vera Sattler is featured as part of May's Windows of the Month for the Michigan Stained Glass Census. The Census is a program of the Michigan State University Museum.

Sattler designed three sets of stained glass window panels, located at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Westland, Akiva Hebrew Day School in Southfield, and Mardigan Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Sattler was born in West Berlin, Germany, and moved to the United States in 1951 where she attended Wayne State University and received a bachelor of science degree in art. She worked as a window restorer for Detroit Stained Glass Works before opening her own studio designing church window windows fabricated by the Steven Frank (West) Studio in Livonia.

Lisa Freese, a paraprofessional at Patchin Elementary School, has been recognized for her work at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency's Celebration of Excellence in Education program May 3.

Also recognized at the ceremony was social worker **Wendy Lyon** for her work as an ancillary professional at Madison and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

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- All door prize entrants will be entered in Portmeirion drawing held in New York on May 19th. Winners will be notified by mail. Grand prize is \$400, choice of Portmeirion product, second prize is \$125, choice of Portmeirion product and third prize is \$70, choice of Portmeirion product.
- Please see a sales associate for additional details regarding this exciting event!

Don't miss this opportunity to meet and speak with Anwyl during this rare visit to the United States!

Got Game?
Yep, got scores, too.

SPORTS

Fun Run/Walk

North Brothers Ford and the City of Westland will hold its eighth annual 5K Fun Run/Walk 9 a.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

The preregistration deadline is May 10. Cost is \$12 for students 18 years and under and \$15 for adults by May 10 and \$18 thereafter.

Registration will open at 8 a.m. the day of the run/walk.

There will be prizes and recognition of the top three male and female participants in all age groups, T-shirts for those who register by May 10, race refreshments, water and fruit available at checkpoints along the course and after the race and a handicap accessible flat course and awards for the top three in the handicap group.

Proceeds benefit the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

For more information, call Jackie Marcaccini at North Brothers Ford, (734) 524-1243 or e-mail her at jackie@north-bros.com.

Senior Dinner Dances

The Wayne Ford Civic League is offering a dinner for seniors on Sunday, May 28, and June 11. The dinner will be noon to 3:30 p.m. at the league at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland.

Price is \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members.

There is a full buffet dinner with beer, wine, pop, and dancing to live entertainment.

The dinners are for people age 60 and older. Call (734) 728-5010 for more information.

Scholarship benefit

The Wayne Business and Professional Women will have a fashion show and dinner with a raffle and vendors p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the Wayne Community Center, Howe Road at Annapolis in Wayne.

The benefit supports the club's General Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for a high school girl and woman who are entering college.

Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for senior citizens and those 16 years and under.

Tickets are available by calling Noel Derr at (734) 718-7328.

Goodbye Tea

Schweitzer Elementary Principal Diane Nichols and third-grade teachers Pat Colligan and Carole Osterling will be the guest of honors at a good-bye tea will be held 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 31. The tea will be held in the gymnasium of the school at 2601 Treadwell, Westland.

Former students and staffers and friends are invited to come a wish them farewell and good luck. Tea and cookies will be served.

Garage Sales

Almost 80 different vendors are participating in the Westland Community Garage Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 13, in the Parking lot between the Westland City and Westland Police Station, on Ford Road south of Wayne Road.

The Westland Historical Commission will have specialty items for sale, while the Westland Parks Advisory Board will be selling hot dogs and the Westland Stars Cheer and Dance team will be selling pizza, popcorn, cotton candy and have a bake sale.

There will be a variety of items for sale at the event, sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Kicks for Kids, Westland Therapeutic Recreation Club and Westland Youth Assistance.

The Romanowski VFW Post 6896 of Westland, will have a garage sale, featuring office furniture, donated by Arvinmeritor of Troy and "priced to sell out," 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 13, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 14, at the post, at 28945 Joy. For more information, call (734) 525-9454.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford.

The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

Weekend Carnival

The Wayne Ford Civic League is hosting the Skerbeck Bros. Carnival on its grounds at 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland, starting May 25. The carnival will be operation the entire Memorial Day weekend including Monday, May 30th. There will be a beer tent with a variety of entertainment, including a battle of the bands event Friday night with first-, second and third-place cash prizes.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center at 36745 Marquette, Westland, invites you to the best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland.

The dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 26. Enjoy spaghetti, salad, desert, entertainment and dancing for just \$6.

