

She's heart and soul in Zebra Country - LOCAL NEWS, PAGE A3

Summer settings

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## Renters, landlords blast inspection ordinance

'It has become "1984" and it's not right'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

An embattled Westland City Council has approved a plan to inspect local rental properties, despite threats of political retaliation from tenants who called it discriminatory and an invasion of their privacy.

City officials rejected those accusations, saying they only want to force landlords to fix problems that could threaten the safety of renters.

"I believe with all my heart this is a needed program," Building Director Sue Dodson said.

But some renters blasted the rental-inspection ordinance as another way for Big Brother to watch them.

"This has become George Orwellian," Willow Creek tenant Steve Acton said. "It has become 1984, and it's not right."

Renters and apartment managers packed City Hall on Monday for one of the most heated council sessions in recent memory. They flexed their collective muscle and threatened to vote elected leaders out of office, but their fierce lobbying didn't convince local officials to ditch the plan.

An outside firm, CityWorks, will help the city get the program started, but it isn't known when the inspections will begin.

Building inspector Roger Shifflett tried to reassure renters who blasted the plan as a violation of their Fourth Amendment right to privacy.

Appointments for inspections will be made, he said, "and there will be no barging in or kicking down doors."

Rental property owners will have to pay for inspections that will be conducted every three years. The cost will be \$50 for an apartment, \$100 for a rental home, \$150 for a duplex and

PLEASE SEE INSPECTION, A6

## Battle of the Badge, round 2

Firefighters best police officers in 2nd annual blood drive

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Traitors. Westland blood donors have shifted their allegiance in a Battle of the Badges blood drive in which local police and firefighters compete to recruit the most donors.

Blood donors bled blue last year, giving 55 pints in honor of police officers compared to 40 for local firefighters.

What a difference a year makes. On Monday, as Westland kicked off the Battle of the Badges for southeastern Michigan, city firefighters edged out the police officers 41 pints to 38.

Is it possible that police officers angered potential donors by writing too many traffic tickets during the last year?

Could it be that firefighters made enough life-saving medical runs during the last year to put them in higher esteem?

"It was a close race, but we finally got them," Fire Chief Michael Reddy said, when asked if he wanted to poke a little fun at local police. "Now we're one and one."

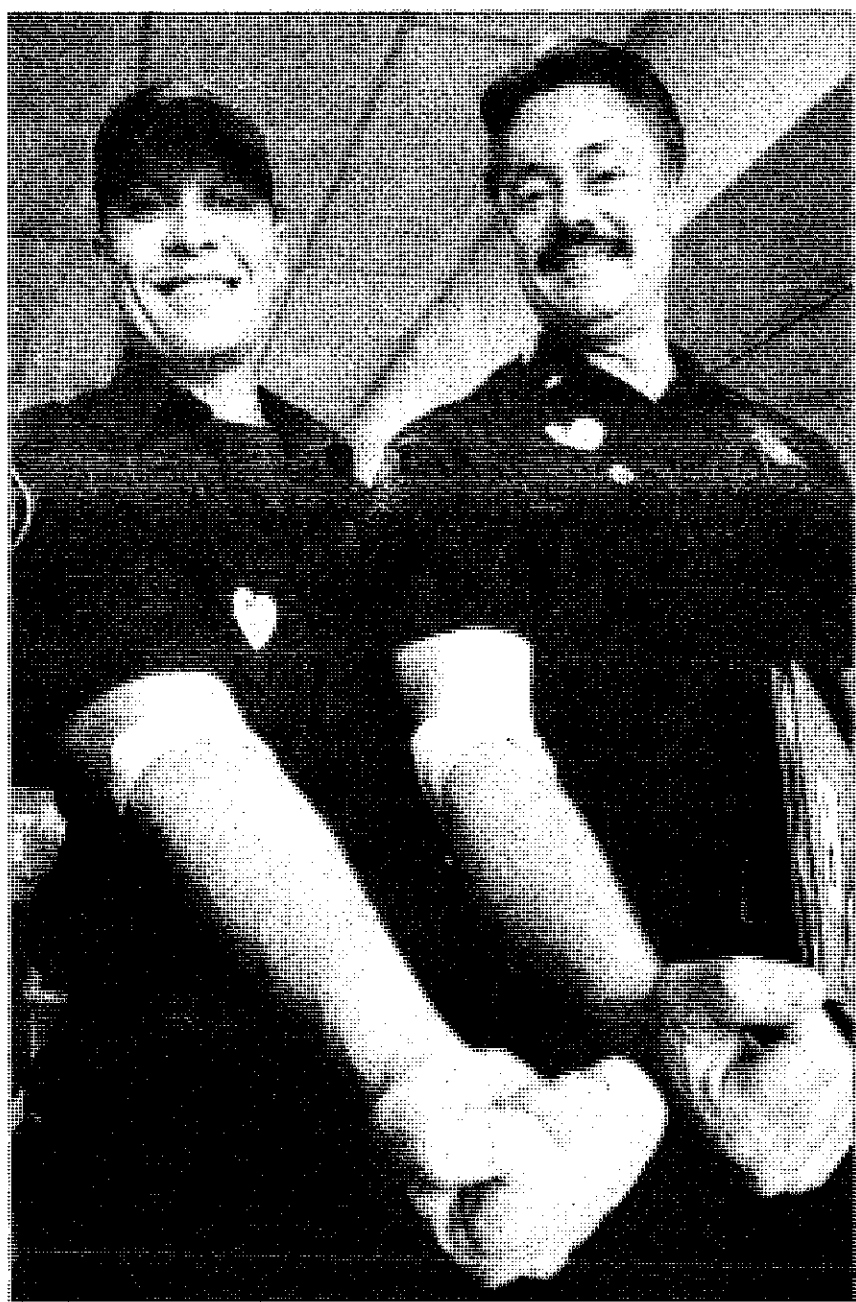
No one has yet issued a challenge for an NBA-style, best-of-seven series. Regardless, Westland came through during a time when the American Red Cross faced a critical shortage of blood supplies.

"They are so happy with us at the Red Cross right now," said Terry Carroll, executive assistant to Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. "This really helped them out."

Blood donations typically decline during summer months, when demand is higher. And, while 60 percent of the population is eligible to donate, only 5 percent actually does, according to the Red Cross.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and other officials helped initiate this year's Battle of the Badges blood drive in the Bailey Recreation Center. Westland was chosen to kick off this year's campaign because it surpassed other southeastern Michigan communities last year in blood donations. Public safety departments in five counties will be out for blood through Sept. 8.

Donors have to be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be 17 or older. To make an appointment, call (800) GIVE-LIFE. dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



Firefighter Gordon Cronk and Deputy Police Chief Marc Stobbe put their right arms forward in this year's Battle of the Badge blood drive.



Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano visits blood donor Julie Marino-Greene as Gail Blake of the Red Cross nurse checks the progress of her donation.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Texas Roadhouse lassoes location near civic center

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Another Texas-style steakhouse chain plans to build a new restaurant in Westland, within view of the now-shuttered Lone Star.

Texas Roadhouse hopes to open for business by late fall on Ford Road near Central City Parkway, just west of Fifth Third Bank.

Texas Roadhouse — based in Louisville, Ky., with 225 restaurants in 41 states — will open within sight of Lone Star, which abruptly closed its doors in March.

Local officials appear confident Texas Roadhouse can succeed where Lone Star failed.

"It would appear that the Lone Star closing was a corporate issue," said Lori Brist, Westland Chamber of Commerce president.

Developers have shown a renewed interest in the Ford Road corridor following this month's opening of the IKEA store in Canton.

"We're experiencing a great deal of interest in this area," Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson said.

That's good news as Westland and other Michigan communities struggle to lure — and retain — new businesses amid tough economic times.

Texas Roadhouse spokesman David Behrens appeared confident that the new restaurant, with improved amenities, such as triple the parking spaces that Lone Star had, can succeed.

Brist said: "It's going to create jobs for our city and create extra tax revenues. It's the goal of the chamber to promote existing restaurants we have now, in an attempt to bring people from other cities into our city and to make Westland a destination point for dining."

That effort has been particularly evident near Westland Shopping Center and along the so-called "restaurant row," which stretches along Warren Road from Newburgh to the Wayne Road area.

## Tickets are going fast for restaurant rally

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

With a gloomy economy keeping some penny-pinching food connoisseurs away from restaurants, one local group has devised a delicious way to get people out.

For just \$20, try sampling food from 10 Westland eateries during this year's "restaurant rally," sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Try a burrito or enchilada from Casa Fiesta; barbecue beef tips or ribs from Uno Chicago Grill; southern fried chicken and macaroni and cheese from Beaver Creek; an oriental chicken salad from Applebee's; pepperjack steak sandwiches or crab-stuffed tilapia with hollandaise sauce from Farwell & Friends.

Those and other delectable dishes will await those who participate in the restaurant rally, scheduled for 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.

Get signed up by calling (734) 326-

7222 or by stopping by the chamber office, on Ford Road east of Newburgh.

For the \$20 tab, participants will be given special T-shirts entitling them to sample food at the 10 restaurants. Those who don't feel like driving can park at one restaurant and hop aboard shuttles that will make the rounds throughout the evening.

Hungry? Then hurry. Westland chamber President Lori Brist said Tuesday that only 150 of the 500 tickets still are available.

"Call now to hold a spot or you won't get in," she said.

This year marks the third restaurant rally, and many participants of past events enjoyed it so much they signed up a year in advance.

Other restaurants involved in this year's rally include Johnny Carino's, LongHorn Steakhouse, Malarkey's Irish Pub, Marvaso's Italian Grille and Panera Bread.

Alka-Seltzer not included. dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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Volume 42  
Number 8



# LOOK

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### Coming Sunday in Health



New hope for pet owners with allergies. In Sunday's Hometownlife Health Section.





### Cruisers of the Week

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week for June 14 goes to Pat and Andrea Fitch of Garden City with their black 1969 Ford Mustang Mach One. The car has a 351 Windsor engine pushing 400 horse power and a four-speed transmission. The Fitches installed the motor themselves. It was a two-year project, with special thanks to Harlow Tire Co. in Westland. Member of the Week is Robert Craig of Garden City with his 1966 Ford Mustang Fastback. Craig said he's been working on the car his whole life and has done all the work himself. The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's show is 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesdays at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road in Westland.

## Morgan says farewell to school board

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

After 10 years at the board table, Joanne Morgan held back tears during her final regular meeting as a member of the Livonia Board of Education Monday.

Currently serving a second year as vice president on the board Morgan said she is most proud of three accomplishments during her time on the board: Hiring Supt. Randy Liepa, maintaining low class sizes and the district's Legacy Initiative.

She said the appointment of Liepa as superintendent was not an easy choice at the time, but has proved to be best one. Morgan called her fellow board members "committed" when it comes to keeping class sizes low. And she said under the Legacy Initiative it is "going to be an amazing time for our district and our children."

Fellow board members Lynda Scheel and Tom Bailey referred



Morgan

to Morgan as a mentor. "Joanne is a great person," said Scheel, who met Morgan through her involvement in PTA.

Bailey said Morgan was one of the first people who approached him and asked if he would run for school board more than two years ago. Since 1996, she served on several board committees and has been the legislative representative on the Livonia PTSA Council. Morgan earned the master platinum award as a member of the Michigan Association of School Boards and serves on the National School Board Association's National Affiliate Advocacy Network.

She created the district's Legislative Web site in an effort to keep the community informed of policy and issues

impacting public education.

Kevin Whitehead, trustee, called her an "unsung hero" for her advocacy to promote public education in the state legislature, and at the federal level.

"We have always had a strong voice, a megaphone," he said, "talking about school issues. Our voice is going to be softer. Joanne has always been one of the greatest advocates for children in education that I've ever met."

Morgan said she's most thankful for all of the things "other people have taught me." She called her 10 years on the board "wonderful."

And - at the risk, she said, of sounding like Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* - she told Board president Dan Lessard she'd miss him "most of all."

Lessard called Morgan "a dear friend" and thanked her for her work on the school board, with children, and for the district.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

## Bak: She's heart and soul in Zebra Country

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Chris Bak has dedicated 37 years to students at Wayne Memorial High School, coaching, teaching and organizing such events as dances, parades, blood drives and fund-raisers for the needy.

Bak, 58, has finished her last school year in Zebra Country as she prepares to retire Aug. 1.

"She has truly been the heartbeat of Wayne Memorial High School for many years," said her secretary, Vickie Lewis. "She has given her heart and soul to the students and staff of Zebra Country."

