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**THURSDAY**  
July 13, 2006

# WESTLAND Observer

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## City refuses to support Frontier Park plan

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Saying residents can't afford it, Westland city leaders have refused to back a vast recreation complex that a citizens group wants built near Central City Park.

"People out there are really struggling, and it might be difficult to get a (tax) passed," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli

said. During a new round of talks Monday with city officials, Citizens for Frontier Park had hoped to win political support for a 30-acre recreation complex with baseball diamonds, soccer fields, an indoor pool, a two-sheet ice arena, picnic pavilions, basketball courts, walking trails and other amenities.

"We know we need these facilities," CFP Chairman Mark Rodriguez said.

But city officials and some residents called the proposal's timing wrong, saying people can't afford a tax increase when many of them are losing their jobs and homes.

"We can't afford to spend money we don't have," resident John McGuire said, when given an opportunity to speak during Monday's joint session between CFP leaders and city officials.

Frontier Park would be situated on county-owned land west of Central City Park, north of Marquette, east of Newburgh and south of Ford Road. CFP leaders hope to get the land donated, but county officials have declined to give serious consideration to that proposal unless the city backs it.

With city officials refusing, CFP leaders will have little recourse unless

they mount a citizen-led petition drive to get a tax proposal on the ballot. That decision hasn't been made.

On Monday, city officials pointed to a newly released financial analysis indicating that Frontier Park would cost an estimated \$40 million. They said the project would require a 1.8-mill tax to build it and a 1-mill tax to

PLEASE SEE PARK, A5

Here's mud in your eyes, ears, hair ...



Carly Hatch, 12, of Wayne makes a mud angel Tuesday during the annual Wayne County Mud Day in Hines Park in Westland. The county mixes more than 200 tons of topsoil and 20,000 gallons of water to ensure the mud is just right for the popular, annual event.



Amanda Roehrich, 14, of Romulus pushes down her 10-year-old niece, Rosie Thompson.

## Man charged in child porn case

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man, accused of downloading hundreds of child pornography images from his computer, could face trial on criminal charges.

Danny Rudolph Schultz, 36, has been scheduled for a July 20 hearing in Westland District Court on charges of child sexually abusive activity and possession of child pornography.

Schultz is accused of downloading child porn images onto some 200 CDs that police

confiscated from his residence on Barchester, police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said. Police also seized three computers from Schultz's home near the city's southwest side.

Westland 18th District Magistrate Donald Vandersloot arraigned Schultz on Friday following accusations he had CDs showing nude children involved in sexual acts.

Police arrested Schultz after his girlfriend came forward and alleged that she had found child pornography on his computer, according to Trzybinski.

Vandersloot entered a not-guilty plea in

the defendant's court file Friday and ordered him jailed in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond.

Vandersloot scheduled Schultz for a July 20 hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted, Schultz could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison for child sexually abusive activity. He also could face four years behind bars for possession of child pornography.

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com) | (734) 953-2110

## Water-sewer rate increase approved

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Water-sewer rates will increase in Westland, making it slightly costlier to take a shower, water the lawn or wash a car at home.

The rates rose 2.3 percent following a unanimous decision Monday by the Westland City Council, but most consumer bills won't reflect the change until fall.

Combined water-sewer rates will climb 12 cents per 1,000 gallons, jumping from \$5.29 to \$5.41.

A typical residential customer using 22,000 gallons of water every two-month billing cycle will pay an additional \$15.84 a year, city Finance Director Steven Smith has said.

While the increase may seem minimal, city leaders are keenly aware that residents are feeling the collective pinch of price hikes for everything from heating their homes in winter to filling up at the gas pump.

That, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said, is why city leaders chose to increase water-sewer rates only enough to offset price hikes imposed on Westland by Detroit and Wayne County officials.

In some years, city officials have slightly padded the rate hike to further offset local costs and to boost the city's water-sewer fund.

Not this time. "We've not added anything," Cicirelli said Monday during a council session.

She has said that Westland fared better than some communities that were slapped with double-digit rate hikes.

PLEASE SEE RECALL, A4

## Livonia school trustees won't appeal Court's ruling on recall

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

The five Livonia Board of Education trustees facing a recall election Aug. 8 will not appeal last week's Wayne County Circuit Court ruling which allows that election to go forward.

Westland voters who live in the Livonia Public Schools district will help decide the issue.

"We are obviously disappointed with the Court's ruling that the Wayne County Clerk's Office complied with Michigan election law in certifying the number of signatures necessary for the recall petitions to be placed on the ballot," said Attorney David Gillam, representing the trustees. "While we respect the court's decision, we strongly disagree with that decision."

On July 6, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly denied a petition in which board president

Dan Lessard, and trustees Lynda Scheel, Rob Freeman, Cynthia Markarian and Kevin Whitehead contended that Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett was incorrect when she validated 8,923 as the number of signatures needed, per board member, to support a recall election in the school district.

Gillam argued the Wayne County Clerk failed to include at least 15 precincts when

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Coming Sunday in Health

Clinical tests promise new hope for those with macular degeneration.

# Station looking to lead alternative fuel rush

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

As Rebecca Storebeck bought gas for her Dodge Durango last week, she hardly noticed the E85 logo on one of the pumps, even though it offered gasoline at 10 cents a gallon less than regular unleaded.

"I don't know what it is," she said of the ethanol/gasoline blend, while pumping regular gasoline in Southfield at more than \$3 per gallon.

That will change, if U.S. Sen. Carl Levin has his way.

As Storebeck was filling up at the Orchard Lake Citgo station at Northwestern and 12 Mile, the senior senator from Michigan was about 10 feet away — touting the advantages of E85.

Levin wants more motorists to be aware of the alternative fuel and its potential benefits.

Used on a large scale, E85 would enable the United States to lessen its dependence on OPEC and foreign oil, Levin said. It would also reduce the amount of pollutants by engines using fossil fuels, he said.

Before E85 becomes America's fuel of choice, however, motorists must be informed, Levin said, and more stations should be encouraged to make the alternative fuel available — particularly as gasoline prices around the country remain consistently at \$3 or more per gallon.

The Southfield station is one of the fewer than 15 in Michigan that offers E85, Levin said.

"We can produce the ethanol fuel," he said. And automobile manufacturers are making vehicles that can burn the alternative fuel, he said.

But the large oil companies are less than enthusiastic about making E85 widely available, Levin said.

"They don't want the competition," he said.

The Southfield station is one of 40 in Michigan and Ohio owned by Knight Enterprises Inc. in Novi that blends gasoline and ethanol to get E85, said John DiMartini, the company's senior vice president and general manager.

Two of the company's stations offer E85, DiMartini said, with another under consideration in the metropolitan area. His company is reluctant to install additional E85 pumps for economic reasons, he said.

New or additional pumps and tanks are expensive, he said, and the wholesale price of ethanol is currently higher than gasoline. His station is able to offer E85 at a discount, DiMartini said, because the company purchased a large store of ethanol when it was considerably less than the current price of more than \$3.30 per gallon.

At current prices, E85 represents about 5 percent of sales at stations making it available, DiMartini said, with a growing number of customers willing to drive out of their way to get the alternative fuel.

A spokesman for the American Petroleum Institute said much needs to happen before E85 is generally accepted.

"It's expensive and less efficient," Edward Murphy, group director for refining and marketing for API, said Friday. The alternative fuel loses 25 percent to 30 percent of its efficiency, giving a motorist fewer miles per gallon compared with gasoline, he said.

Motorists don't get anything near the miles per gallon they currently get



With gas prices rising, a Southfield station has begun offering E85 a (slightly) lower cost fuel alternative.

with regular fuel, Murphy said. "If it (E85) costs more and doesn't take you as far," he said. "What do you think motorists will buy?"

Even so, the demand for E85 is expected to skyrocket, said Max Gates, an environmental affairs specialist with DaimlerChrysler in Auburn Hills.

Less than 3 percent of vehicles currently in production offer flex-fuel

vehicles, he said, referring to engines that can run on regular or ethanol-based gasoline. That percentage is expected to increase to about 25 within the next two years, he said.

E85 may be more expensive and less efficient right now, he said, "but research is becoming more aggressive, and costs associated with ethanol fuels will go down."