For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Help Mother Earth

Help the earth and help your park by planting pine seedlings at Merriman Park, west side of Merriman south of Palmer. Scout groups, church groups, home school groups, even civic clubs and preschoolers are invited to adopt a tree and plant it along the park fence between 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday, May 12.

Throughout the summer, adoptive "families" will be asked to tend to their trees by watering them regularly.

Participants should register by Tuesday, May 9. For more information, call Margaret Martin, Westland Parks and Recreation program supervisor, or Lesa Blackburn, deputy director, at (734) 722-7620.

Eclectic Crafters

Ever thought of trying a craft but were afraid of investing too much before you knew if you were going to like it? Ever wanted a quiet place to do your scrapbooking? Ever wonder if there are others as crazy about art and crafts as you are?

The answer to those questions could be the Eclectic Crafters which meet 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the second and third Monday of every month and 5:30-8:30 p.m. the first Monday from at the Bailey Center in the Westland Civic Center Complex

on Ford Road west of Carlson.

The program is offered in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For \$3, participants can try out different crafts, art materials and tools or bring their own project to work on. There will be inexpensive make-and-takes available.

For more information, call (734) 620-3938.

Bowling benefit

The Westland Jaycees will be hosting a Bowl-a-Thon Sunday, May 21, to raise funds to purchase a Thermal Imager for the City of Westland Fire Department.

The fund-raiser will be held at Town and Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and includes three games, shoes, pizza and a pop, mystery games and door prizes. Or get in free with \$40 in donations.

For more information or to confirm a spot, call the Westland Jaycees hotline at (734) 26-0400 and leave a message or Bryan Lakotas at (734) 326-7380.

Baby shower

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's Childbirth and Maternal Services Department will have a Community Baby Shower 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 18, in the second floor conference room of the hospital, 33155 Annapolis at Venoy in Wayne.

All pregnant and perspective couples are invited to attend the evening of fun, information and prizes.

Child birth educators, pediatric nurses, car seat specialists and physicians will be on hand to answer questions. Formula representatives also will have information available.

Donations of prizes for the shower also are being sought.

Registration is preferred and women and couples interested in attending can call the Maternal Services Department at (734) 467-4507 or (734) 457-5588 or by e-mail at gerakd@oakwood.org.

Fellowship luncheon

The Wayne Rotary Club will welcome the mayors of Wayne and of Windsor, Ontario,

Canada, Al Hadius and Eddie Francis, respectively, to a Rotary District 6400 International Fellowship Luncheon at noon Tuesday, May 16, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe.

The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Jennifer Jones whose talk will be "Imagine the possibilities Rotary International can have in Resolving World Conflict and Resolution."

Hadius and Francis will exchange keys to their respective cities at the luncheon.

For more information, call Art Quintal, project chair at (734) 722-8925 or by e-mail at Aquin16087@aol.com.

Summer camp

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registration for 2006 Summer Day Camp at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

Registration will be accepted in person 4-6 p.m. May 9, 11, 23, 25 and June 6, 8, 12 and 13. For an appointment, call (734) 721-7400, Ext. 1306.

Day Camp begins June 14 and runs through Aug. 25. It will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday for children ages 5-13. Daily, weekly and full season rates are available.

Daily activities include swimming, ice skating (August only), arts and crafts, sports and board games, wallyball, outdoor play and more. There also will be field trips every week and special events.

Sneak preview

Wayne-Westland's Class of 2019 will get a sneak peek at what is waiting for them in kindergarten.

From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 12, incoming kindergarten students at Lincoln Elementary School, 33800 Grand Traverse, Westland, are invited to spend some time in their future classroom with current students and teachers.

While the students are busy in the classroom the parents will meet with the principal and receive a welcome. Call the school at (734) 419-2700.

Mother's Day benefit

The YWCA Western Wayne

County has Mother's Day Cards available for a minimum donation of \$25. Donations from the Mother's Day cards will help the YWCA to create more programs to help women and their families. Approximately 1,000 families benefit from the programs and services offered by the YWCA, and there are more who need help everyday.

For more information, about the Mother's Day Cards, or to purchase a card for one of the wonderful women in your life, call the YWCA Western Wayne Co. at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 20.