Bak, a Canton resident, started her Wayne Memorial career as a physical education teacher and rose to the rank of assistant principal in charge of student activities.

She has coached gymnastics, cheerleading and synchronized swimming, and she used to chair the physical education department. She has been assistant principal in charge of student activities for 11 years, but she tries to shrug off the credit that others say she deserves for activities ranging from the Student Senate to food drives for the



Chris Bak

needed. "Our kids here are pretty remarkable," Bak said. "We've got some phenomenal leaders, and everything happens because the students are excited about it. I just support them."

Bak also has been instrumental in helping Wayne Memorial achieve and maintain its accreditation through the North Central Association.

Lewis can't even count the number of students Bak has influenced in the 10 years she has been secretary.

"In my time here, she has taken so many students under her wing and helped so many who were in need, I have lost track of the number of lives she has positively impacted," Lewis said.

Bak taught physical education, health and language arts during her first 26 years at Wayne Memorial, before being promoted to assistant principal. She is proud of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

"This is a community that people appreciate, and they stay here," Bak said. "I've had

three generations of children from some families. Instead of making me feel old, it makes me feel that I'm in the right place. I'm in a community that appreciates its schools and supports them."

Bak plans to spend more time with her own family when she retires, and she also has hobbies that include scrapbooking, reading and traveling. Some have suggested that she write a book.

Referring to that suggestion, Bak wrote in a Wayne Memorial commencement program this year that "I am smiling just thinking about what I would say."

With a master's degree in reading, Bak may remain involved in some way with education, but she hasn't announced any definite plans. One thing is certain, she will leave Wayne Memorial with mixed feelings.

"It's the most difficult decision I've ever had to make," Bak said. "But, I couldn't be happier, and it's a good time to leave when you still appreciate the job and the people you work with. There's a time and a place for everything, and I think this is my time."

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### Joe's Summer Specials!

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<p>Large, Sweet &amp; Juicy <b>Southern Peaches</b> 2lb/\$3.00</p>	<p><b>Joes Pickles</b> 2/\$6.00</p>	<p><b>Sweet &amp; Juice Mangos</b> 69¢ each</p>
<p><b>Kozlak Bock</b> \$6.99 <small>4 Pk. + Dep.</small> <i>This premium Polish Bock is slightly sweet &amp; nutty</i></p>	<p><b>Emmentaler Swiss</b> \$6.39 lb. <i>Smooth, nutty, fruity flavor, finishing savory bite</i></p>	<p><b>Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc '05</b> \$11.99 <small>750 ml</small> <i>This is a perfect deck wine. It has notes of grapefruit and grass!</i></p>
<p><b>Edys Dibs or Fruit Bars</b> 2/\$6.00</p>	<p><b>Buttermilk Blue Wisconsin Cheese</b> \$7.99 lb. <i>A scrumptious mild cheese</i></p>	<p><b>Dessert Shells</b> \$1.19 ea.</p>

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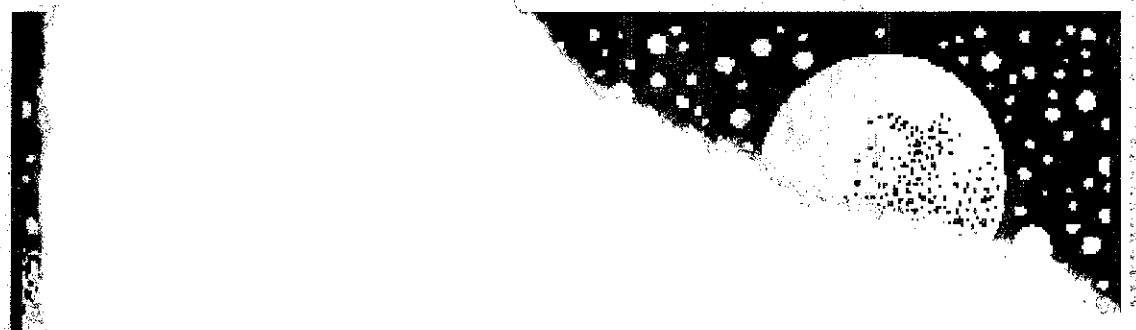
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A proud Jason Phelps shows off his diploma after a commencement ceremony at the Burger Center for Students with Autism.



Burger staffers Madonna Bernard, Stan Bialach and Bonnie Hills help get Gerrard Sledd ready for the graduation ceremony.



Keisha Miller waves to friends as the graduates march in for the ceremony.

## 7 graduate from Burger Center program

It was a celebration complete with smiling faces and all the pomp and circumstance of graduation at the Burger Center for Students with Autism last week.

Wearing blue gowns and matching mortar boards, seven graduates of the autistic program walked down the aisle at the center to receive their diplomas during commencement ceremonies June 13.

The graduates – Matt Calvo, Michael Ficara, Marcus Jackson, Keisha Miller, Jason Phelps, Gerrard Sledd and Brian Wills – got help from their teachers in readying for the ceremony and posed for pictures following the event.

And parents were treated to photographs of their graduates, taken by a Burger Center parent and presented to them as a gift from the Burger staff.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Spring Sale • June 1-30

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## 2nd purse-snatching reported

An 81-year-old Westland woman told police someone grabbed her purse while she was getting into her car about 2:45 p.m. last Friday at the CVS drugstore at Cherry Hill and Newburgh.

It's possible the incident was related to a similar purse-snatching that occurred about 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 3, outside the same CVS store, police said. Anyone with information about either incident is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600. In the latest inci-

dent, the 81-year-old victim told police the bandit grabbed her purse from her arm and fled across the CVS parking lot. The woman wasn't injured.

A police dog was brought in, but no suspect was captured.

The purse was later found in a trash can near Ford and Newburgh, but the woman's money, personal checkbook, credit cards and identification had been taken.

The woman described her assailant as a black male, possibly 40 years old, wearing a blue cotton shirt and tan pants.

### CRIME WATCH

#### Break-in

A Westland man told police that his residence in the 31700 block of Arenac was broken into sometime between 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, and 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 14.

The victim reported that the intruder took tools that belonged to workers who were doing repair work on the residence. The tools were valued at \$2,600.

By Darrell Clem



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## AROUND WESTLAND

## AMVETS events

AMVETS Post 171 and the auxiliary will have a breakfast 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at the AMVETS hall at 1217 Merriman Road, said spokeswoman Pat Weldon. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Also, the auxiliary will sponsor a blood drive 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at the same location. No appointment is necessary.

## Craft Show

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail #10) to reserve a table.

## Garage sale

Wayne's first craft/garage sale will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at the City

of Wayne Parking Structure, 35000 E. Michigan Ave. There will be nearly three floors of vendors where you'll find everything and then some!!! The sale is sponsored by the Wayne Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wayne. For more information, call (734) 721-0100.

## Summer camp

Registration is being accepted for the YWCA Western Wayne County's 2006 Summer Day Camp. Spend the summer having fun, making new friends, going on cool field trips and playing games!

Each week of camp will have a different theme. Kids will spend a week showing their support for the United States, discovering the great outdoors, learning about different countries, exploring outer space and more. Camp activities include swimming, basketball, games, scavenger hunts, science experiments, movies, arts and crafts, pizza parties, field

trips, a talent show and so much more.

Camp is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26 and ends Aug. 18. Before and after care is available. You can sign your child up for the entire eight-week camp, or on a weekly or daily basis. Sibling discounts available.

The YWCA also has a special offer for youth ages 11-15. They can sign up to participate in the Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program, which is designed to offer them an opportunity to learn the basics of camp counseling. Teenagers will receive American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certifications. Space is limited for this program, so sign up early.

For more information or to register your child, call the YWCA Western Wayne County Camp Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 17.

## Enrollment offered

St. Damian Catholic School

is accepting enrollment for fall. It offers preschool for children ages 3 and 4, kindergarten either three full days or five full days, and classes for students in grades one through eight. The school is located at 29891 Joy Road in Westland. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call (734) 421-6130.

## Antiques appraisals

The Westland senior Friendship Center will host its fifth annual Newburgh Road Show, an antiques appraisal, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 28.

Admission will be \$1. Col. Thomas Moody of Blue Willow Antiques will be doing the appraisals. He specializes in glass, pottery, furniture, radios, kitchenware, war memorabilia, quilts, dolls and toys.

There will be a charge of \$3 per item appraised, with a limit of three appraisals. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

## 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.

## 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 Civic 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.

## 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.

## DEATHS

## B

**Majorie M. Birk**  
Birk, 80, of Garden City, died June 16.

**Herbert Leslie Brownfield**  
Brownfield, 95, died June 12.

## C

**Elizabeth "Betty" Currier**  
Currier, 86, died June 19.

## H

**Elaine Ann Hagerman**  
Hagerman, 77, of Birmingham, died June 18.

**Donald J. Haney**  
Haney, 75, formerly of Plymouth, died June 17.

## K

**Elizabeth Kilgore (nee Wink)**  
Kilgore, 85, died June 12.

**Carl N. Kneip**  
Kneip, of Plymouth, died June 12.

## L

**Veronica Look**  
Look, 84, died June 18.

## P

**Dorothy (Orofino) Pike**  
Pike, 73, formerly of Farmington Hills, died June 1.

## R

**Sister Eleanor Marie Roberts, RSM**  
Sister Roberts, 87, of Farmington Hills, died June 18.

## S

**Charles "Win" Snider**  
Snider, 91, of Rochester Hills, died June 16.

## T

**Arthur L. Tatro**  
Tatro, 83, died June 19.

## V

**Marlene Van Patten**  
Van Patten, 62, died June 12.

## W

**Martha (Marcie) Louise Woolweaver**  
Woolweaver 93, formerly of Plymouth, died June 2.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A20.

LPS-TV presents  
2006 graduation  
revisited

Livonia Public School's 2006 graduates have grabbed their diplomas.

Anyone who missed the pomp and circumstance - or wants to see how they looked in those caps and gowns - can watch a replay on LPS-TV.

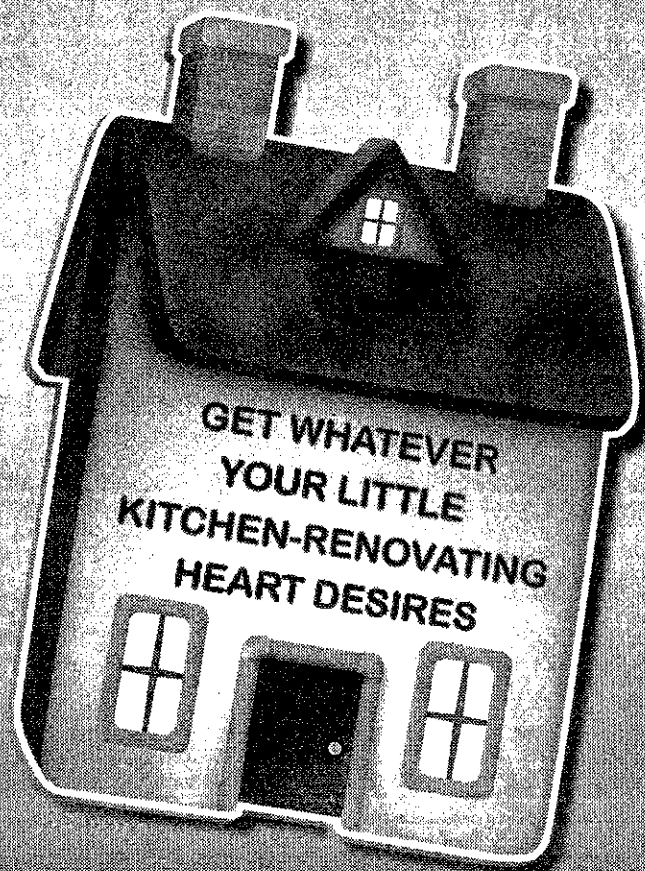
Churchill's graduation, held Tuesday, will be aired at 3 p.m. Friday, June 23; at 5 p.m. Monday, June 26; Wednesday, June 28 and Friday, June 30.

Franklin's graduation, held Wednesday, can be viewed at 5 p.m. Friday, June 23; and at 3 p.m. Monday, June 26; Wednesday, June 28 and Friday, June 30.

Stevenson graduates can catch a re-play at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 22, and at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 27 and Thursday, June 29.

In addition to the graduation ceremonies, the station will show honors night programs, live and re-broadcast school board meetings and other end-of-the-year school activities throughout the month of June. LPS-TV can be found on Channel 15 for Bright House Network and Wide Open West subscribers, and on Channel 19 for Comcast customers.