Researchers need to do more, Gates

said. "Perhaps we can do things like using the entire (corn) plant — rather than kernels — to make ethanol," he said, "or maybe we can use wood. But the price has to come down."

President Bush supports that research, Gates said, and there is a great demand for a renewable fuel that is more environmentally friendly.

pmurphy@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2575

## AROUND WESTLAND

### 'Historic' flea market

The Friends of the Westland Historical Museum will sponsor its third-annual flea market 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 22, on the grounds of the historic Perrinsville Schoolhouse, built in 1856.

The schoolhouse is located on Warren Road at Cowan, just a quarter-mile west of Merriman Road.

The flea market will be held rain or shine, historian Ruth Dale said.

Donations are needed, with suggestions including dishes, small furniture, kitchen items, jewelry, toys, tools, antiques and collectibles — but no clothing.

Donations will be accepted 1-4 p.m. Saturdays July 1, 8 and 15 at the Westland Historical Museum, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

Spaces for this year's flea market will cost \$15 each. Proceeds from Friends of the Museum items will help restore the foundation of the 1850s museum.

For more information, call Ruth Dale at (734) 425-1955 or Virginia Braun at (734) 427-4648.

### New address

Westwood Community Church has moved to 9600 Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. Praise and worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday. There also is a children's church and nursery, and doughnuts and coffee are also served. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

### Yard sale

The YWCA Western Wayne County will host a Yard Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 21, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22.

Office supplies, office furniture, children's toys and other items will be on sale. The Yard Sale will be held at the YWCA Administrative Offices, 26279 Michigan Ave., and proceeds from the sale will benefit the families served by the YWCA.

The YWCA also is looking for volunteers from the community to help organize items to be sold, and help work the day of the sale. For more information, call the YWCA Western Wayne County at (313) 561-4110 Ext. 18.

### Outreach clinic

The Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil

legal services for income-eligible residents at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Westland Senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland.

Attendees are asked to register before 10:30 a.m. A Legal Aid attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time.

For further information, call Gina Polley, director of community relations and governmental affairs, at (313) 964-4111, Ext. 6440 or (877) 964-5310, or by e-mail at gpolley@ladetroit.org.

### Flea Market

Vendors are needed for a flea market 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Space is available at \$20 per space. Applications are available by calling Ray or Jackie Gagnon at (734) 722-7225.

### 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.

### 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 includes butter, milk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Free syrup will be available.

### Senior volleyball

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

If interested, call Mel Tockstein at (734) 722-0700.

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# Summer garage sales sprout around town

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Linda Devlin's driveway held a steady stream of shoppers Thursday as she hosted a friends-and-family garage sale.

"We are getting swamped," she said, standing in the sun. "There have been three or four cars all day."

Devlin, a Livonia resident, spent three weeks planning and organizing the sale. She washed everything, including the clothes, before pricing and placing items in and around the garage.

Devlin said she didn't have much to sell but was convinced to host the garage sale by neighbors, friends and family who had items to contribute.

Livonia shoppers and sellers alike said they rely on newspaper advertisements and signage to promote garage sales in their neighborhoods.

Devlin created pink signs with arrows to direct traffic to her street — which is tucked in a middle Livonia neighborhood. "People have commented on the arrows," she said.

She also coordinated her sale to coincide with her neighbor Sheila Burke's sale down the street. Burke took out an ad in the *Livonia Observer* to bring in shoppers.

"It's a lot of work," said Burke. It's been more than three years since the Burke family's last sale. Some of the leftover items from that event went first Thursday, Burke said.

She also had a lot of shoppers Thursday. Burke said she believes garage sale hosts switched from Sunday to Thursday sales, to allow a weekend day to clean up what's left over.

Devlin started her sale earlier in the week, which meant



Linda Devlin said shoppers just kept coming to her garage sale on a Thursday afternoon in Livonia.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

she battled on-and-off rain showers and storms. But Burke was hoping the weather would continue to cooperate throughout the weekend.

When it comes to garage sale shopping, Devlin said, men and women approach it quite differently.

"Men definitely look for tools and fishing gear," she said. "Women don't care. I've sold a little bit of everything."

She said baby items and toys sell very quickly.

Burke said records, old watches, clocks and radios seemed to be in high demand, as did craft supplies.

At Megan Bauman's house it was bags and purses that

everyone perused.

"We have lots," said Megan with a smile.

She and her sister have a garage sale every year. It's an annual event at their Livonia home. This year Megan hopes to raise enough money to attend soccer camp.

Back at her house, Devlin said she expects to rake in a total of \$500. In the past, Burke said, she's made as much as \$1,200 at a garage sale — though there was furniture for sale. This year she expects to make at least \$400.

"We're doing OK," Burke said. "I'm happy with it so far."

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



Bargain hunters were out in full force on a Thursday, which is often the first and busiest garage sale day of the weekend.

## Parents welcome at Ready, Set, Go!

Livonia Public Schools' Ready, Set, Go! program will host a new series of classes, titled *Caring for your Baby*, meant for parents of children up to age 3.

The series is offered to enhance knowledge and to provide training and learning experiences for families and caregivers of young children. The classes fit into the mission of Ready, Set, Go! which aims to engage the community, to support families and caregivers as they meet the needs of young children.

Held at Perrinville Early Childhood Center, 33344 Ann Arbor Trail near Farmington and Joy roads, classes will be offered as follows:

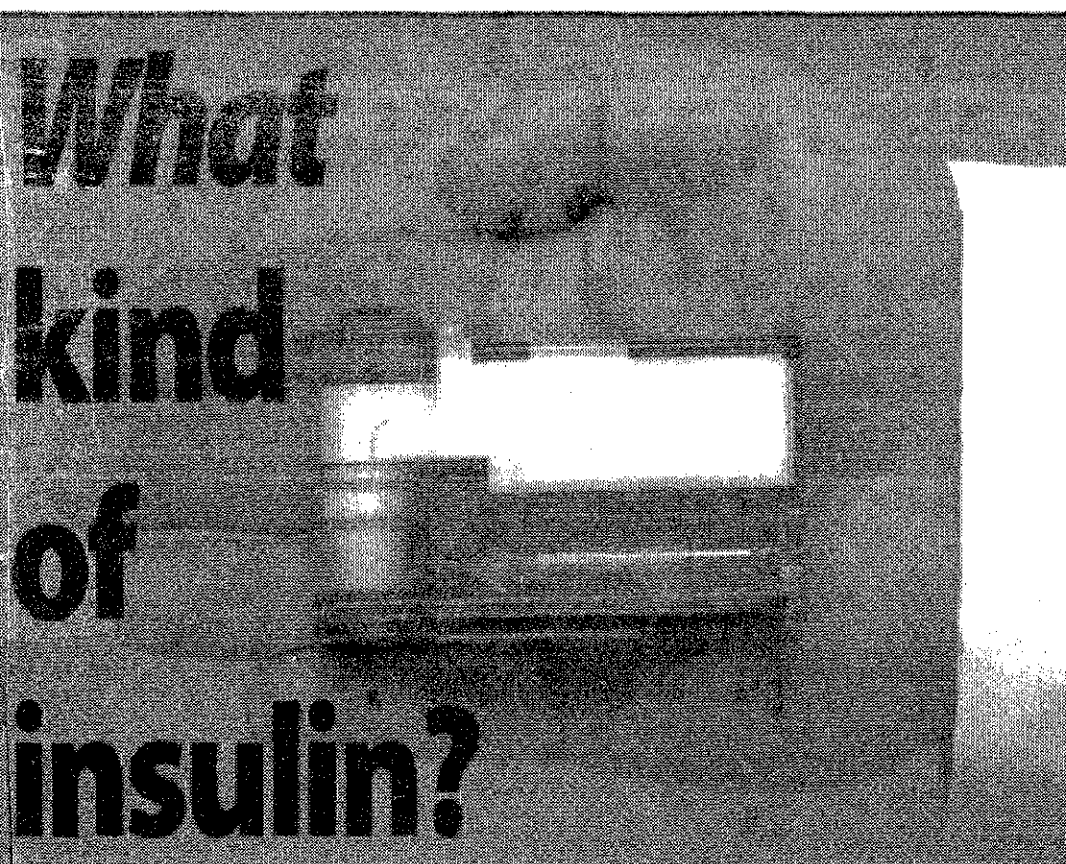
■ From 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19: Breastfeeding vs. Formula Feeding. Registered Nurse Linda Rodriguez will present information about nutrition, tastes, obesity, costs and other factors.