That's entertainment

The Westland Friendship Center will feature impersonators of Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond and other performers during a variety show 1-3 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Michael Carluccio as Frank Sinatra and former Westland City Councilman David James as Neil Diamond will be among the performers, according to senior center Director Peggy Ellenwood.

Tickets are \$6, and proceeds will go to the Westland Relay for Life - a benefit in June to help the American Cancer Society. The show is being sponsored by the Westland Jaycees.

For more information, call the senior center at (734) 722-7628.

Spring Bazaar

Come one, come all. Bring your friends and family to shop for crafts and home party goods 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Wildwood Elementary School, 500 N. Wildwood, Westland.

The vendors will include Mary Kay, Tupperware, Arbonne, Parti Lite, Avon Pampered Chef. There also will be a bake sale and door prizes. All money raised will go toward guided reading books.

Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children age 12 and under.

Senior volleyball

The Westland senior citizen Friendship Center hopes to start a co-ed volleyball team to compete in Wayne County's 2006 Senior Olympics.

If interested, call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0159.

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Alternate roads beckon, during orange cone season

The sign says "4 minute delay." That seems reasonable. Just past Godfredson Road, traffic is funneled into one lane and shifted over into what used to be the left-hand westbound lane of M-14.

Eastbound M-14 has been taken down to the earth and gravel base, from where it will be reconstructed into a brand new road. Then the whole process will switch in the opposite direction.

I didn't time my progress through the winding lane shift. But the delay seemed longer than four minutes. At Beck Road and at Sheldon Road, traffic merges into the single lane causing cars on M-14 to come to a standstill. Construction trucks also move along the narrow corridor, moving from one job site to another. Psychologically, it was much longer than four extra minutes.

Coming back the other way is worse. The Newburgh entrance onto I-96 is under normal circumstances a road engineer's demented joke. Ordinarily, people going way too fast are trying to move over to the right to get onto I-275, while cars coming onto the freeway from Newburgh are trying to move to the left. (I have often imagined the designer of this fiasco parking on the Schoolcraft overpass and laughing at drivers trying to maneuver along his insane roadway.)

But now this happy experience is made even more exciting with the backup from the road construction and everyone trying to squeeze down into one lane.

Of course, some drivers just pretend that road construction isn't happening. If they usually rocket along at 80 mph, a few earth movers, rollers and construction workers won't deter them until they absolutely have to stop. At that point, they like to kiss the back bumper of the person ahead of them just to remind them how fast they'd go if they weren't hindered.

I've gone back to the surface roads. Ann Arbor Road is a pleasant drive, once you get past the commercial district in Plymouth. Attractive suburban homes are followed by nurseries, farms and tiny Frain's Lake. This time of year, trees are in blossom, the air is fresh. And though I'm going slower, I seem to be moving faster. Nobody seems eager to touch my back bumper or scoot around me to touch the bumper of the driver ahead.

Orange cone season is a frustration to everyone. Michigan roads always seem to be under

Despite the frustrations, we all know that roads need to be repaired. Every year they need patching. Every few years they need resurfacing. And every so often, they need to be rebuilt.

construction from April to November.

Michigan's freeze-thaw winters aren't kind to concrete. And some will tell you that Michigan's lenient weight laws have allowed too many heavy trucks on our roads, requiring more resurfacing and reconstruction than in other states. But at a time when Michigan politicians are bending over backward to woo and please the business community, they are not about to alienate the trucking industry (and the customers they serve) with more stringent weight laws.

Despite the frustrations, we all know that roads need to be repaired. Every year they need patching. Every few years they need resurfacing. And every so often, they need to be rebuilt.

We can find that alternate route that takes us away from the traffic, the noise, the impatience of other drivers (who aren't as level-headed as we are). We might find that we actually like the alternate route. The trees, the lakes, the farm houses, the horses and cows, the new subdivisions, are a pleasant diversion. They are especially nice at the end of a long day at work and far preferable to squeezing into that squalid mix on the highway.

There is a serious matter, of course. The signs remind that traffic fines are doubled in a construction zone. The workers who put up with heat, rain, dirt, muck and gas fumes shouldn't have to put up with inattentive, rude or reckless drivers. Too many construction workers are killed or injured on the job because of driver stupidity or rage (or any lethal combination).

In this metro area, where everyone depends on the freeways to get from one place to another, it is important that our roads are maintained. Those orange cones are your tax dollars at work.