By Stephanie A. Casola



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**INSPECTION**

FROM PAGE A1  
 \$200 for a four-unit building. Apartment owners and managers have said they will likely pass the cost on to their tenants, and they blasted the fees as an unfair tax.  
 Dodson projected that the cost will amount to about \$1.38 a month for a typical rental unit. More than a third of Westland residents are renters. Local officials said some rental properties haven't been inspected in more than 40 years. They said some tenants have reported horror stories of their living conditions.  
 Shifflett gave a presentation Monday that showed some deplorable conditions inside rental properties, but renters said such problems aren't unique to apartments.  
 Dodson said she has only one ordinance officer in a city of 86,000 people, and she said he receives 70-100 complaints a day. She said the rental inspection program will cover the cost of hiring one more full-time and four part-time employees. Some renters have suggested

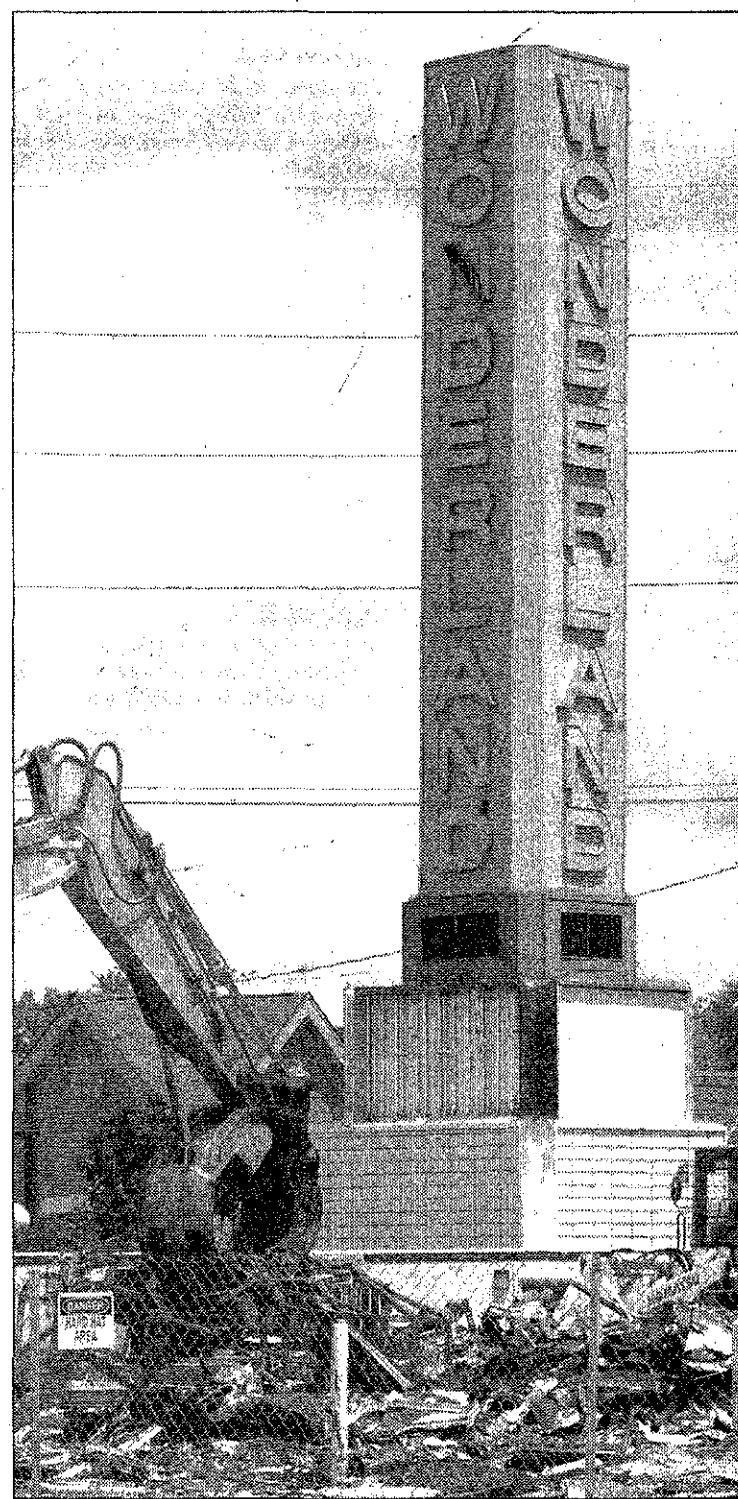
that the city wants to snoop for drugs or pornography by sending inspectors into rental units — a charge that Dodson denied. "We're coming in for safety reasons only," she said.  
 Tenants who refuse to allow inspectors in could face a court order.  
 River Bend Apartments tenant Donna Walker said the program amounts to excessive force.  
 "Next you'll probably come for my Bible, too," she said.  
 Patricia Ortner, who lives at The Landings, said the plan will invade renters' privacy.  
 "So what I don't understand is — what is the difference between the city and a burglar?" she asked, adding later, "It's \$50 for the invasion. Who's going to pay that for me? I live on a tight budget. That \$50 pays for my medications."  
 Some renters said home owners don't face similar inspections. But city officials said single-family homes always are inspected when they are sold, and businesses also face inspections.  
 Stuart Levine, regional manager representing Waymewood

Apartments, said apartment owners collectively pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes every year. He said the city already has ordinances that could be used against negligent landlords.  
 Some renters threatened to move out of the city, although Councilman James Godbout and others have said that 27 other communities in southeast Michigan already have similar ordinances.  
 Godbout supported the inspection program along with colleagues Michael Kehrer, Charles Pickering, Robert Stottlemeyer and William Wild. The plan was opposed by council members Cheryl Graunstadt and Richard LeBlanc; at a minimum, they wanted more time to study and possibly revise the ordinance.  
 Wild said emphatically Monday that city officials will review the program and hold Dodson's building department accountable for its success or failure.  
 "They're going to have to prove to us that it works," he said.  
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**Mall demolition begins**

BY DAN WEST  
 STAFF WRITER

After several years of discussion, planning and anticipation, the walls are coming down around the old Wonderland Mall.  
 Bulldozers started taking down the former Montgomery Ward's auto repair facility one day after property owner Schostak Brothers and Co. secured a demolition permit from Livonia City Hall.  
 The lengthy process to level the 1-million-square-foot structure — much of which dates back to 1959 — is the first phase in a major commercial redevelopment of the 75-acre property on the corner of Middlebelt and Plymouth Road.  
 "They had been working inside the building for awhile, but the public will finally get a chance to see progress on this important project for our community," said Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson.  
 Over the next 18 months or so, the old mall will be leveled to make room for a series of new buildings, including a 203,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter, a 127,000-square-foot Target store and at least one more large tenant.  
 "We're courting quite a few people on that, but we don't have anything solid in place yet," said project manager Bill Cote.  
 The project will also produce a series of brick buildings along Plymouth Road to house some 40 stores and eateries. The entire project is expected to cost between \$60 million and \$100 million.  
 The mall structure, except for the Target store, should be razed by early fall when Cote said foundation work could begin for some of the new buildings. The Target store will remain open until the new store is constructed. The new Target store is expected to be among the first new buildings to open in late summer or early fall of 2007 as part of the Wonderland Village project.  
 The demolition process began about two months ago when workers started to



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Demolition has begun at the old Wonderland Mall site to make way for the development of a new Wal-Mart Supercenter, Target store and other shops.

remove utility infrastructure and environmental hazards. "We had to complete this before we could actually dismantle the buildings," Cote said.  
 The first phases of this project entails the 63 acres closest

to Middlebelt. Cote said the company is not ready to announce plans for how it will redevelop the former Kmart store, a 12-acre parcel directly west of the mall property.  
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# Corsi crowned

## Angela Corsi is Miss Michigan

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Speaking from her cell phone, Angela Corsi was on the road Tuesday morning, traveling from west Michigan to downtown Farmington.

The whirlwind has begun for the newly-crowned Miss Michigan, hailing from Farmington Hills.

Corsi won the title Saturday at the Miss Michigan Scholarship Program in Muskegon. It was her fifth Miss Michigan pageant.

"I still feel numb," she said Tuesday. "I'm still in disbelief that this has finally happened. I'm just so happy I have one more year because this was my last year of eligibility."

She will represent Michigan at the 2007 Miss America pageant.

"The (Miss America pro-

gram) has given me so much through the years," she said. "I'm so happy to be a part of this organization for another year as a contestant, and I'm happy to represent the state in the Miss America pageant."

Corsi, 24, is no stranger to the stage. She was crowned Miss Farmington Oakland County in 2000, the same year she graduated from Mercy High School. Her mother, Penny Corsi, said there was a specific reason she entered her first pageant.

"She needed scholarship money," Penny Corsi said. "And the Miss America program kept popping up, so she gave it a shot. No one was more stunned when she won Miss Farmington on her first try."

From there, Angela Corsi has entered what she calls a "sisterhood."

She was named Miss Great

Lakes in 2002 and was third runner-up in Miss Michigan; she was crowned Miss Great Lakes again in 2004 and was first runner-up in Miss Michigan; she was crowned Miss Spirit of the State in 2005 and was first runner-up in Miss Michigan; and she was crowned 2006 Miss Heart of Michigan this year as she entered Miss Michigan.

Joining her from Oakland County and finishing in the top 10 Saturday in Muskegon were longtime pageant "sisters" Leilani Thorn, of Waterford, and Lindsey Tycholiz, an Oakland University student from Sterling Heights.

"Oakland County did pretty well," said Corsi, who supports all local pageants, including the upcoming Miss Farmington Founders Festival. "I have another engagement, but my heart will definitely be there. I'll be on the phone, seeing how it's going."

And that's how many things will happen in the coming

year.

"They're telling me that I'm booked through March," she said. "I'm going to have a very, very busy year."

But she seems to take it all in stride. After all, she is promoting a cause that is close to her heart — the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America.

While pursuing a bachelor of arts degree at Michigan State University, Corsi established a program called MSU Stars, which raises awareness and funding for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Since then, it has branched out to six other campuses with organized chapters," said Corsi, noting the organization is now called America's Stars for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Corsi plans to pursue a master's degree in public relations from Michigan State University.

She's a hard worker in all that she does, said her mother, who is "ecstatic" that her daughter was crowned Miss



Angela Corsi of Farmington Hills was crowned Miss Michigan on Saturday.

Michigan.

"She's worked so very hard for this," she said. "It was just a lot of 'not giving up.' She's a determined young woman."

Angela's parents, Penny and Louie, own Corsi's Restaurant and Banquet Center on Seven Mile near Middlebelt in Livonia. Penny Corsi recalls her daughter working hard,

even from the young age of 12.

"She would come in and fold napkins and keep me company," Penny Corsi said. "She's been helping out here ever since."

Angela chuckled that she made enough money at the restaurant to buy her first bicycle.