■ From 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, July 25: Child Passenger Safety. Livonia Firefighter Jerry Eizen will discuss how to properly secure and install child safety seats to keep children from harm.

■ 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 26: Infant Massage. Registered Nurse Carol O'Brien, a certified educator of infant massage, will discuss the benefits of this tradition.

■ From 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2: Safe Sleep. Registered Nurse Catherine Oliver, will discuss Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and share how to create safe sleep practices and a safe sleep environment.

Parents are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions, and organizers encourage them to share this information with other families who have young children. Call (734) 744-2765, ext. 28103, or e-mail sludtke@livonia.k12.mi.us to register for a session. Leave your name, telephone number, sessions you will attend, along with the age of your infant or toddler.



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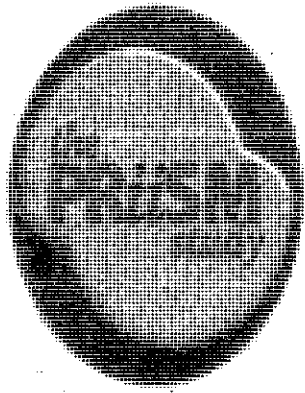
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RECALL

FROM PAGE A1  
calculating that total. He suggested the required amount should have been closer to 11,464 signatures.

Kelly decided to "allow a technical deficiency to be balanced in favor of putting a recall on the ballot." The court's decision pleased members of the Citizens for Livonia's Future group, which spearheaded the recall effort. The group vocally opposes aspects of the district's new "Legacy Initiative," a plan to close schools and reorganize the district.

Jody Hamilton, a Livonia parent and recall election organizer, said following the verdict: "Now the public will have the right to vote."

But Gillam said Friday he was "confident that the Court's ruling would be overturned on appeal." "However, from a practical

standpoint, judicial review of the actions of the Wayne County Clerk's Office to this point has been at considerable personal expense to Mr. Lessard, Ms. Scheel, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Markarian and Mr. Whitehead.

"At this time, our clients have chosen not to appeal (the) ruling and will instead shift their time and efforts from the court of law to the court of public opinion. We are confident that the residents of the Livonia School District will act in the best interest of the students, the school district and the community, and vote against the recalls on Aug. 8."

Livonia Citizens Against Recall Effort are working to keep current school trustees in place following the election. Their efforts are being opposed by Citizens for Livonia's Future members in favor of the recall.

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

City approves contract for supervisors

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland supervisory union has secured a four-year contract that mirrors negotiated settlements for other city bargaining units.

The Westland Supervisory Association, or United Auto Workers Local 174, will accept a pay freeze for the year that started July 1, city Personnel Director Keith Madden said.

The WSA agreed to a one-year pay freeze even though Madden called the union "a group of some of the hardest-working people we have in this town."

The 20 employees range from outreach workers in the Westland Housing Department to deputy directors in departments such as building, senior citizen resources, and parks and recreation.

The pay freeze will be followed by a 2 percent raise in the second year; a 0.5 percent increase at the start of the third year; a 3 percent raise midway through the third year; and a 3.25 percent pay hike in the fourth year.

"This is the same as the contracts for all other city employees," Madden said.

The contract — already ratified by the union — won sweeping approval Monday night from the seven-member Westland

City Council.

The WSA's lowest salary will increase from \$38,529 to \$42,005 during the four-year contract, while the highest pay will jump from \$51,688 to \$56,329, Madden said.

The union has accepted higher prescription co-pays, and new members will be forced to take medical coverage through a health maintenance organization, Madden said.

On Monday, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli applauded the city and union bargaining teams for swiftly reaching a contract settlement. The last pact expired June 30. clem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Westland to distribute federal surplus food

The city of Westland will distribute federal surplus food 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at the Dorsey Community Center for qualified residents who live north of Michigan Avenue. Residents who live south of the avenue should pick up their commodities July 17

at St. James United Methodist Church, located at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers should call their building manager to find out about their food distribution.

For July, the city will distribute beef

stew, grape juice, canned peaches and instant potatoes.

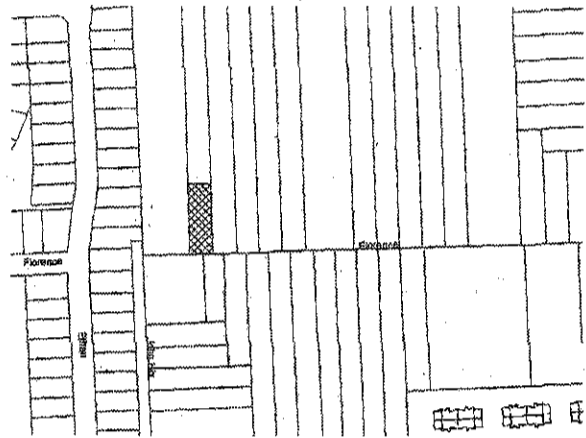
For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2155 - Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from I-2, General Industrial to R-5, Single Family Residential, Parcel #051-99-0028-000, 38690 Florence, North Side of Florence Avenue, East of John Hix Road, Jacqueth M. Norton



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 18, 2006

CE0846489

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, July 29, 2006 @ 1:00 PM.

#104 Theodore Williams, #502 Elaine Williams, #158 Melissa Neihoff, #828 Esperanza Martinez.

Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: July 18 & 20, 2006

CE0846507

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

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

On the premises where said property has been stored and in which are located at Public Storage, 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48034 (248)263-3880, on 7-26-06 at 9:30 am. Personal property described below in the matter of

- 159 Cynthia Celmo - boxes, 3 dressers
- 304 Susan Burkhardt - boxes, bags, misc. items
- 517 Anthony Crockett - Computer, 3 Portable Televisions
- 519 Marilyn Ewings - boxes, misc. items
- 924 Amanda Genton - boxes, totes
- 1025 Nicole Helles - boxes, bags, misc. items
- 1027 Donald Oatley - desk, dresser, TV
- 839 Stephen Pandel - Entertainment Center, Stove, Washer
- 539 Mathew Pawlowski - Coffee Table, Bed Frame, Bed Mattress
- 712 Jamie Walls - Computer, Microwave, Dining Table

Publish: July 18 & 20, 2006

CE0846507

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

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

On the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Public Storage, 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 on 7-26-06 at 10:30 am Personal property described below in the matter of

- B009 Steven Miree - desk, love seat, ent. Center
- B022 Donna Brothers - Entertainment Center, 12 Totes, 20 Boxes
- B026 Mario Hearn - 11 Boxes, Portable Television, 8 Totes
- B036 Michael Goodwin - Computer, Printer, 3 bags
- B145 Najah Zaeed - misc. items
- B168 Kim Butler - mattress, couch, totes
- B224 Dennis Cage - Couch, Love Seat, Exercise Bike
- B233 Gloria Prim - Television, Clothing, Bags
- B292 Rosella Westerby - Microwave, 6 boxes, 9 totes
- B361 Daniel Page - Vacuum Cleaner, Old records, 3 totes
- C002 Melissa Offord - lawn mower, couch, AC unit
- C011 Debyl Ector - Washer, Refrigerator, Stove
- C015 Alaina Silagy - Dressers, 20 boxes, 10 bags
- C022 Renee Esten Ware - See previous
- C033 Conway Adkins - Boxes, Misc items
- D009 Charles Corby - Desk, mirrors, 6 totes
- E047 Robert Mayo - dryer, washer, toys
- F010 Robert Benjamin - microwave, dryer, washer

Publish: July 13 & 20, 2006

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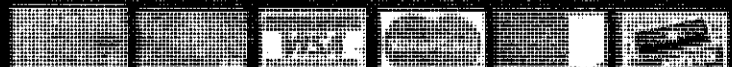
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# Law board suspends ex-prosecutor for his political activity

Attorney Wade McCann was suspended from practicing law in Michigan for 30 days as part of a disciplinary proceeding conducted by a local licensing board.