Quite often the same people who rail most loudly about road construction delays are the same people who would rail if the roads were in disrepair.

Take a deep breath, follow the signs or take the road less traveled.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net.

Drastic action needed in 'single state recession'

As Michigan continues its single state recession (Louisiana excluded), members of both political parties are weighing in on how to fix our economic problems. Members from both parties, including seven members from the Democratic Party, recently voted for the near immediate repeal of the Single Business Tax before the governor's veto.

Others have suggested that the government needs to step in and fix the economy by creating jobs through governmentally sponsored programs such as infrastructure projects. Both theoretically make sense,

however only one is practical. The leadership in Michigan readily forgets that Michigan has a balanced budget amendment, which does not allow the state government to create a budget deficit.

Furthermore, because Michigan cannot create a budget deficit, Michigan cannot increase government spending to levels necessary

to fix the economy without increasing taxes to a level that in a sense would keep the status quo in unemployment. The only outcome from such a tax increase would be a transfer of power from individuals and businesses to government, something no one desires.

Some have suggested selling governmental assets or using the payout from the cigarette industry to fuel the economy. Those options restrict the government to a short-term fix with no long-term solution. If Michigan turns to the election year short-term fix.

How can the leadership in Lansing fix the economy and create more jobs?

For starters, the legislature can re-pass a bill to cut the Single Business Tax (SBT) and the governor can sign it. A recent poll by Lansing-based EPIC-MRA and the *Detroit News* (Bunkley, April 12, 2006) showed that only a few business owners in Michigan put the SBT on the top of their lists as the most annoying tax. The direct target of the SBT is not small or medium sized businesses, but the large businesses, which pose a direct threat to the existing economic order.

As the old saying went, "what's good for GM, is good for America," thus, to create a tax, which helps GM and the others of the Big Three to survive in perpetuity and ward off all competition is good — not anymore.

The citizens in Michigan need to understand that the SBT not only taxes businesses creating a disincentive for investment, but also helps fund the endless bureaucracy in Michigan, which creates enough buffer time for the government to pick who wins and who loses. That practice must end.

The citizens of Michigan need to come to a hard realization — they live in a new, smaller world, Michigan is in rapid decline, the Big Three are mortal, and to maintain the status quo is costly to the welfare of the citizenry and requires drastic action.

As the system stands, Michigan probably could see gradual increases in jobs through the creation of small and medium sized businesses in Michigan, which should happen while the SBT is still in place. However, the situation created requires not just a steady increase in small and medium businesses, but also an increase in the presence of large businesses in Michigan. In order to see a cork plug up the unemployment problem, Michigan needs new large businesses to enter the market.

By cutting the SBT, the leadership can begin to lure such large businesses to Michigan. Michigan already possesses great value to businesses — U of M, MSU, and all the other great universities, the best-trained labor force in the world, and an already established manufacturing infrastructure.

Michigan needs to create an economic incentive for large businesses to relocate to Michigan and not Indiana or Georgia, who are Michigan's true competitors. The best way to accomplish this task is to cut the SBT, free the market and create an open field of opportunity.

Finally, the citizens of Michigan should respect the governor's attempt to stick to ideology and restore the old order, which was so fruitful. Unfortunately, we live in tough times and tough times call for good judgment and common sense leadership, which requires drastic action that may result in a change of the system.

To cut the SBT is the first step in that change and truthfully the only option considering Michigan's rule structure. In the end, such a bold move shall become hailed as a movement toward progression rather than the continuance of Michigan's single state regression.

Brad Dizik is a Farmington Hills resident and a student at James Madison College at Michigan State University.



Brad Dizik



Hugh Gallagher

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Mental Health Task Force agrees to move on Authority

At the first meeting of the Wayne County Commission's Task Force on Mental Health Thursday, commissioners agreed to move forward on creating an Authority to take over operations of the beleaguered Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

"The consensus of the Task Force is that an Authority would help resolve a lot of the issues plaguing the Agency," said Commissioner Phillip Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, who chairs the Task Force. "We will put forth a resolution, after hearing from the public, that will hopefully be supported by the entire Commission."

The Task Force, which was created by Commission Chairwoman Jewel Ware, will hold at three public hearings during May to hear input from citizens, mental health consumers and other interested parties about the structure of a possible Authority.

The hearings are scheduled for:

■ 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, at The Samaritan Center (in the Lower Cafeteria), 5555 Conner St., Detroit, between I-94 and Warren, on the west side of Conner.