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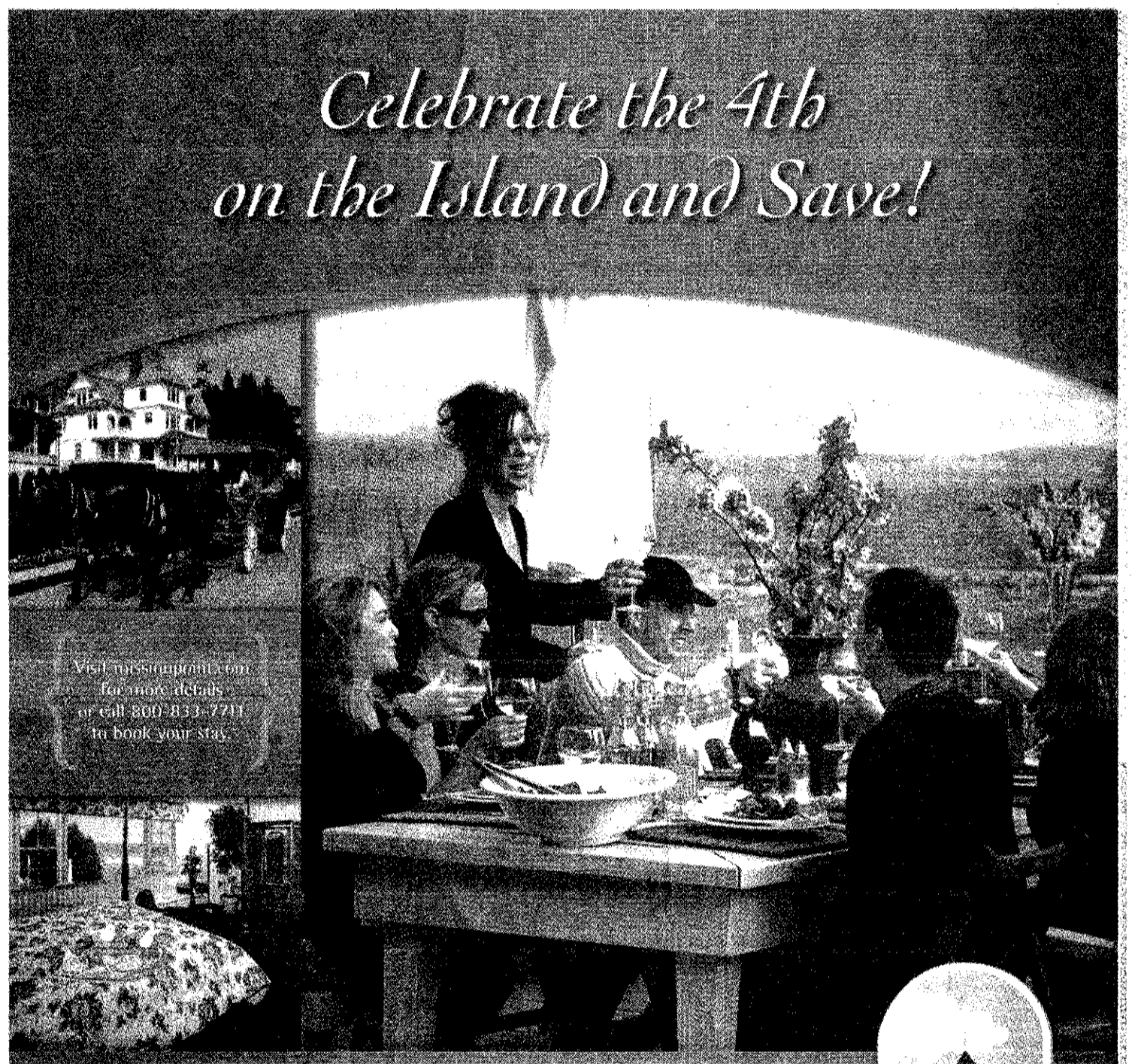
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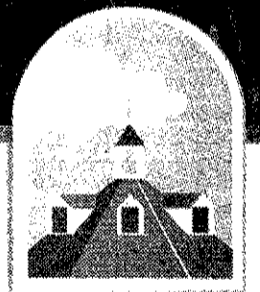
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marketing Manager David Craig and Plant Manager Patricia Glover walk through Shiloh Industries in Canton.

## Supplier of the year

Recognized by GM, Shiloh thrives in tough times

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

Earning an award like the General Motors Supplier of the Year distinction is certainly an honor any time a company can earn it. But in these times, with the challenges that the automotive industry is facing, James Keys is even more proud that his employer, Shiloh Industries, earned it in 2005.

"It recognizes exceptional quality, delivery and technology, as well as meeting cost targets," said Keys, senior vice president of advanced technologies at Shiloh.

At the top of his list is quality. Shiloh shipped millions of steel parts last year and none were returned as defective, he added. General Motors recognized 85 companies with the prestigious award, out of a total of 3,500 suppliers worldwide. General Motors accounts for about 40 percent of the company's revenue. The remaining 60 percent comes from DaimlerChrysler, Ford, Nissan and Toyota, Keys said.

Even though Shiloh has locations in Ohio, Georgia and Tennessee, as well as Mexico areas which have been deemed

as being more attractive due to lower wages, fewer labor unions, and a different state tax structure - the company has not considered closing the Michigan offices and production center, located in Canton near Haggerty and Koppernick roads.

"As long as they're building cars here, we'll be here," Keys said. "We have to be here to be competitive."

Part of the economics of proximity is purely shipping costs. But also the ability to respond quickly to nearby customers makes the southeast Michigan facility more profitable than it would be if it were relocated outside Michigan.

"You're losing logistics by not being where your customers are," said Marketing Manager David Craig. "Everything would have to go on a truck or train to get here, and these are big, heavy items."

But the cost of living in southeast Michigan requires the company pay higher wages to its Canton workers than it does to their southern counterparts. And the state's single business tax significantly - and negatively - impacts the company's bottom line. Compensating for either of

those economic factors isn't easy, but in this economic climate, when the automotive industry is struggling, it's required a tremendous effort to keep the bottom line solid, Keys said.

"That's why the award really meant something to us," Keys said. "We're doing OK, and to be able to meet the expectations of our biggest customer, that's very important."

Shiloh Industries started out as a little tool and die manufacturer in Shiloh, Ohio, where it is still headquartered today. Through the years it grew, and in 1997 opened its Canton sales and engineering facility on Haggerty Road in the township's industrial corridor.

Shiloh has 15 wholly owned subsidiaries located in Ohio, Georgia, Tennessee, Mexico and Canton, with approximately 1,990 employees. The company's annual sales are approximately \$650 million. Shiloh is a leading manufacturer of engineered welded blanks, complex stampings and modular assemblies. The Canton Division employs approximately 100 hourly and salaried people.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com  
734-459-2700

## Call goes out for women to get outside

There are still openings for the annual Becoming an Outdoors Woman daylong workshop to be held Saturday, June 24, at Kensington Metropark.

Beyond BOW Kensington Adventure will include workshops on kayaking, archery and fly fishing (dry land casting) this year, with expert instructors leading the way for the group of 40 women from all around the area.

The event, held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine, is for women who want to learn outdoor recreational activities in a non-threatening environment, said Lynn Marla, BOW coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"I feel it is very beneficial for

women to have the opportunity to learn a new skill in an outdoor setting, among other like-minded women and from skilled instructors that want to help the women succeed."

Marla said. "There is a growing interest among women to learn the traditional previously male-dominated recreational pursuits such as fishing, hunting and shooting. Workshops like the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program give women 18 years and older the opportunity to learn in a non-threatening atmosphere."

The workshop, one of many held around the state, is a way to actually pamper yourself, said Carol Fink, of West Bloomfield, who works at Kensington and helps organize the event every year at the

park's Farm Center.

"This gives women the opportunity to put themselves first for a change," Fink said. "Women are so busy meeting everyone else's needs. This is a day of fun and adventure and a chance to try new things for themselves."

To reserve a space, call Cherie Borchardt at (248) 685-1561 to obtain a registration form.

The fee for the daylong program is \$60 and includes all equipment and lunch.

Sponsors include the DNR, Heavner Canoe Rental, the Southeast Michigan Bow Hunters Chapter of the Safari Club International and Moosejaw, a local outdoor outfitter which is supplying plenty of surprises for the event.

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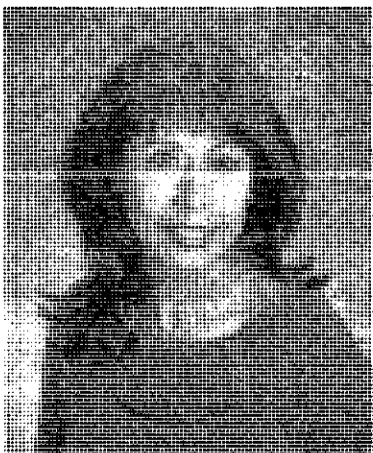
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OUR VIEWS

## Community needs quick answers

The Livonia Public Schools community needs an answer, and soon. Word came earlier this month that the Wayne County Clerk indeed had certified that a recall election against five school board members will be held Aug. 8.

Now it seems almost certain that those board members will file suit to try to halt this election. If that's the case, we urge them to do it soon and get an answer soon. Their issue is that the Wayne County Clerk made a mistake in calculating the minimum number of required signatures needed to force the recall. Board members and their attorney say some 14 precincts weren't included when the Clerk's office made the initial calculation, meaning an extra 2,500 signatures were needed to meet that minimum. That seems like a legitimate issue.

From its perspective, though, the Citizens for Livonia's Future committee met its requirements. Its members went to the Clerk's office where they sought and received the required number of signatures to force a recall election against these five school board members - Rob Freeman, Dan Lessard, Cynthia Markarian, Lynda Scheel and Kevin Whitehead. They went out and got more than 11,000 signatures on petitions to force the recall - well over the number they were told would be necessary to set up an election.

Whether or not there was an official mistake, it wasn't the CFLF's fault and it's certainly legitimate to ask why they should be forced to go through this process again?

If this apparent discrepancy does end up before a judge, we hope there is a decision on the election soon. Voters could be expected to make a decision on the recall in less than two months - in the midst of summer vacations - and people need to start their campaigning and discussion of the pros and cons of a recall immediately. These are important decisions, important issues.

The longer this entire issue is dragged out and the longer the future of the Livonia school district's leadership remains in doubt, the longer this community will remain divided.

## Cable bill must put customers first

"To promote competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality services for American telecommunications consumers and encourage the rapid deployment of new telecommunications technologies..."

Such is the preamble of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which was approved by Congress and signed by President Clinton.

Since then, we have seen the consolidation and monopolization of telecommunications companies, a reduction of service and ever-increasing cable TV rates - in short, just the opposite of what was promised.

Is it any wonder we are skeptical of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement Act, which the Senate will no doubt pass shortly?

This complex bill pits cable television giants such as Comcast against communication company behemoths such as AT&T. In essence, it would allow phone companies to provide cable TV and skip the process of negotiating cable TV franchises with local communities. Proponents say it will increase competition among cable TV providers. Opponents say it could allow the companies to pick the areas they want to service, right down to the neighborhood level, for maximum profit and minimum cost.

What is clear is that it will reduce local control, and that's its biggest problem.

As it is today, the cable companies barely care about the customers. Rate hikes are imposed even as the companies enjoy hefty profits.

Opening up the cable industry to more providers is a good idea, if it does indeed reduce rates. But even that's iffy. The National Cable & Telecommunications Association has advised Congress that the bill does not ensure lower rates and, in fact, they could go up.

But in order for this bill to work, there must be guarantees that all will be served and local control should, if anything, be strengthened, not reduced.

It isn't likely this bill could be stopped now, but there is still time to write to our senators (and representatives, too) reminding them that they will be held accountable for their actions at the ballot box.

Congress has done a disgraceful job of protecting consumers from arbitrary cable TV rate hikes. It's time to start putting consumers ahead of the companies and making legislators who don't support the people pay the price.



### LETTERS

#### Questions about ordinance

All kidding aside, I do have a lot of questions on this rental inspection.

One of the landlords/owner said that Michigan law says they can not enter the apartment without the renter's consent unless it's an emergency such as a fire or water leak. Does this mean that if they say no, the city attorney will come back with a court order saying that without the inspection, it's a possible endangerment to the rest of the tenants, therefore making it no longer the tenant's choice to let them in or not?

Another thing, as I see it, anytime the government says it's a matter of health and safety it's one step away from dictatorship. Isn't this the same line most hate groups use? And even the cults like Jonestown and Waco the only difference is it's the government and not the fanatics.

Control is dangerous no matter who is in command. Renters with government supplements are already inspected, or so it was mentioned the last time this was discussed a few years ago. Are they exempt? Will they get more money to supplement their rent? After three years are the private homes next?

It was stated that the average home sells every five years, but this is an old stat. With the homestead tax deduction and Headlee, people are keeping their homes and remodeling or adding space rather than moving and have property taxes tripled or more. So are private homes next?

Are condos considered rentals or private homes? If condos are considered private homes, what about the condo/rental units on Akley and Stieber? The ones that have no back door except on the ones who added the door recently? They are part condo and part rentals?

I may have been wrong when I said there were no motels/hotels in Westland because someone told me and I realize this is rumor, not fact, that the reason this project was allowed to be built (yes, I realize they were built before it was a city and this area was Nankin Township) was that the plans called them motel units and that's how the back door was exempt. Could you find out if this is fact or fiction?

My list of questions go on and on, but for now could these be answered?

Judy McKinney  
Westland

#### It may be 'me'

I have spent the last week observing and choosing to come to a conclusion about today's drivers. Indeed it is a "me" society on the roads. BUT what I found is that the "me" is "me." When someone chooses to run the red light it is "me" they are choosing to hit. When they ride on the rear end of a car going the speed limit, it is "me" they are riding. When they choose to not stop at yellow lights, which by the way in the state of Michigan is illegal, they are choosing to maybe hit "me."

When I stop at a red light, I choose to see the tires of the car in front of me. If a driver comes up on my rear end I DO NOT move up to allow for their inconsiderate behavior. As a result it will be "me" who has my car smashed in the rear, if someone hits them.