The professional action against McCann is a follow up to his misdemeanor conviction stemming from illegal political activities during his work in the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

McCann pled guilty to one count of theft of government property worth less than \$1,000 in U.S. District Court in the fall of 2004.

While at work and using taxpayer-funded property, he admitted he instructed two prosecutor interns to assist him in adding to an existing political database of campaign supporters over a several-month period in 2002.

The Tri-County Attorney Discipline Board, after holding a hearing, issued the practice suspension against McCann's,

effective June 17. He also was assessed \$2,241 in costs.

"In consideration of the relevant aggravating and mitigating factors, the hearing panel ordered the suspension of (McCann's) license," the board stated in a public notice.

In January 2005, McCann was sentenced to two years probation, community service and a \$5,000 fine.

The action by the discipline board is expected to be the final step in this four-year process that began when McCann was working as chief of auto theft investigations under then-Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Mike Duggan.

Today, McCann is a private practice attorney who works in a Livonia office.

He is the brother of Livonia City Councilman Jim McCann and Livonia 16th District Court Judge Kathleen McCann.

By Dan West

## PARK

FROM PAGE A1

operate it.

In all, that combined 2.8-mill scenario means the owner of a \$150,000 house would pay an additional \$213 a year in taxes. That amount would gradually drop to \$178 during the next 20 years.

"It's probably not the right time for something like this," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said, adding that he believes residents "are not prepared to do this."

Councilman James Godbout voiced similar concerns and said, "There's a definite distinction between whether we

would like to have these facilities and whether we need these facilities."

City leaders also referred to a report showing that local voters aren't receptive to approving tax increases.

In 12 city elections involving tax increases since 1974, Westland voters have approved only one millage increase. That was a 1-mill ballot question involving a now-demolished, trash-burning incinerator.

Rodriguez and another CFP leader, Todd Kangas, questioned why city leaders won't simply let local voters decide the issue.

"If it goes on the ballot and loses, who's hurt?" Kangas asked during Monday's talks.

"Is it somebody's pride in this room?"

Rodriguez questioned why city leaders — if they're concerned that local residents are struggling financially — recently passed a controversial measure that will likely force renters to pay for property inspections.

"That's a red herring," he said.

City leaders, however, said they have to consider all the city's needs — not just the recreation component.

"We have police needs, fire needs, housing needs," Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt said.

Council President William Wild told CFP leaders, "We're

just trying to work with what we have and prioritize the dollars we do have."

The city's latest budget projections showed a budget surplus of about \$2 million — not much, officials say, for a city of 86,000 people. Moreover, city leaders fear that some revenues, such as state dollars to local communities, could be further eroded.

After Monday's talks concluded, Rodriguez said the Frontier Park proposal isn't dead. He said its supporters would have to discuss what their next step, if any, might be.

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

## YOUTH ASSISTANCE

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to assist families in Westland.

Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to

Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies.

Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to explain the program's services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All serv-

ices are free to Westland residents. If the assessment determines that a youth is appropriate for Youth Assistance, the following services may be required for the youth:

- Life Choices classes.
- Drug screens.
- Supervised Community Work Service.
- Jail/prison tour.
- Team Adventure

Challenge.

- Mentoring.
- Karate.
- Counseling.

Parents are required to participate in a Parenting Skills and Support Group. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening appointments are available by request. Call (734) 467-7904.

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Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midischerniation.com](http://www.midischerniation.com)

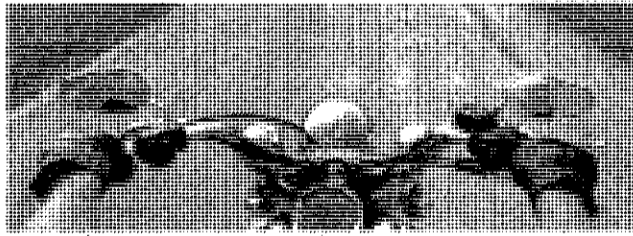
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<b>BRIARWOOD</b> Briarwood Mall (in Sears Wing, near Center Ct.)	<b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> 31011 Orchard Lake Rd. (S.W. Corner of Orchard Lake Rd. & 14 Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900	<b>ROYAL OAK</b> 31921 Woodward Ave. (at Normandy) 248-549-4177	<b>OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY</b>
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<b>BURTON</b> 1295 S. Center Rd. (at corner of Lapeer Rd.) 810-743-4846	<b>LAKE ORION</b> 2531 S. Lapeer Rd. (Orion Mall 2 miles N. of the Palace) 248-393-6800	<b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b> Lakeside Mall (Lower Ct. play area) 586-997-6500	<b>Authorized Retailers</b> Equipment prices, models & return policy vary by location.
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SATURDAY, JULY 15TH

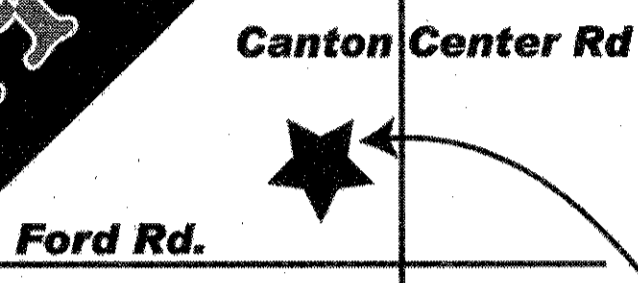
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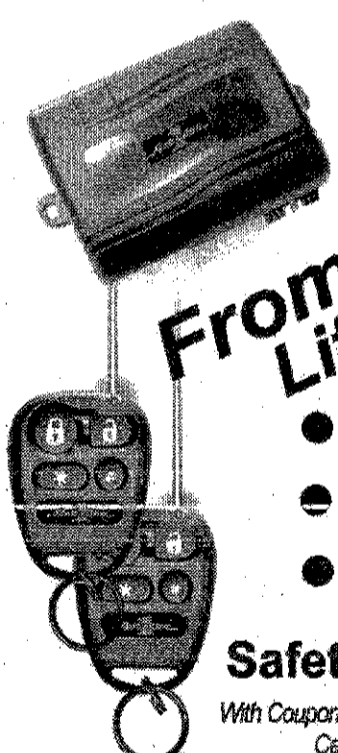
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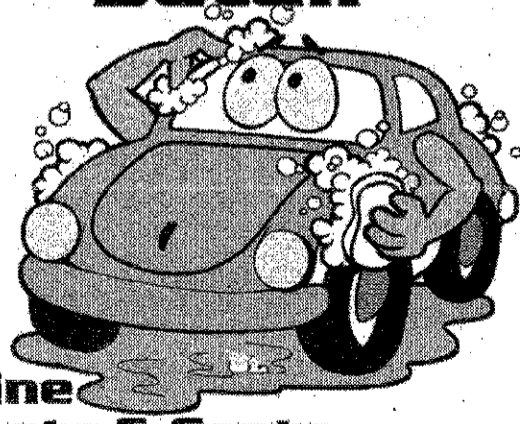
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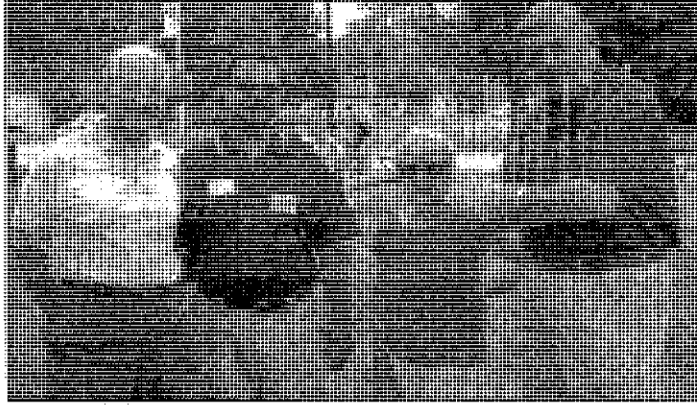
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Saturday's Ice Cream Social drew district resident John Grzebick, Trustee Steve King, Trustee Cyndi Markarian and Haley Feher.



Former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey (from left), Livonia CAREs Chairperson Jerry Kmiecik, Patt Kirksey and George Bageris attended Saturday's ice cream social at Civic Center Park in Livonia. The event, sponsored by Livonia Citizens Against Recall Elections, offered meet-and-greet opportunities with current members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

## School supporters host board meet and greet

About 200 members of the Livonia schools community attended an ice cream social Saturday, sponsored by Livonia Citizens Against Recall Elections at Civic Center Park.