■ 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, at Livonia Civic Center, 33000 Civic

Center Drive, Livonia. ■ 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, Barton MacFarlane Community Center (in the main meeting room), 8222 Joy Road, Detroit

The Michigan State Legislature has previously sponsored legislation requiring the county's mental health agency to convert to an authority status. However, sponsors of the legislation, state Sens. Beverly Hammerstrom and Shirley Johnson, have informed the Commission that they prefer a local solution.

According to Cavanagh, the commission is studying how best to structure a Community Mental Health Authority to improve and manage the delivery of services to the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled, and those afflicted with substance abuse addictions.

"Wayne County is liable for severe sanctions from state and federal sources if we do not convert to an Authority," Cavanagh said. "So we need the public's input about how to structure the Authority to best serve our consumers."

The other members of the Task Force are Commissioners Alisha Bell, D-Detroit, Moe Blackwell, D-Detroit, Laura Cox, R-Livonia, and Bernard Parker, D-Detroit.

Public, private sectors join forces on security issues

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Security professionals in the public and private realms will put their heads together at a regional conference and discuss what they need to do to better safeguard private assets and the public health.

The American Society of Industrial Security will hold its 23rd Annual Update Conference May 17-18 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The keynote speaker, Michigan State Police Director Col. Tadarial Sturdivant, will discuss the relationship between public and private security.

"I'm going to talk about what I call the four Cs: Collaboration, cooperation, communication and coordination, and why it's so important those exist between private and public security," Sturdivant said. "We need private companies to be on board and stay on board."

On 9/11, he said the very first responders, before even police

and fire officials, on the scene at the World Trade Center were private security officers. In any future disasters, manmade or otherwise, that will likely be the case again and there needs to be an operational relationship between those security officers and the government.

"Chemical plants are not government-owned," he said. "During the '03 blackout the (Downriver) Marathon plant couldn't burn off excess fuel. We had to coordinate with the plant and decide what to do if we needed to evacuate."

In the case of a disaster, he said there can't be two plans to protect the public. Even in cases where a company might be concerned about the integrity of proprietary information, there can't be secrets where public health and safety are concerned.

"What they do can't be private to us," Sturdivant said, adding "9/11 brought a new focus that private and public concerns have to work hand in glove. This has happened, but

it also has to improve."

The ASIS started during World War II as industrial operations had to conform to the security needs of a nation at war. Currently, there are 500 members in the Detroit area catering to the needs of corporate, state and private security concerns.

ASIS Detroit past chairman and Security Director for Comcast Cablevision's Midwest division Ron Hnilica said there's always been a drive to improve public/private security cooperation.

"There has to be more interaction between the two sectors," he said. "Eighty-five percent of the country's critical infrastructure is held by private concerns. In the case of a disaster, it will be the private security companies who will be the first responders."

Of course, he said, private security contractors' first concern is to their employers, but in the case of a full-scale disaster the rules on the ground change.

"When disaster strikes, it doesn't stop at the border of the facility," Hnilica said. "Police, fire and EMT have to be in the loop."

Since 9/11, he said, there has been a dramatic increase in information sharing between public and private security officers, but there's a lot of work yet to be done.

Wayne County Homeland Security Director James Buford will also be taking part in the ASIS conference. He said the same Community Emergency Response Training the department is offering to industry is also available for church groups, neighborhood block clubs and individual residents.

"CERT is for everyone," Buford said. "It's 20 hours of training that we'll mold to fit the time needs of whatever group wants to take it."

CERT training consists of basic first aid and CPR, search and rescue, terrorism awareness and basic emergency preparedness. The classes are free.

Max Cleland scheduled to campaign for Trupiano

Democratic candidate for Congress in Michigan's 11th Congressional District, announced that Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland will be coming to the 11th Congressional district

Wednesday, May 10, to support the campaign of Democratic candidate Tony Trupiano.

In the morning Cleland, a veteran of the war in Vietnam, will attend the grand opening

of the Wayne County Veterans Services Building in Detroit.

A town hall meeting will be held 2:30-4 p.m. at the Harris Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road in Westland. The meeting is

free and open to the public.

A private reception will held 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Novi Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty Road, followed by a public reception 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Back Pain?

Southfield, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, **1-888-744-2225**. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

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

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