What has become of the courteous driv-

er? Are we choosing to say "they are so busy today they just have to hurry," to absolve them from their obvious neglect of kindness? Last week I was coming to a stop at a yellow light. As I looked into my rear view mirror I saw a van choosing NOT to stop behind me which forced me to go through a bright red light. I was so upset, I cried. It would have been "me" who had been hurt or killed.

Today as I sat at three different lights red for me turning green, I saw three cars choosing to run the red light on their side. If I had not have been watching "like a hawk," it would of been "me" killed or hurt. Today I had a woman in an SUV choose to ride my rear end in a 40 miles per hour zone. She chose to wait until the next light and chose to pass me in the right-turn-must-turn-right lane and run the red light. If she would have been hit by oncoming traffic, it again would have been "me" she chose to abuse.

It is NOT the young kids doing this. In all cases, it was people in their 40s, maybe 50s. Where have all of our drivers with wisdom and kindness gone? I find that today it is very scary out there to even get behind the wheel.

So remember, if you are riding a rear end tomorrow morning, it may be "me."

Aggie Richards  
Westland

#### Thanks for your assistance

I want to publicly thank Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, Police Chief Daniel Pfannes and Fire Chief Michael Reddy and their staff for assisting the City of Dearborn Heights during its recent loss of Cpl. Jason Makowski.

You are wonderful neighbors who came to our aid during our time of need. Your police department's assistance and your fire department's standing by at our fire headquarters during the funeral will not be forgotten. On behalf of the citizens and employees of the City of Dearborn Heights, we are touched by your thoughtfulness and assistance. Thank you!

Daniel S. Paletko  
Mayor

#### Concerned about firing

I am deeply concerned about the firing of another library director.

When I first moved to Westland, I was shocked to learn that the city had no library of its own. I decided to rectify that lack. I served on the library board for 15 years, beginning when we were still affiliated with the city of Wayne and was appointed to the first Westland board. I am proud to have been part of bringing a beautiful new library to our city.

I was part of the group that hired Sandra Wilson as our first library director and I personally think she did an outstanding job of creating a first-class library from scratch. Sadly, she was not recognized for the effort or long hours she put in to bring us such a wonderful library. Her firing is still a mystery to me. Unfortunately, there was nothing I could do about it as I was no longer a member of the board. A library director must have a master's degree in library science, many years experience with library administration and the ability to walk the thin line of political necessity. That person is charged

with the day-to-day running of the library, such as staff, collection, building maintenance and most importantly, the creating and working within the yearly budget.

On the other hand, the library board is made up of ordinary citizens who are there to set policy. It is not the board's job to run the library. Much like the mayor and council, the council passes ordinances and the mayor sees that they are followed.

I do not know the justification for the recent firing of another director, but if it was job performance then the current board showed bad judgment in the hiring process. Or if it was a personality thing then the board forgot its first priority, doing what is best for the library as a whole and the members are under the delusion of their own importance. Either way, the board comes off looking incompetent. I would remind all concerned that it is within the power of the citizens of Westland to remove the library from city control and create an autonomous entity with an elected board. The people took control when it came to what they wanted with a city clerk and they can do it with the library.

Marjorie K. Daniels  
Westland

#### Hire from within

My suggestion (for hiring a new Westland library director) would be to promote one of the present librarians. According to the library board, the library is doing just fine right now without a director. Why not hire someone who won't have to spend his or her first year learning the job and the community?

One more suggestion: Go back to The Library Network instead of the present computer system. That way we would have access to about 40 libraries instead of just Westland. Also, books obtained through The Library Network could be taken back to Westland. Those outside containers are wonderful, especially for disabled people, and also because the handicapped parking is so poor (I do realize that new spaces have been made.) Right now the Westland library does not care to accept books being returned to Westland but coming from other libraries. I think it would save quite a bit of money if the Library Board promoted from within instead of paying a search company. Maybe they could buy some more books.

Mary Ellen Sutherland  
Westland

#### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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#### QUOTABLE

"Without exception, this has turned classes into learning environments. It's an opportunity to do something with the kids that enriches their lives and lets them carry information out into the community."

Rouge education consultant Lillian Dean about Wayne-Westland schools' participation in the Rooting for the Rouge project.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

# Political leaders guiding state into backward mess

As this column is being written, a radical, far-reaching scheme that would utterly change the nature of our state is being mounted by powerful, secretive interest groups.

The plan is brilliantly conceived, astonishingly audacious and so far breathtaking in its smooth execution. The goal is to make Michigan into a low-tax, low-service state modeled along the lines of Mississippi. And the plotters are well on their way to success.

Up to now, the plan has been hidden in plain sight — unexplained, unexamined and foisted upon a largely unknowing Michigan citizenry. Its amazing success so far has been hastened by the failure

of those who should know better to speak out.

How has this happened? In this case, connecting the dots isn't all that hard. Once you've done so, it's easy to trace, step by step, how this has evolved in the past three years.

**Step 1:** Label the Single Business Tax a "job-killer." A coordinated effort led by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Republicans in the Legislature was

launched in 2003 to define the SBT as a tax on employment. That makes the tax a convenient scapegoat for Michigan's job losses. If employers get financially punished for adding more workers, they indeed will try to make do with as few employees as possible.

In fact, the SBT was adopted in 1975, replacing seven clumsy business taxes. It was supposed to be easier to administer and provide a more stable revenue base than taxes on business profits.

But over the years, the SBT was amended repeatedly until it became complex, difficult to administer and eventually was a negative for businesses thinking of expanding in Michigan.

**Step 2:** Actually repeal the Single Business Tax. Jennifer Granholm last year proposed a series of amendments that would have eased the SBT burden, especially on manufacturers.

But interest groups howled far and wide, and her proposals got nowhere in the Republican-controlled Legislature, which fussed and fumed about how awful the SBT was. The Legislature then voted to kill the SBT outright; the bill was vetoed by the governor.

She had no choice but to veto it; the lawmakers provided no way to make up the \$1.9 billion it loses the state every year.

Next, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Peterson launched a petition drive to repeal the SBT just three months ago.

He raised more than \$800,000 to pay a private company to solicit petition signatures to put a measure on the November ballot that would repeal the SBT, effective Dec. 31, 2007.

To the surprise of some, Peterson submitted 604 signatures in late May, easily topping the

number required. But because the proposal is now certified for the ballot, the Legislature can now veto the SBT again, and the governor will be powerless to veto it. Look for that to happen later this year.

**Step 3:** Beat the drums for "tax reform" in Michigan, which to the GOP mainly means a massive cut in business taxes. Patterson, House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Nowi, Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos and the state chamber promptly began urging business tax cuts.

They admit that repeal of the SBT will cost the state \$1.9 billion of the \$9.3 billion in the General Fund, the money the government uses to run the state. But they argue that it would "improve the business climate" to build a business tax cut of \$500 million into any plans for a replacement tax structure. There is little sign that such a tax cut would improve our economy. State tax revenue has been cut by \$4 billion in the past five years, and there is little sign that it did anything for the collapsing domestic automobile industry. Manufacturers universally say that while the SBT is an aggravation, the tax that really hurts is the completely unrelated personal property tax.

**Step 4:** Hire heavyweight experts to craft self-serving tax plans. With SBT repeal a near-certainty, various interest groups are busy cobbling up "tax reform" schemes crafted to their liking.

The Chamber of Commerce has hired Ernst & Young, one of the country's best-known accounting firms, to put together a tax reform package for Michigan. Last year, E&Y worked on a business tax plan for Ohio, which featured repeal of the personal property tax on machinery, equipment and inventory. Nobody expects the Michigan plan to be similar, especially since the main patrons of the state chamber are the insurance and banking industries.

More ominously, DeRoche has hired Patrick Anderson, a capable but very conservative Lansing economic consultant, to put together a study to outline what Michigan has to do to become a low-tax state.

**Step 5:** Don't discuss what we are trying to achieve. Just cut taxes, and worry about cleaning up the mess later. So far, there has been no discussion of what kind of state we want to have, before trying to figure out what kind of tax structure best gets us there. Michigan is now at the edge of a cliff. We're about to get pushed off, falling backward into a future that may turn us into a parody of a poor Southern state from the past.

The vibrant Michigan we once knew, the place that attracted people because of our commitment to education, the environment and the quality of life for all our citizens will be just a bitter memory.

So it is time to start asking in a very loud voice: Granholm, what do you stand for — and where the hell are you on this? Business community, how come you are so deafeningly silent?

Phil Power is the president of The Center for Michigan, a moderate "think-and-do" tank aimed at revitalizing the state's economy. He can be reached at ppower@hcnl.com.



Phil Power

## LETTERS

### Stories put team in unfair light

I would like to express my extreme displeasure in the articles titled "Glenn varsity softball team is a no-show" and "Silly Season nothing new to springtime," debuting in Westland's June 8 and 11 issues, respectively. As a subscriber of the *Westland Observer*, I am often impressed at some of the excellent articles written on a weekly basis, however, I feel these two recent articles have put the John Glenn varsity softball team and its players in an unfair light.

My younger sister has played softball for John Glenn for the past four years, and is one of this year's graduating seniors. Regardless of the team's record from year to year, I never miss a game because I, along with many other Glenn parents, feel that the girls' efforts on a day-to-day basis deserve that much support. It is due to my complete respect for the varsity softball team, that I was entirely appalled at the tone used toward the Glenn squad in the Glenn varsity softball team is a no-show article found in the June 8 issue.

Throughout the article, the reader can observe the tone that the softball team's six graduating seniors were in the wrong for choosing to attend their graduation ceremony instead of playing in the district tournament June 3. Whether this was the intent of the article or not, I would like to make a few things clear regarding the words used against the varsity squad throughout the article.

Firstly, I would like to point out the fact that when any child decides to participate in a school sport, they become a "student-athlete." As they take on this role, it is stressed to each participant that they are first a student and then an athlete; in other words, in each student's case, academics are to come first and foremost. As a former student-athlete, and graduate of John Glenn, I can attest to the difficulty found when a student makes the sacrifice to take on the responsibility of a sport on top of their academic challenges. Not only have the players, including the six seniors, been able to juggle the responsibilities of school and sport, but four of the seniors went over and above this by graduating in the top 15 of their class of 409. This outstanding accomplishment proves that these students are taking school seriously and participating in sports for fun, as the "student-athlete" role was intended.

Secondly, this article also announces the resignation of head coach Linda Willman. While this resignation is fact, a reader of the article would come to think that the reason for coach Willman's resignation is due to the district tournament forfeit. As I have recently spoke with coach Willman on this matter, I would like to make it clear that she is resigning from her coaching position so that she can be involved in her prior commitments, which she has been putting on hold for the past two years. Along with me, coach Willman feels confident in assistant coach Julie Rogers' ability to lead the team as head coach next year.

As for the "Silly Season" article, while I agree that the spring sport season runs into many scheduling difficulties, I think it was uncalled for to use the Glenn varsity softball team as the only specific example. Because the Glenn team was the only team specifically mentioned in the article, it gives the reader the idea that the Glenn players were the only perpetrators of the mentioned circumstances. This is incorrect because the Glenn players were only involved in missing games due to the one graduation conflict. In fact, the six senior players were some of the only seniors in full attendance on their ever awaited "Senior Skip Day" due to the game they were to play in that afternoon.

I feel that it was very unfair to use Glenn's one conflict as the only specific example used in the article. In order to be fair to all schools, either every school's conflicts should have been mentioned, or no school should be mentioned at all.

Also, the "Silly Season" article uses the graduation ceremony as one of the "silly" conflicts some of the student-athletes run into during the spring season. Even throughout the many events in my successful academic career, I can stress that the most important moment in any student's academic career is the few seconds that their name is read, and they walk across a stage to receive their high school diploma in front of their friends and family members. No student should miss this moment, regardless of the occasion, and it is ridiculous that any person would expect them to do that.

It is unfortunate that the two aforementioned articles are the only articles written during the spring sports season that highlight the John Glenn varsity softball team. Regardless of their winning percentage, each team deserves their mention in an article here or there. While the Glenn team had a dismal season, they held their head high and continued to put forth the utmost effort even when down by an insurmountable lead.

This is not only my opinion. While talking to coach Willman a few days ago, she explained that at a recent regional coaches meeting, several coaches expressed that they were impressed at the way the Glenn players were able to compose themselves even during a definite loss, and always continued to play with effort. In many ways, the Glenn players have learned more throughout the losses in this season, than if they were to have won every game. People go through stretches in life where everything feels like a loss, and due to this season, some of these girls may be the only ones who know how to handle that.