Residents of the school district gathered to show their support for the Livonia Public Schools and to meet, greet and ask questions of current district board members. Trustees Dan Lessard, Lynda

Scheel, Cynthia Markarian, Rob Freeman and Tom Bailey were present, as was newly-elected trustee Steve King. Kevin Whitehead and Joanne Morgan did not attend.

"The goal for this event was to give people the opportunity to gather together in an informal setting and talk about what brings us all together," said Jerry Kmiecik, chair of Livonia CAREs. "Our community is what makes Livonia

Public Schools special." Livonia CAREs, a state political action committee, was established recently in an effort to support students, parents, teachers, and staff of the district. The group is working to defeat the recall of five school board members during an election set for Aug. 8. Members believe the current board showed fiscal responsibility in creating the Legacy Initiative. They are opposed by Citizens for Livonia's Future, the group spearheading the recall effort.

Jo Vizzaccaro said Livonia CAREs members reached out to residents with postcards, e-mails and phone calls to spread the word about the event. She called the afternoon ice cream social a success.

"I feel the most important accomplishment was the ability for members of community to talk with board members and supporters in a casual, friendly purely social environment," she said. For more information about the group, see [www.livoniacares.org](http://www.livoniacares.org).

By Stephanie A. Casola

## Board welcomes King, elects officers

Livonia Public Schools' newest board member took the oath of office Monday.

"Steve, now it's time to go to work," said Board president Dan Lessard, as Steve King took his seat at the end of the board table. King was elected to his first four-year term in May.

Following his formal addition, the board members took nominations for their 2006-2007 officers. Lynda Scheel took on the role of board president. She then nominated Cynthia Markarian for the role of vice president. And Kevin Whitehead, though not present at the time of his nomination, was voted in as secretary of the board.

"We were talking about this a while ago," said Lessard. "If you're not here to defend yourself, you're in trouble."

Each trustee earned six votes in support, as Whitehead was absent from voting until he arrived at the end of the organizational meeting Monday.

Lisa Levesque, director of finance for the district, was



Steve King

again appointed treasurer of the board and investment manager.

At one point, King attempted to ask his first question regarding a procedure.

Lessard did not hear his question and attempted to go on with the meeting. When backtracking, he said to King: "You gotta sing out" (to be heard).

Trustee Rob Freeman added: "He's good at that," a statement that elicited a few laughs from an upbeat audience. King is also leader of the band Steve King and the Dittilies.

In his last moments as the man with the gavel, Lessard thanked his fellow board members for their "persistence and cooperation" during his time as president. "I appreciate all everyone has done in helping me be the best president I could be," he said. "And I'll do all I can to help Lynda."

By Stephanie A. Casola

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# H.E.A.T. offers tips to keep car safe during heat

Warm weather in summer months can lead to carelessness among car owners, providing thieves with easy access to personal property and vehicles.

That's the word from H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts).

According to the 2006 FBI Uniform Crime Report, motor vehicle theft is consistently highest in July and August.

"As warm weather sets in, people tend to relax their guard by leaving car tops and windows down when they leave

their vehicles," said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. "This makes it easy for thieves to steal exposed property like purses, laptops and cell phones - not to mention the vehicle itself."

"Always keep a watchful eye on your property, especially in the summer," said Lt. John Michalke of the Macomb Auto Theft Squad. "Just as you lock your front door before leaving your house, be sure to secure all car doors before stepping away from your vehicle, even

when running a quick errand." Tips on keeping your car and belongings safe during warm weather:

**Closed Not Cracked** - Close windows tightly, don't even leave them "cracked" and always lock your car when your vehicle is unattended.

**Out of Sight** - Keep all personal belongings, including iPods, cell phones and other valuables out of sight.

**Lock Your Top** - Close and lock convertible car tops.

**Kill-Switch** - Protect your

vehicle from being started by a thief by having a mechanic install a concealed kill-switch.

**Double Duty** - Add a second layer of protection to your vehicle by using a steering wheel locking device, a steering column protector or an alarm with a visible flasher.

**VIN** - Consider etching your VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) onto the glass surfaces of your vehicle.

VIN etching makes vehicles less attractive to thieves because all windows must be

replaced before the car is tagged with a fake VIN for resale.

**1-800-242-H.E.A.T.** - If you know anything about auto theft, report it to your local police department and H.E.A.T.'s confidential tip-reward line, 1-800-242-H.E.A.T.

Since its inception in 1985, H.E.A.T. tips have led to the recovery of more than \$42 million in stolen property and the arrests of nearly 3,000 suspects involved in auto theft rings, chop shops, carjackings, fraudulent car thefts, among other crimes. Also, H.E.A.T. has paid more than \$2.9 million in tipster rewards over the last 20 years.

Anyone with information on auto theft, carjacking, chop shops, auto theft-related identity theft and auto insurance fraud in Michigan is encouraged to call the H.E.A.T. tip line at 1-800-242-H.E.A.T. to provide a confidential report. H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow up on tips.

Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000 if the tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft-related insurance fraud.

Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued, if a tip results in the

'As warm weather sets in, people tend to relax their guard by leaving car tops and windows down when they leave their vehicles. This makes it easy for thieves to steal exposed property like purses, laptops and cell phones - not to mention the vehicle itself.'

Terri Miller,  
director of H.E.A.T.

arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators. H.E.A.T. also gives rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

The H.E.A.T. tip line is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan's auto insurance companies.

Information and upcoming dates of free vehicle identification number (VIN) etching events throughout the State of Michigan is available on the H.E.A.T. Web site at [www.miheat.org](http://www.miheat.org).

## CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1367B - Site Plan Approval for Mobil Service Station Renovation, 125 S. Merriman Road, Parcel #069-99-0005-001, Southeast Corner of Merriman Road and Cherry Hill Road, Bill Goodream (Jihad Dabaja)

Case #2153 - Site Plan Approval for Proposed Additions to Joy Baptist Church, 37055 Joy Road, Parcel #018-99-0003-000, South Side of Joy Road, East of Newburgh Road, Jay G. Cubbison

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday August 1, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 13, 2006

020845494

## CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Public Hearing for An Ordinance to Amend Westland Zoning Ordinance 248, Article III, Sections 83.1, 85.1, 85.2, 81.1.3, and 8:12.5, Article VIII, Sections 83.1, 84.1, and 85.1, Article XII, Section 12:2.6 and 12:3.3, and Article XIII, Sections 13:2.6 and 13:2.8, and To Add Article XII, Section 12:3.3 To Comply with Legislative Changes to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 13, 2006

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## PRESCHOOLS

Preschool findings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Atkinson at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 991-7279 or by e-mail at [sue@sdcoe.com](mailto:sue@sdcoe.com). For more information, call (734) 953-2842.

### Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Wayne and Newburgh in Westland is now enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Willow Creek programs include Parent/Tot, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and 4-year-old year classes. For more information please call (734) 426-2024.

### Preschool program

The Wayne West and Community Schools district has legislation for preschool programs at Strohmyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Westland. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, KidsPlus Preschool, a preliminary in-paired program and Sparkley Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 489-2635.

### McKinley

McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Non-discriminatory and fully licensed, the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7232 or visit the Web site at [www.mckinleypreschool.org](http://www.mckinleypreschool.org).

### Little Lambs

Little Lambs Preschool in Canton is now accepting applications for their 3-4-year-old preschool programs for fall 2006. Call (734) 989-0286 to set up an appointment to come in for a visit or for more information about its programs.

### Charter school

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-4465 or (248) 569-7787.

### Free Methodist

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is currently enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays, three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The preschool is at 1423 S. Werry, Westland. To have further information, a tour or to enroll your child call the Preschool Office at (734) 729-2599.

### Garden City Co-ops

Garden City Co-ops Preschool, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church, 840 W. Wadsworth, is currently accepting openings in its program for children 18 months to 4 years. The top class meets on Wednesday mornings, while the other youngsters meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Parents can call (734) 264-2838 for more information.