As a Westland resident, *Westland Observer* patron, John Glenn graduate and Glenn varsity softball fan, I feel that it is my right to express my opinion toward articles posted in the *Westland Observer*. I appreciate your time, and hope that future articles will be censored into a more neutral nature.

Chelsey Ennis  
concerned patron

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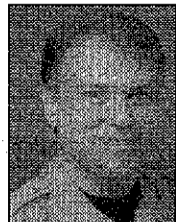
## Ambulances have come a long way

Ever since early times, people have required a means of transporting their wounded and sick. In the late 15th century in Spain, surgical and medical supplies were brought together in special tents for the wounded called ambulancias. The war between France and the Austrians and Prussians in 1792 led to the development of a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle which stayed with the troops and allowed surgeons to work on the battlefield.

During the 1864 Convention in Geneva, an agreement was made by several European countries to recognize the neutrality of hospitals, of the sick and wounded, of all persons connected with relief service, and the adoption of a protective sign or badge.

In America, a similar organization had been functioning during the Civil War - The Sanitary Commission, which 20 years later became the American Red Cross, brought into being in large part due to the efforts of Clara Barton.

American hospitals initiated their own ambulance services during the late 1860s.



Lt. Tom Kiurski

Horsedrawn, these ambulances had a moveable floor that could be drawn out to receive the patient. Beneath the drivers seat was a container with: a quart of brandy, two tourniquets, six bandages, six small sponges, splint material, blankets and a two-ounce vial of persulphate of iron.

With the arrival of the automobile came a different type of ambulance, the first appearing in 1899. During World War I, many ambulances were adapted from buses and taxis. In 1937, the first air-conditioned ambulance was sold in America.

Ambulance service has not been confined to ground units. During the Civil War, train ambulances and steam boat hospitals were used, and street car/trolley ambulances were popular in some cities in the late 1800s. The "medicopter"

is commonplace now, taking patients through the air to the nearest appropriate medical facility. This service started as a means of evacuating combat patients in Korea and Vietnam.

Today's ambulances in Livonia are staffed by paramedic licensed firefighters with some amazing technology, from defibrillators and monitors that can transmit an EKG directly to the emergency room to drugs to treat life-threatening conditions on the scene when seconds count.

We celebrated National Emergency Medical Services Week 2006 May 14-20. Give a friendly wave the next time you see your firefighters drive by. We're in it for you!

Tom Kiurski is a lieutenant who handles public information for the Livonia Fire Department.

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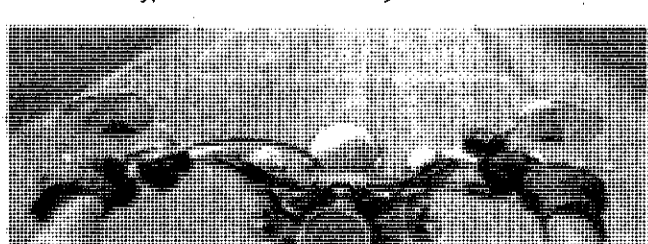
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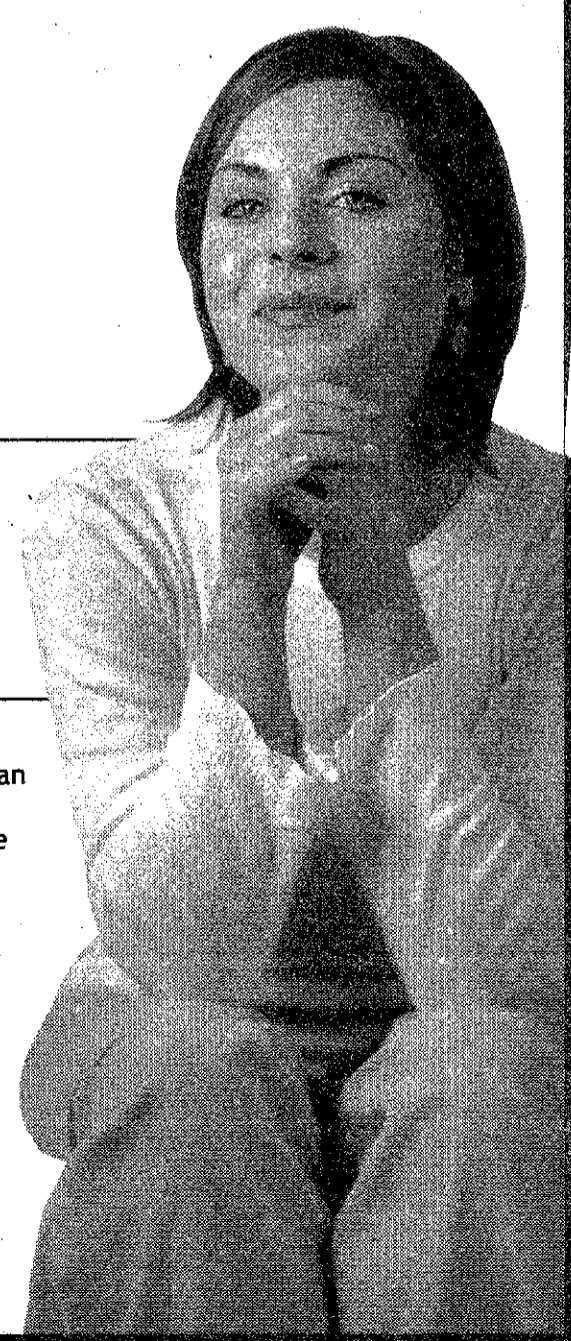
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# College on the grow: Walsh expansion to meet growing need

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER  
STAFF WRITER

Like all business owners, Keith Pretty is concerned about his customer base. But Pretty's business is a little different than most; after all, he serves as president of Walsh College in Troy.

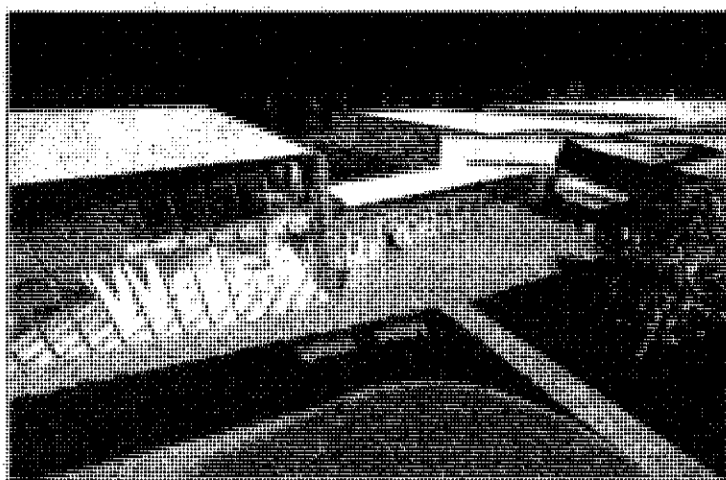
Nevertheless, he recognizes that both enrollment and courses offered at the business college are market-driven. And like Michigan's economy, Pretty says the independent, not-for-profit college will grow.

"It's how we see our customers change over time," he said of Walsh's future. "Clearly, southeast Michigan is in an economic transition, and for an exclusively business and application of technology (curriculum)," change is needed.

For Walsh, its customers — its students — have been growing in numbers, as have programs it offers and the ways of teaching them.

Those changes are prompting Walsh to undertake a \$14 million expansion on the east side of its current 75,000-square-foot facility. The groundbreaking for the new 36,000-square-foot, two-story addition was June 12. Construction will begin this summer; completion is expected in fall 2007.

Preparing the way for the addition was the purchase of three acres of land and the removal of its historic designation. The current college is



Walsh College in Troy broke ground for a 36,000-square-foot expansion to its Livonia Road site. The three-phase project is pegged at \$14 million.

located on what was once part of the historic Wattles Farm. The site now encompasses about 30 acres.

Included in the addition are a new library that will be 30 percent larger than the current one, and a 150-seat amphitheater that will be available to the community as well as Walsh students and staff. There also will be conference rooms, new technology and changes in classroom space to allow for small groups of students.

Walsh's growth from 303 students in 1970 to today's current level of about 4,500 has resulted in cramped conditions for the college. Complicating that is a solely upper-level and graduate-level student body, many of whom work and take courses only at night.

"We're physically out of space," Pretty said. The college also has satellites in Novi and in Macomb, but the Troy location is the heart of the operation and what the president likes to refer to as the only "indigenous" college to Troy.

There are, however, other reasons for the expansion. Pretty says it is the "real transformation of academic" programming, with new master's level offerings, that is helping to lead to the changes. Walsh's "legacy program" is accounting, Pretty said. It is a subject that grew out of favor in the '90s, but financial scandals such as Enron and new regulations have changed all that. Accounting is now the college's hottest curriculum, he added.

Today's instructor no longer stands solely in front of the

classroom, Pretty said, which necessitates changes in how space is used and in projecting future uses of technology.

Taking a page from the new addition to the Kresge Foundation, on Big Beaver, the Walsh structure will incorpo-

rate environmentally friendly attributes that Pretty believes will earn it an energy and environmental designation.

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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Theatre workshop

Aspiring actors and actresses entering grades seven through nine can conquer stage fright, learn audition techniques, make-up techniques, dance moves, and be coached in acting, diction, and singing at the Youth Musical Theatre Workshop hosted by the Madonna University Lyric Theatre Program. Workshop participants will perform for family and friends in the evening on the last day of the workshop. The workshop will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 26-30, with a finale performance at 7 p.m. Friday, June 30. It will be held at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan in Livonia. Registration is \$375 and includes a light breakfast, lunch and a snack each day. Applications can be obtained by contacting Barbara Wiitsie at (734) 432-5715, or by e-mail at bwitsie@madonna.edu.

### ORGANIZATIONS

#### Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. For more information, call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

#### Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

#### Friends of Library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

#### In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop

Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quarrelling can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

#### Civil Air Patrol

Emergency service is just one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol, which includes ground and air search-and-rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol, which is the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is made up of civilian volunteers. To learn more about CAP or training as an air crew or ground team member, contact the Willow Run Composite Squadron (MI-260), Call Capt. Dane Hansen, deputy commander/recruiter, at (734) 485-3021 or visit the Web site [www.members.home.net/capliberators/](http://www.members.home.net/capliberators/).

#### Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7144.

#### Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

#### Pet-A-Pet

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Marie Johnson, (734) 326-1200), and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

#### Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, a service club to advance the status of women, meets every month on the fourth Monday at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For more information, call Pat Harris at (734) 420-2920.

#### Franklin PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to

those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia MI 48150.

#### Tutorial program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

#### M.O.M.S.

M.O.M.S. Club of Canton/ Westland is a nonprofit support group for stay-at-home mothers. There are weekly events, Mom's Night Out, age-oriented play groups and more. For information, call Wendy, (734) 398-6957.

### FOR YOUR HEALTH

#### Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

#### Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

#### TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Wednesday at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6:30-7:15 p.m., with the meeting 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rosalie at (734) 728-0299.

#### Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

#### Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other

week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

#### AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

#### Angela Hospice

As part of its service to the community, Angela Hospice offers a variety of grief support groups free-of-charge to community residents. The groups are held at the Angela Hospice Care Center at 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, and are led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers who aim to provide useful coping strategies and tools to facilitate the healing process.

■ General Grief Support Group - Open to all losses. Meets at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

■ Loss of a Spouse Support Group - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in February.

■ Women's Grief Support Group - Held each Spring and Fall. Call (734) 953-6012 for dates and times.

■ Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child - Meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Call to register at (734) 464-2683.

■ Grief Support Quilter's Group - A new Grief Support Quilter's Group is looking for community members interested in making a quilt in memory of a loved one. No quilting or sewing experience is necessary. Dates and times to be determined. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information.

Groups by Appointment - Loss of an Adult Child, Men In Grief. Call (734) 953-6012 for more information.

Programs for Children - Reservations required for all children's programs. Register by calling (734) 464-2683.

■ Children's Grief Support Group - For ages 6-8 and 9-12. Meets winter, spring and fall 5-6 p.m. Thursdays for eight consecutive (April 6-June 1, Sept. 14-Nov. 2).

■ Children's Spring Workshop - 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 4. Angela Hospice also provides one-on-one grief support. For more information about Angela Hospice's grief support services, or to register for a group, call Joan Lee at (734) 953-6012.

#### Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend child-

birth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

#### Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

#### Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

### HISTORIC

#### Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

#### Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

#### Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

### BINGO

#### VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

#### St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

#### Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

#### K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

### FOR SENIORS

#### Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site [www.civictown.mil.us](http://www.civictown.mil.us) offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

#### Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010.

#### Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

#### Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

#### Choir

The Senior Choir, under the leadership of Robert Cassidy, is open to those who like to sing. It meets 9:30 a.m. Thursday. For information, call the Friendship Center, (734) 722-7632.

#### Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632.

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\$1,449 due at signing after all offers\*\*

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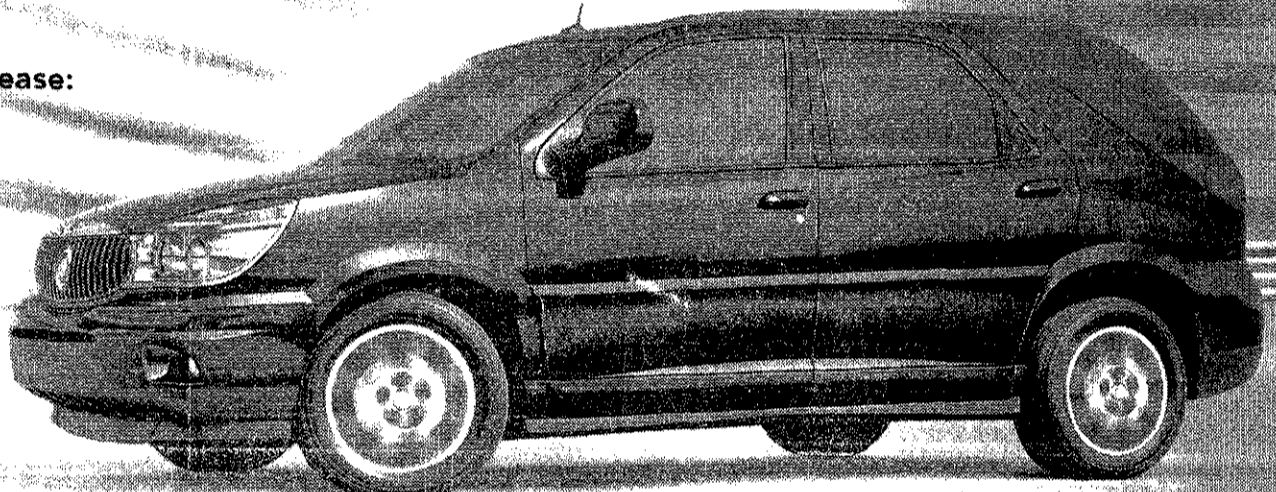


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No security deposit required. Tax, title, license,  
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\*\*Payments are for a 2006 Buick LaCrosse CX with aluminum wheels and an MSRP of \$22,840, 27 monthly payments total \$4,833, a 2006 Buick Rendezvous CX with an MSRP of \$24,990, 27 monthly payments total \$5,103 and a 2006 Buick Lucerne CX with an MSRP of \$25,990, 27 monthly payments total \$7,533. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Residency restrictions apply on LaCrosse. Take delivery by 6/30/06 on LaCrosse and 7/5/06 on Rendezvous and Lucerne. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Must show proof of current GMAC lease on Rendezvous.

!A maximum of three (3) monthly payments not yet due between the date the vehicle is returned and the scheduled end date of the contract will be waived. Must return vehicle and take delivery of an eligible new and unused 2005, 2006, or 2007 GM vehicle by 7/5/06. Excess mileage and wear charges apply. See dealer for details.

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Plymouth-Canton district to lease Washington school

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public School trustees approved an agreement to lease one elementary school to neighboring Plymouth-Canton Community School District. Washington Elementary, one of seven buildings slated to close next fall, is located at 9449 Hix Road. It will be leased for a total of \$288,000. The agreement runs from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007. Lisa Levesque, director of finance, said Plymouth-Canton will be "moving the Miller Elementary School population into that location while they look at building a new location." Most of the lease amount, about \$252,000, will cover costs in keeping the building open, including utilities, custodial work and repairs. "If the cost exceeds that, we will re-negotiate with Plymouth-Canton Schools at the end of the school year," Levesque said. The district would also bring the issue back to the school board if Plymouth-Canton Schools requires a lease extension due to any delay in construction. Levesque said Livonia Public Schools expects to make \$36,000 in profit under this agreement. Trustee Tom Bailey called that figure a "minimal amount," but said not leasing the property would be fiscally

irresponsible. He voted against the resolution to lease Washington Elementary. The vote was 6-1 in favor of the lease. "My position in voting no was due to the wording of the actual lease agreement," Bailey said. Prior to the vote Monday, he asked whether the lease included a provision for cancellation, or an exit clause. Levesque replied, "We put that in all lease agreements. I'm sure it is. I don't have it in front of me. I'll be happy to check on that." Bailey was not completely satisfied with the answer, or the way discussion on the matter ended and a roll call vote followed. "The document before me to be voted upon had no exit clause and, after the final vote, if approved it could not have been added at a later time. I believe we would have to re-vote on a revised document. For this reason, and this reason only, I voted no," he said. On Wednesday, Bailey said he remains supportive of leasing property to "generate needed revenue" for Livonia Public Schools. "In my short time on the board, I believe there have been three other lease agreements voted upon by this board: Dickinson school building, Bentley soccer field and Bryant property," Bailey said. "All of these leases included exit clauses." scasola@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homescomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112. Willow Creek Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Wayne Road in Westland, is a non-profit co-op preschool for tots, 3 and 4 years old. It serves Westland, Canton and surrounding communities. The Moms and Tots program meets Friday mornings. Three-year-olds meet Tuesday and Thursday and four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Call Lucy Arunachalam at (734) 453-5959.

Preschool program The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635. McKinley Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Call (734) 729-7222 or visit www.mckinleypreschool.org.

CITY OF WESTLAND

NOTICE

The City of Westland summer 2006 tax bills will be mailed on or about July 1, 2006. The Summer Tax Bills are payable through August 15, 2006, without additional interest.

Publish: June 22, 2006

060647804

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006 AT 9:00 A.M. THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BIDDING WILL START AT THE TOWING AND STORAGE CHARGES.

Table with columns: YEAR & MAKE, STYLE, VIN#. Lists various vehicles for auction including Buick, Cadillac, Ford, Chevy, Dodge, and Subaru models from 1984 to 1994.

Publish: June 22, 2006

060648527

City of Westland Sandra A. Cicirelli, Mayor Department of Public Service Water and Sewer Division 37137 Marquette Westland, MI 48185 (734) 728-1770

2005 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Westland is proud of the fine drinking water it receives from the City of Detroit and furnishes to the residents. This report will list the source of our water, the results of the tests performed on the water, and additional information about water and health questions. State and federal requirements mandate that an annual report be sent to Westland customers before July 1 each year. This is our ninth report.

Water Source

Westland is supplied by the City of Detroit from its Springwells Water Treatment Plant in Dearborn. The water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale, from very low to high, based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our Detroit River source water intakes was determined to be highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, all four Detroit River water treatment plants that use source water from the Detroit River have historically provided satisfactory treatment of this source water to meet drinking water standards.

Public Notice Sewage Disposal System Event

Any person or claimant who experiences an overflow or back up of a sewage disposal system or storm water system that is under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Westland should immediately contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service Director, Thomas Wilson, at the following address and telephone number:

City of Westland Department of Public Service 37137 Marquette Westland, MI 48185 (734) 728-1770

Important Health Information

Overview

The City of Westland maintains over 325 miles of water main, over 2895 hydrants and over 5990 valves in our system. We have flushed the water mains in one section of the city this year, covering the neighborhoods in the area of Cherry Hill to Glenwood and Surrey Heights to Newburgh. This is done to remove buildup from the water main and improve pressure and quality of the water you receive. We will be doing other sections of the City of Westland in 2006 as the weather permits, working through the city on a continual basis. We are also operating and repairing the valves for isolating the water throughout the city to insure proper operation of the valves in an emergency.

Lead

Since 1992, with the cooperation of many Westland residents, the City has been testing homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Our latest round of testing showed none of the fifteen homes tested has lead levels above the action level. If your home has a lead service line or piping that has lead soldered joints, you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes. Run your water for 30 to 60 seconds, or until it feels cold. This practice should be followed any time your water has not been used for more than six hours. Always use cold water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula. Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If

you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a disease-causing parasite that lives in the intestinal tract of many animals, including dogs and cats. Symptoms of infection include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headaches, nausea and vomiting. The disease is typically spread through contact with feces of an infected animal or person or consuming contaminated food or water. Cryptosporidium can be introduced into bodies of water by way of surface water runoff containing animal waste and sewage discharge. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has been testing for cryptosporidium since 1994 and has not detected it in any of our source water supplies.

People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

In 2005, the City of Westland had no monitoring violations. A monitoring violation is not an exceedance of a MCL or health standard.

The Department of Public Service Water and Sewer Superintendent prepared this report for the City of Westland. Data was supplied by the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. If there are any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service at 734-728-1770. This report is supplied to our customers to ensure compliance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (1976, PA 399, as amended) by 1998 PA 56. This Act was passed to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act and the rules promulgated by the United States EPA dealing with this law. Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.

Additional Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or by the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Springwells Water Treatment Plant 2005 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Table with columns: Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Allowed Level MCL, Level Detected, Range of Detection, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water. Includes data for Inorganic Chemicals, Disinfectant Residuals, and Turbidity.

Table with columns: Highest Single Measurement, Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water. Shows turbidity measurements.

Table with columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Highest Number Detected, Violation Yes/No, Major Sources in Drinking Water. Shows microbiological contaminants like Total Coliform Bacteria and E.coli/fecal coliform bacteria.

Table with columns: Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Action Level AL, 90th Percentile Value, Number of Samples Over AL, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water. Shows lead and copper monitoring results.

Table with columns: Regulated Contaminant, Treatment Technique, Running annual average, Monthly Ratio Range, Violation Yes/No, Typical Source of Contaminant. Shows Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio.

Table with columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Shows Sodium monitoring results.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

WRITTEN NOTICE REQUIREMENT: Furthermore, compliance with Public Act 222 of 2001, an amendment to Michigan's Governmental Immunity Statute 1964 PA 170, as amended MCL 691.1401 to 691.1419, requires that a claimant who wishes to seek compensation for property damage or physical injury resulting from a sewage disposal system event notify the City of Westland, Water and Sewer Superintendent, in writing, within 45 days after the date the damage or physical injury was discovered, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered. The written notice shall contain the claimant's name, address and telephone number, the address of the affected property, the date of discovery of any property damage or physical injury, and a brief description of the claim. Failure to comply with the notice requirements may prevent the recovery of damages and bar any claim that a claimant may have.

Publish: June 11, 15, 18 & 22, 2006

060648290

# UAW's Gettelfinger receives United Way award

Ron Gettelfinger, president, International Union, United Auto Workers, has been awarded the Joseph A. Beirne Community Service Award by United Way of America.

The award is given each year by United Way of America in recognition of a labor leader who has rendered outstanding volunteer service to United Way. The award was presented to Gettelfinger at the 34th annual UAW Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas. Gettelfinger was re-elected UAW president at the recent convention.

"Ron exemplifies the spirit and intent of this award," said Michael J. Brennan, president and CEO, United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "He is a highly principled, dedicated champion for the rights of others. Driven by serving others, he genuinely wants to make an impact on people's lives and does. "We



Gettelfinger

are thrilled he is being honored with this prestigious award."

Gettelfinger, who lives in Canton, was elected president of the UAW in 2002.

Prior to that he served as vice president of the UAW and directed the UAW Aerospace and National Ford

departments. For six years, he served as the UAW Region 3 director, serving the UAW membership in Indiana and Kentucky. He has been a member of UAW Local 862 at the Ford Assembly Plant in Louisville, Ky., since 1964, and is a chassis line repairman by trade.

His involvement with United Way is extensive, dating back more than 30 years. In metro Detroit, he served as the general chair of the 2004 United Way

Torch Drive, helping the organization reach its campaign goal of \$64.5 million.

As part of United Way's Days of Caring, 40 wheelchair ramps were built to celebrate the kickoff of the 2004 campaign. Gettelfinger personally visited most of the sites and pitched in to help where needed, motivating the more than 1,000 people that came out to volunteer. He also serves on United Way's Board of Directors.

In addition to his service to United Way, Gettelfinger has been involved with the March of Dimes, serving as honorary chair of the organization's Walk America in 2004. That year, the event raised more than \$3 million and is considered one of the most successful in Walk America history. He agreed to serve as honorary chair again in 2005.

The Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award was

established in 1974 and honors the memory of Beirne, the first president of the Communications Workers of America and first labor representative to serve as the president of United Community Funds and Councils of America (now United Way of America).

Presented annually, the award recognizes those labor leaders who have rendered outstanding volunteer service to the United Way movement.