### United Christian

United Christian School on Florence near Middlebelt north of Cherry Hill offers classes two, three and five days a week. Classes meet mornings and afternoons for 3-4-year-olds, as well as flexible times for parents who need more than the scheduled preschool hours. There is a full curriculum in pre-reading, writing and early mathematics, including computer time. Call (734) 522-6487 for more information.

Quick check! Shop as often as you can at [lordandtaylor.com](http://lordandtaylor.com). Limited time: free standard shipping on all online orders over \$100 placed here through Wednesday, July 26th.

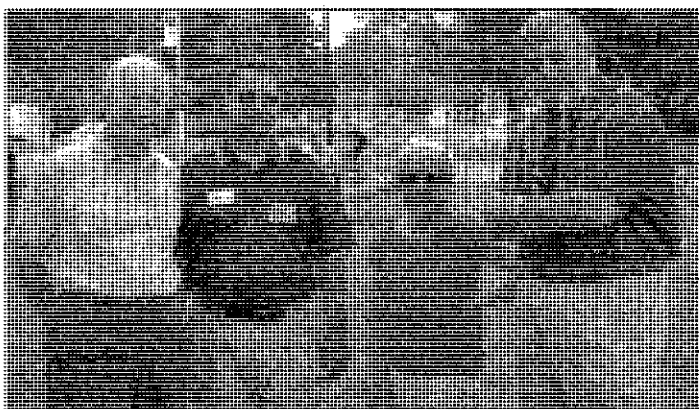
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SHELLY ROBINET

Saturday's Ice Cream Social drew district resident John Grzebick, Trustee Steve King, Trustee Cyndi Markarian and Haley Feher.



MARIE TOLEN

Former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey (from left), Livonia CAREs Chairperson Jerry Kmiecik, Patt Kirksey and George Bageris attended Saturday's ice cream social at Civic Center Park in Livonia. The event, sponsored by Livonia Citizens Against Recall Elections, offered meet-and-greet opportunities with current members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

## School supporters host board meet and greet

About 200 members of the Livonia schools community attended an ice cream social Saturday, sponsored by Livonia Citizens Against Recall Elections at Civic Center Park.

Residents of the school district gathered to show their support for the Livonia Public Schools and to meet, greet and ask questions of current district board members. Trustees Dan Lessard, Lynda

Scheel, Cynthia Markarian, Rob Freeman and Tom Bailey were present, as was newly-elected trustee Steve King. Kevin Whitehead and Joanne Morgan did not attend.

"The goal for this event was to give people the opportunity to gather together in an informal setting and talk about what brings us all together," said Jerry Kmiecik, chair of Livonia CAREs. "Our community is what makes Livonia

Public Schools special." Livonia CAREs, a state political action committee, was established recently in an effort to support students, parents, teachers, and staff of the district. The group is working to defeat the recall of five school board members during an election set for Aug. 8. Members believe the current board showed fiscal responsibility in creating the Legacy Initiative. They are opposed by Citizens for Livonia's Future, the group spearheading the recall effort. Jo Vizzaccaro said Livonia

CAREs members reached out to residents with postcards, e-mails and phone calls to spread the word about the event. She called the afternoon ice cream social a success.

"I feel the most important accomplishment was the ability for members of community to talk with board members and supporters in a casual, friendly purely social environment," she said.

For more information about the group, see [www.livoniacares.org](http://www.livoniacares.org).  
By Stephanie A. Casola

## Board welcomes King, elects officers

Livonia Public Schools' newest board member took the oath of office Monday.

"Steve, now it's time to go to work," said Board president Dan Lessard, as Steve King took his seat at the end of the board table. King was elected to his first four-year term in May.

Following his formal addition, the board members took nominations for their 2006-2007 officers. Lynda Scheel took on the role of board president. She then nominated Cynthia Markarian for the role of vice president. And Kevin Whitehead, though not present at the time of his nomination, was voted in as secretary of the board.

"We were talking about this a while ago," said Lessard. "If you're not here to defend yourself, you're in trouble."

Each trustee earned six votes in support, as Whitehead was absent from voting until he arrived at the end of the organizational meeting Monday.

Lisa Levesque, director of finance for the district, was



Steve King

again appointed treasurer of the board and investment manager.

At one point, King attempted to ask his first question regarding a procedure.

Lessard did not hear his question and attempted to go on with the meeting. When backtracking, he said to King: "You gotta sing out" (to be heard).

Trustee Rob Freeman added: "He's good at that," a statement that elicited a few laughs from an upbeat audience. King is also leader of the band Steve King and the Dittilies.

In his last moments as the man with the gavel, Lessard thanked his fellow board members for their "persistence and cooperation" during his time as president. "I appreciate all everyone has done in helping me be the best president I could be," he said. "And I'll do all I can to help Lynda."

By Stephanie A. Casola

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# Plymouth offers more varie-tea with shop

**A NEW BREW**  
It's official. Tea time is now in downtown Plymouth. Owner Colleen Cannon has opened TranquiliTea on the corner of Forest Avenue and Wing Street.

There, she sells a variety of whole leaf, classic teas from across the world - including China, Sri Lanka and South Africa. Customers are welcome to satisfy a sweet tooth with flavors like dessert lime, chocolate mint and hot cinnamon spice. Or, they may go for a healthy boost with teas meant to improve memory, lower cholesterol or trigger weight loss. Each variety is sold by the ounce. Cannon opened TranquiliTea in February after visiting a tea shop in Tennessee.

"I was so impressed with the establishment that I started doing research about tea," said Cannon. "I was amazed to learn about the popularity of tea drinking and its potential health benefits."

TranquiliTea is located at 580-3 Forest Ave. in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 459-9886.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.



Plymouth's TranquiliTea specializes in whole-leaf tea for customers with a taste for a new brew.

# Wayne County creates Hines 'grow zones'

The Wayne County Department of Environment and Wayne County Parks have established "Grow Zone" sites throughout Hines Park, and will be marking them with new signs by the end of July. The signs will point out the new Grow Zone sites while alerting County maintenance staff not to cut or mow these areas.

Many people seeing a Grow Zone may misinterpret them as park areas that are neglected or poorly maintained. But master gardeners, ecologists, and environmentalists recognize Grow Zones as an important contributor to a healthy environment, as they increase natural floodwater storage capacity, reduce air pollution, improve water quality of the Rouge River, and provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and amphibians that live in Hines Park.

Grow Zones also help filter excessive nutrients from fertilizers, goose droppings, and road debris. Plant roots at Grow Zones help keep soil from washing into the Rouge River during rain

events, preventing stream bank erosion and sedimentation pollution.

The Grow Zone project areas are funded in part by a grant from the Clean Michigan Initiative - Middle Rouge/Hines Park Riparian Corridor Management Project and consist of native grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Project partners include Friends of the Rouge, MSU Extension, Pheasants Forever, and the Master Gardeners. As these Grow Zone areas mature they will become natural outdoor classrooms for local school groups and the Wayne County Parks Naturalist Program.

For more information regarding the Grow Zone Projects, or to volunteer to plant and establish future sites, please contact Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment-Watershed Management Division at nmullett@co.wayne.mi.us or by phone at (734) 326-393, or David Robbins, Wayne County Parks, drobbins@co.wayne.mi.us or by phone at (734) 291-1990.

# Focus: HOPE Open House on July 19

Focus: HOPE's education and training will hold an Open House Wednesday, July 19.

Recruiters will be available from noon to 6 p.m. to take guests on a tour of Focus: HOPE's 40-acre campus while telling them how they can benefit from the organization's manufacturing, engineering, and information technology education and training programs.

Attendees will learn about financial aid and scholarship options, job placement and student support services, and on-campus day care. The first 100 attendees will receive \$1,000 scholarship certificates.

Activities will take place at Focus: HOPE's Admissions Department is located at 1200 Oakman

Boulevard, Detroit. For more information call (313) 494-4300.

Focus: HOPE is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization in Detroit founded 38 years ago. Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE developed numerous programs in its fight to end racism, poverty and injustice.

It offers a food program, which assists 43,000 seniors, mothers and children each month; career training programs in machining, engineering and information technology; Montessori-based child care; business conference facilities; community arts projects; and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. For more information, go to www.focushope.edu.



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BRAD PAISLEY wsg ERIC CHURCH,  
RODNEY ATKINS and DANIELLE PECK  
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RHONDA VINCENT AND THE RAGE  
wsg FINERISS  
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DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 23 DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
A BIG BAND TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN  
MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 24 DEF LEPPARD / JOURNEY  
DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
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- 25 LIVE  
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wsg ROBERT RANDOLPH & THE FAMILY BAND and  
DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS  
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MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL
- 27 GORDON LIGHTFOOT  
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DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE
- 28 IAN ANDERSON  
PLAYS ORCHESTRAL JETHRO TULL WITH THE  
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OUR VIEWS

## Moving Wall made 4th memorable

The Westland Summer Festival Committee has reason to be proud. From the opening ceremony for The Moving Wall to the last rocket's red glare, the annual event was top-notch.

Even the stabbing incident that happened within an hour of the festival's close should not mar what was a well-organized, well-presented event.

The crowds were tremendous, and it's hard to say if they were there because they stayed home this Fourth of July to beat high gas prices. Maybe it was the jam-packed schedule of events or The Moving Wall.

It was most likely all of those things, but we believe it was The Wall that put the festival on the holiday happenings map. In the past, the city received a mention beyond the local coverage for its Fourth of July fireworks display, but with the addition of The Moving Wall, Westland suddenly became a newsmaker in the tri-county area.

Its close proximity to the sights and sounds of the festival didn't detract from the solemnity that The Wall conveys. Friends and relatives of soldiers who lost their lives in Vietnam through the current War in Iraq came to see it, to stop and remember the reason why we are the land of the free.

Thank you seems too small to say about bringing The Moving Wall to Westland, but it will have to do. Thank you to Ken Mehl and his fellow festival committee members who devoted a lot of time and energy to bring The Moving Wall to the city.

Thank you to the many veterans and volunteers who worked around the clock to secure the display and help visitors find a panel and a name on the it. Once again, they answered the call to serve and in doing so helped make The Wall's visit a memorable one.

And thank you to all of you who made the Fourth of July in Westland a great one.

## MCRI's claims raise credibility questions

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has accused the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative of deception and fraud in collecting signatures for a ballot initiative to create a state constitutional amendment banning affirmative action in public employment, contracting and education.

The MCRI leaders accuse the commission of overstepping its authority and being dominated by the radical group By Any Means Necessary. They have asked the attorney general to investigate the commission's actions.

The commission claims that many of those who signed the MCRI petition believed they were signing a petition in favor of "civil rights" as usually understood and that petition gatherers made no effort to correct any misunderstanding. They note an inordinately high number of signatures in predominantly black and Democratic areas where support for the initiative would be expected to be low.

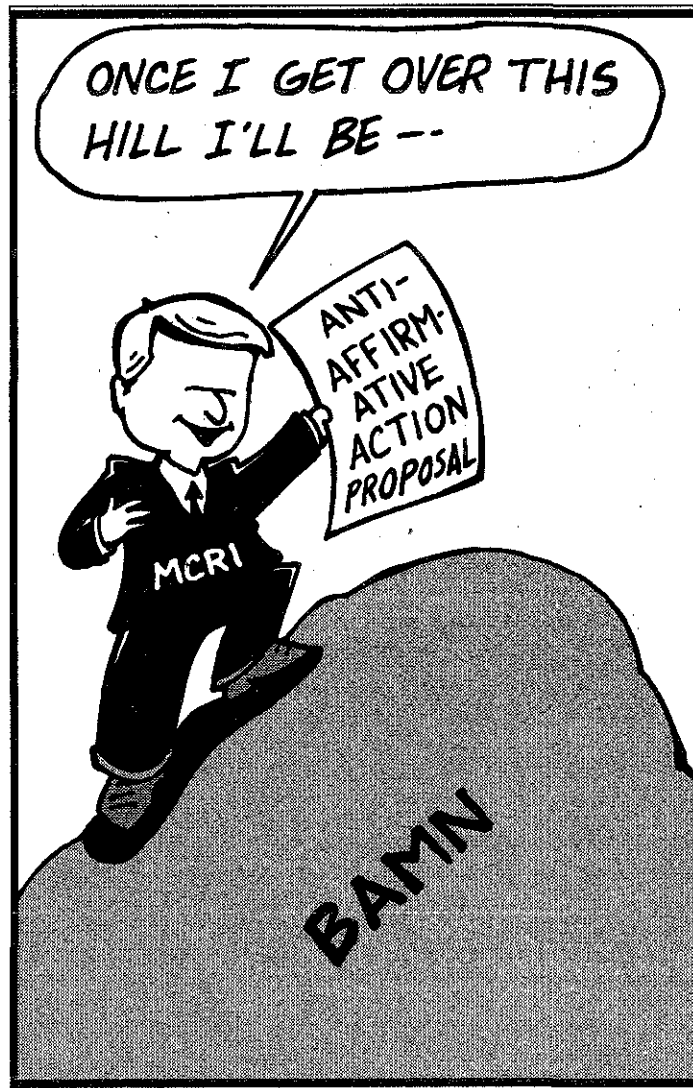
Jennifer Gratz, executive director of MCRI, has labeled the commission a "kangaroo court" and denied any claims that MCRI was less than honest in its collection of signatures.

We believe that MCRI does itself no favor in its campaign to win passage of the initiative in November. While the group claims it was not deceptive in collecting signatures, it is waging a deceptive campaign.

On the MCRI Web site, it devotes a section to its "opposition." The only opposition cited is BAMN, a fringe group that does oppose the initiative. In interviews, Gratz always talks about BAMN's opposition. But also opposing the initiative are both major party candidates for governor and senator, the UAW, the NAACP, the Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Renaissance, the Grand Rapids Chamber, the Michigan League of Women Voters and the AARP. The primary opposition comes from One United Michigan, whose board reads like a who's who of notable Michiganders. Many major corporations, unions, the military and military academies and others have also expressed support for continuing some forms of affirmative action.

Claiming that their opposition comes only from a radical fringe group or that BAMN somehow sets the agenda for the Civil Rights Commission and the many establishment figures opposed to the initiative is similar to the way Southern Democrats and conservatives tried to discredit the true civil rights movement of the 1950s by associating it with communists.

It was dishonest then and it's dishonest now. MCRI still has a long way to go to earn any credibility.



### LeBlanc is well-qualified

As the Aug. 8 primary approaches, I would like to suggest that the citizens of the great City of Westland cast their vote for the most qualified candidate who has served the people of Westland with the utmost integrity, honesty, compassion and loyalty. I am, of course, speaking of a person whom I am very honored to call my friend — Richard Le Blanc. I have known Richard and his family for a number of years now. I can honestly state that he is the most qualified candidate to send to Lansing to best represent the wonderful people of the great City of Westland.

The City of Westland is very near and dear to my heart. I grew up in a neighborhood near Ford and Newburgh, and spent the first 18 years of my life in Westland. In recent conversations with family members who still reside in your great city, they all have firmly stated to me, that Richard Le Blanc is the person that they want in Lansing to represent them.

Even though I currently do not reside in the city where I will always refer to as my real "home," I always wish the very best for Westland and its residents. The people of Westland have an awesome opportunity on Aug. 8 to send a message "loud and clear" that Richard Le Blanc is the right candidate for the job.

Thank you, and God Bless the people of Westland.

Mark Blackwell  
Transplanted in Wayne

### Dear Phil Power,

I had the misfortune of reading your article in the *Observer* for July 4.

I would never of had to read it if your mother had donated your brain cells to science. Well, why cry over spilled milk? I think you can still donate your stem cells to research. Perhaps you can call over to California and see if they would like to use them. On the other hand, if they would prefer to use younger humans, both you and your wife could fly there and donate embryonic stem cells. Perhaps you could donate several a year. That might make some progress.

I saw a doctor state on a program on television that the same cells are in the umbilical cord blood. Obviously, there would be some discussion in political offices. Different points of view and facts are probably discussed. Of course, if you feel so strongly about it, I suppose you could offer to donate any future fertilized eggs your family can create.

See you in the afterlife, or wait, maybe I'll see the sacrificed ones and not you.

Pat Holland

### Residents speak loud, clear

The announcement of the successful certification of the petition signatures for the recall of the Livonia Board of Education is great news for those people who have worked so hard to make this happen. With well over the required number of signatures, this clearly shows that it is not a minority of the people who oppose this plan.