## State holds contest on replacement for bridge plate

Residents have a chance to make their mark on Michigan's automotive heritage by participating in the 2006 License Plate Design Challenge.

A new graphic design will replace the Great Lakes Splendor version, commonly called the "bridge" plate for its depiction of the Mackinac Bridge. New sales of the Great Lakes Splendor design will cease next year, though motorists who already have that plate may continue renewing it if they wish.

"Michiganians love their state and adore their cars," said Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. "We're encouraging everyone to show their pride in both by helping to refresh our license plate design. This is a great way to capture the essence of Michigan for the world to see. We're excited to tap the energy and creativity of all who are proud to call Michigan home."

Land, along with a panel of judges, will determine which design - or combination themes - is incorporated onto the new plate. The Challenge is open to all Michigan residents except the judges and their immediate families.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on June 23. Entry forms are available at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos) and at all Secretary of State offices. Forms are being sent to public and private schools and home-schooled organizations to encourage student participation.

The new plate goes on sale Jan. 1, 2007. As is the case with the Great Lakes Splendor plate, it will be available as an alternative to Michigan's standard plate for an additional \$5.

The standard plate, known as "Old Blue," also is being redesigned with a new look and enhanced features. It will be unveiled shortly. That update makes this an ideal time to revisit the design of the state's graphic plate, Land said.

The Great Lakes Splendor plate has been serving motorists since January 1997. It features a striking sunrise over the Straits of Mackinac with the Mackinac Bridge in the foreground.

More than 4.8 million Great Lakes Splendor plates have been sold and renewed for passenger and commercial vehicles, motorcycles and trailers. Great Lakes Splendor plates are not longer available for trailers since the state began issuing permanent trailer plates in October 2003.

Find out more about all Michigan plates, including fund-raising and special-cause plates by visiting [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). Visitors can check the availability of a personalized plate by using the Department of State's online Plate It Your Way service.s

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**FREE \$25-\$150 gift card**  

by mail-in rebate with purchase of select Samsung laundry and refrigerators or Frigidaire Affinity laundry. Offer not valid on Special Order purchases. Offer valid 6/30/06 through 6/28/06. See store for details.

price range	gift card	price range	gift card
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\$497-\$746	\$50	\$1497 or more	\$150
\$747-\$996	\$75		

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By mail-in rebate with the purchase of \$199 or more on in-stock Riding Lawn Mowers, Walk-Behind Lawn Mowers, Zero-Turn Riders, Tillers, Trimmers or Pressure Washers. Offer valid now through 6/26/2006. See store for details.

price range	gift card	price range	gift card
\$199-\$399	\$25	\$1000-\$1499	\$100
\$400-\$599	\$50	\$1500-\$1999	\$150
\$600-\$999	\$75	\$2000 or more	\$200

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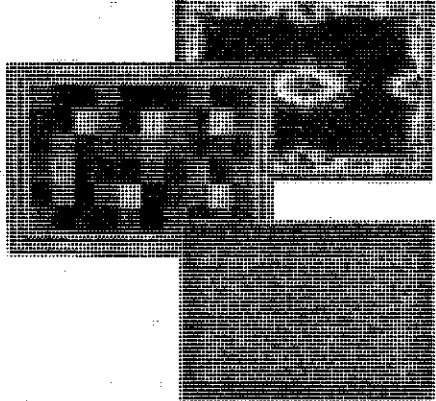
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Prices may vary after June 26, 2006 if there are market variations. \*Mail prices in this advertisement were in effect on June 15, 2006, and may vary based on Lowe's Every Day Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. 06091

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# Reduction in state's workforce drives down jobless rate

Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May fell by one and two-tenths of a percentage point to 6 percent from April's 7.2 percent, according to data released Thursday by the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG).

After several months of a labor force build up, May labor force and unemployment levels returned close to January 2006 levels. Employment edged down over the month by 4,000.

Michigan's May 2006 jobless rate decreased by eight-tenths of a percentage point from the state's May 2005 rate of 6.8 percent.

"The drop in the state unemployment rate in May was due to fewer residents in the state job market, as total employment was little changed," said Rick Waclawek, director of DLEG's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. "Labor force levels can fluctuate significantly from month to month. At times a longer-term view can be a better indicator in assessing labor force levels. In this case, employment and unemployment levels in May were very similar to January totals."

Michigan's May jobless rate was just below the 6.2 percent rate recorded in January.

Total employment levels have been steady throughout 2006.

## After several months of a labor force build up, May labor force and unemployment levels returned close to January 2006 levels.

The increased Michigan jobless rates from February-April 2006 were primarily due to labor market entry, whereas May's jobless rate drop was caused by labor market withdrawal.

2006, Michigan's workforce declined slightly by 12,000 or 0.2 percent.

The national jobless rate declined by one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 4.6 percent in May.

# Employers are urged to curtail health care costs

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Health care costs are rising, putting pressure on corporate bottom lines from automakers to real estate offices.

According to one health care expert, it's now time for employers to take a more active role in keeping those costs down.

Dr. Dee Edgington, Ph.D., a professor of kinesiology with the University of Michigan and a member of the Michigan Business School's Executive Education Program, told attendees at a recent Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber forecast luncheon that the focus of health care

for businesses has to be about keeping people healthy and not so much about healing them when they're sick. In a nutshell,

Edgington's point was fairly simple: Companies need to take it on themselves to reduce health care costs.

"There's no reason to be happy with health care costs making a 10 percent increase," he said. "To change this, employers are going to have to be the drivers."

He said domestic business complaints about foreign companies benefiting from state-run health care aren't valid as countries like Canada and the U.K. are going broke on their health systems. It's wrong, he said, to think about the issue from a health care standpoint.

"This is not about health, it's about economics," Edgington said. "It's not about healthy people, it's about productive people."

He made an analogy to the old way of doing business where when a customer who bought your toaster complained, you sent them a new toaster rather than fix the design. Now, companies will fix the system that created the defective product and it's time to apply the same thinking to health care.

Companies, he said, have to start looking at their low-risk (healthy habit oriented) employees as economic solutions to the health care problem. It's the high-risk employees who cost the most money. "People who are low-risk are your market share," Edgington said. "What are you going to do to drive that market share to 75 percent?"

He said companies need to do more to reward employees who take care of their health because they're the ones who are the key to keeping the price low.

Bloomfield Hills resident Bruce Kridler asked if solutions like penalizing or firing smokers was a good idea.

"In those cases you lose more than you gain. You lose strategy and knowledge when you do that," Edgington said. "It's the right idea but I'm not sure it's the right approach."

It's wrong to think that the government is ever going to change policy as regards tobacco, he said. Tobacco's legality centers around economics and not health, he said, "and economics will always trump health."

He also said companies can't expect doctors to change the equation either because their paychecks are directly linked to caring for the ill rather than maintaining the healthy.

Chamber President Pamela Iacobelli said the idea of a health care forecast lunch is a first for them.

"We're probably going to keep this one," she said. "There's a constant rise in health care costs and we saw the importance of putting this program together."

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## Don't spend July 4 in an emergency room

What would the Fourth of July be without fireworks? A little less busy in hospital emergency rooms. Each year nearly 10,000 fireworks-related injuries are seen in the nation's emergency rooms, with nearly half of the injured being children. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is urging everyone to be extremely careful with fireworks this 4th of July, and reminding patriotic celebrants that there is no such thing as completely "safe" fireworks.

"I think the safest and best way to enjoy the 4th is to watch a professional display," said Dr. Rick Blum, president of ACEP.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported eight people died and 9,600 were injured in 2004 due to incidents involving fireworks. More than two-thirds of those fireworks injuries occurred between June 19 and July 19. Most of the injuries involved burns, with hands and eyes being the most common parts of the body injured.

If fireworks are legal in your community, ACEP

strongly suggests you do not use fireworks at your home. If you do use fireworks, however, these do's and don'ts will help make it a safer experience.

- Do:**
- Buy fireworks from reputable dealers
  - Read warning labels and follow all instructions
  - Keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher on hand
  - Light fireworks one at a time
  - Dispose of all fireworks properly
  - Don't:
    - Give any fireworks, including sparklers, to small children; older children should be supervised by an adult
    - Light fireworks indoors or near other objects
    - Wear loose clothing while using any fireworks
    - Set off fireworks in glass or metal containers - the fragments can cause severe injury
    - Try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- ACEP is a national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine with more than 23,000 members.

## Fireworks VIP event raises money for parade

This summer Detroiters and visitors alike can take part in one of Detroit's favorite traditions - the Target Fireworks and International Freedom Festival. Families will be able to enjoy the AM 910 Radio Disney Rhythms and Rhymes from the Hart in Hart Plaza 3-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 28. The fireworks will begin at 10:06 p.m.

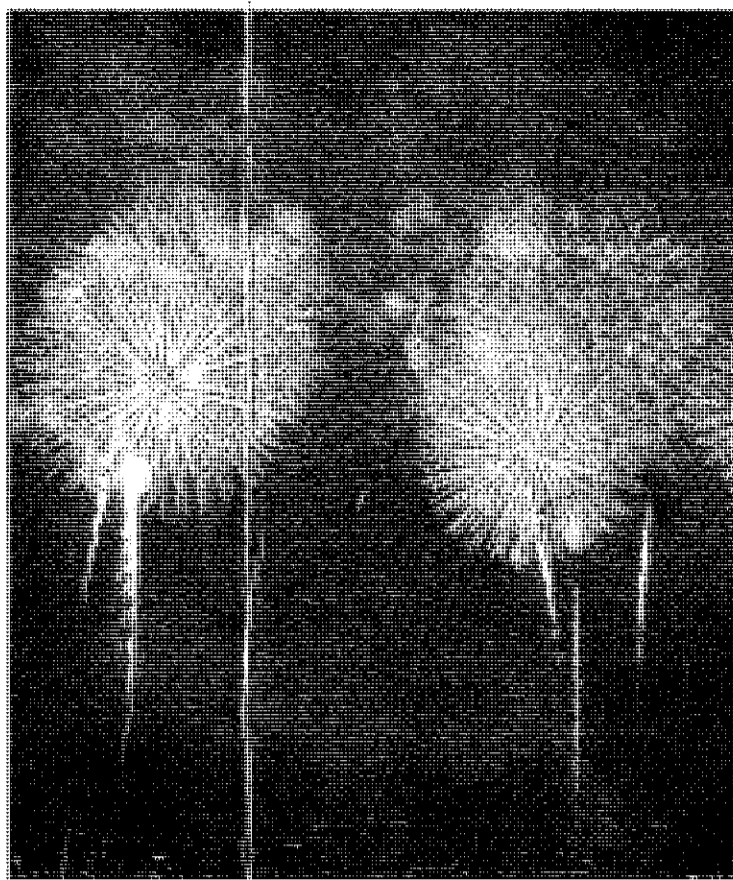
Rhythms and Rhymes is a family festival that focuses on literacy, music and family-fun entertainment sponsored by Comcast, Charter One Bank, Big Boy Restaurants, Detroit Lions Charities and Belle Tire.

The Target Fireworks will showcase more than 10,000 pyrotechnic efforts that can be viewed for miles along the Detroit International Riverfront.

Rhythms and Rhymes and the Target Fireworks are free family events.

The best seats in Detroit to view the Target Fireworks are at the Official VIP Rooftop Party sponsored by Target, General Motors, Charter One Bank and the Michigan Lottery. The Rooftop Party is the premier VIP party for the fireworks.

The Official VIP Rooftop Party will feature entertain-



The annual Freedom Festival fireworks display over the Detroit River, celebrating Canada Day and Independence Day.

Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, which governs The Parade Company.

The Official VIP Rooftop Party (a major fund-raiser for The Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation) is 6-11 p.m. at the Miller Parking Garage, just west of the Renaissance Center, Downtown Detroit.

Tickets to the Official VIP Rooftop Party are available for \$175. For more information on how to purchase tickets, please call (313) 432-7831 or visit www.theparade.org.

Founded in 1984, The Parade Company is a not-for-profit organization governed by the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation whose board of directors is comprised of key civic and corporate leaders in the greater Detroit region. The mission is to fund, create and execute the best family events in metro Detroit. The Parade Company staff, the board of directors and thousands of parade volunteers work year-round to bring a wide variety of magnificent events to the City of Detroit each year including the International Freedom Festival and Target Fireworks and America's Thanksgiving Parade.

ment, food, games and activities for children and summer-time fun for all. WDIV-TV Local 4 and News/Talk 760

WJR will broadcast live from the party. The Official VIP Rooftop Party is one of the major fund-raisers for the

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