It is my sincere hope that the recall is successful and the changes brought upon the administration by a new BOE will provide the best educational experience and the best chance for keeping neighborhood

schools and the K-6 grades for all current and future LPS families for years to come.

C.J. Spencer  
Westland

### Thanks for the help

On behalf of Churchill High School Senior All Night Party Committee and Class of 2006, we would like to thank the businesses, organizations and parents who made a monetary or prize donation to the event on June 6.

They include 21 Nail, Aloha Party Store, American Eagle Corp., Bayloff Machine, bd's Mongolian Barbeque, BBC Fasteners, Bill Brown Ford, Big Ben Party Store, Blackwell Ford, Body Rocks Fitness, Len Bokuniewicz, Buddy's Pizza, Bulk Food Warehouse, Category 5 Technology, Cheeburger Cheeburger, Chimento's Italian Market, City of Westland Mayor, Compuware, Co-op Credit Union, Costco Wholesale, Dairy Queen, Daly Restaurant, Deburring Co., Denny's Restaurant, Detroit Lions, Karen Dillon, Domino's Pizza, Elite Sweets, Farmer Jack, Focal Point, Ford Wyoming Drive-In Theatre, Ginzler & Shaw Orthodontics, Glenhurst Golf Course, Gordon Food Service, Hawaiian Sun Tan, Chris & John Hawthorne, Henry Ford Dearborn, Herc's Restaurant, Hines Park Ford, Hoyt Peckham Attorney, IHOP, Island Sun Tanning, J.R.'s Tanning, Jet's Pizza, Jimmy John's, Kerby's Koney Island, Karen Koester, Larry Foodland, L'Espirit Academy, Livonia Spree Anniversary Committee, Livonia Commission on Children & Youth, Livonia Education Association, Livonia Firefighters Union, Livonia Goodfellows, Livonia Marathon, Livonia Parks and Recreation, Livonia VFW, Looney Baker, MAACO, Mama Mia's, Mancino's, Marker Hair Studio, Marstan Optometry, Max & Erma's, McGowan Sport Shop, Mike's Marketplace, Olga's Kitchen, OptimEyes, Panera Bread Co., Papa Romano's, Parisian, Pizza Hut, Plymouth Fish-Toba's, Plymouth Whalers, Randolph Elementary PTA, Red Robin, Riverside Arena, Roger's & Rod's Hair, Roly Poly, Ruth Martin - Rermerica Hometown One, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Senate Cone Island, Nancy Solnikowski, Stanton & Associates, Stan's Market, Subway, Sun Club Tanning, Tanfaster, Target, Thomas' Dining, Tribune Media Net, Turner Haircut House, Valentino's Pizzeria, VanMasters KFC, Vintage Market, Wal-Mart Corp., Wendy's Corp., Westborn Market, and Wonderland Lanes.

We would also like to thank the Churchill staff who supported us, especially the ladies in the business office and principal's office as well as the custodial staff. Thank you to all the parents who donated their time, treasures or talents to help make this evening a success. A special thank you to the Senior All Night Party Committee who spent countless hours planning and preparing for the event to provide a safe place for seniors to have fun with their friends. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

Barb Westrick & JoAnne Freeman  
Churchill Senior All Night Party Chairs

### Respect is priceless

Unseating a 10-year board of education

### QUOTABLE

"We think it's the right decision. Now the public will have the right to vote. That's all we were asking for — let the public decide."

Livonia parent Jody Hamilton about Chief Circuit Judge Mary Beth Kelly's decision about the recall election.

### LETTERS

member: Good.

Collecting more than 10,000 signatures on petitions for recall: Great.

Voting yes for the recall of the remaining five trustees on Aug. 8: Absolutely essential.

Electing new board members who respect the citizens of their community and value neighborhood schools: Priceless.

Vote yes on Aug. 8.

Lindsay Spence  
Livonia

### Avoiding recall vote best

The dispute as to what constitutes the correct number of signatures needed for a school board recall election may not be all bad. The Wayne County Clerk is sticking with 8,923 and the five board members are insisting the correct number is 11,464 based on 25 percent of the votes cast in the 2002 governor's election.

Since the Wayne County Clerk apparently failed to include 14 precincts in the county, this matter may be settled in court. If a judge rules insufficient signatures, as a result of the clerk's inaccurate count, it would provide an opportunity for both sides to reassess their positions.

Anything that avoids a recall election would be great for the community.

Ray Feher  
Livonia

### Wasting money

I agree with your editorial entitled, "Separate school elections should be eliminated," (June 16, 2006). School districts across the state are faced with unprecedented budget shortfalls. Yet, school districts unconvincingly attempt to justify spending tens of thousands of dollars they do not have to hold each separate school election. School boards are well aware that voter turnout is generally less than 10 percent for separate school elections. School districts would face greater scrutiny if all school elections were held in August or November. That would also make it far more difficult for the handful of bureaucrats to maintain their exclusive, self-serving power base and agendas.

Voters should determine which school board members endorse separate elections and vote them out of office. The next school election is a good time to start.

Raymond Dubin  
Farmington Hills

### 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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**Observer**

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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.

# Interlopers seem determined to sink Michigan's recovery

As if Michigan didn't have enough problems. Now we've got a bunch of out-of-state extremists trying to mess with the workings of our state and the structure of our economy.

They apparently have managed to collect enough signatures to get a proposal on the ballot that might damage forever our ability to compete, if the voters are fooled into believing their nonsense.

And it could not have come at a worse time. It is no secret that our economy is reeling. Much, though certainly not all, of the damage is self-inflicted. That has included rank partisanship in Lansing so intense that militants on either side are quite prepared to see our state damaged just as long as the other side gets hurt.

Currently we also are dealing with wholesale confusion about our business tax structure. That has led to literally billions of dollars of development projects put on hold, because investors aren't certain what direction we are going and what the tax consequences may be.

And now we have to deal with a new threat. This week, the Michigan Stop Overspending Committee submitted far more than the 371,757 voter signatures required to put any constitutional amendment on the ballot. Theirs would restrict any state spending increases to the rate of inflation, while allowing for population growth.

Petitions were circulated by a paid signature-collection company and (maybe) some volunteers. At the standard rate of two bucks a signature, getting SOS ("Stop Over Spending" ... get it?) on the ballot has probably cost somebody north of a million bucks.

In this case, we know who the "somebodies" are. Three conservative groups, all located outside Michigan: Americans for Limited Government, from Glenview, Ill.; the Washington-based Americans for Tax Reform; and the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, headquartered in Arlington, Va.

Politically savvy readers may remember that Michigan's flawed campaign finance reporting laws will keep the exact details secret until the signatures are verified by the Secretary of State's office.

So what we have here is a stealth campaign to tell us how to manage our own affairs, financed by three rich out-of-state outfits. None of them could care less what happens to us poor yokels out here in the sticks, as long as we go along with their extreme ideology.

The details of the SOS plan are downright alarming, especially for a state struggling to get its own house in order. State spending for each year would be limited to the amount spent in the previous year, multiplied by inflation and with adjustments for any increase in population. (In Michigan these days, many of the neediest places are doing anything but growing.) Going over the spending cap would require the governor and Legislature to declare a "budget emergency" and get approval from the voters.

State revenue covered by the spending limit would include taxes supporting K-12 schools set in place by Proposal A. Consider just three of the consequences if the SOS plan is adopted:

■ Unless state spending for universities, police, local government and health care was cut sharply, spending for local schools would be capped at the inflation rate ... unless local voters approve every single expenditure above the limit.

■ If spending continues to increase for prisons and Medicare (a sure bet), the SOS plan would require corresponding cuts in spending for local schools.

■ If repealing the SBT results in spending cuts (considered likely by Lansing insiders), they'll be baked into the overall cap formula, causing even more damage.

If state spending were out of control, the proponents of this plan might have an argument, though they still would be proposing to use a meat ax where a scalpel is called for. But state spending isn't out of control. Quite the opposite. Since 2001, state expenditures have been cut by nearly \$4 billion, while tax receipts are now \$5.8 billion below the upper limit imposed by the Headlee Amendment.

Moreover, new data from the Census Bureau's Survey of State and Local Government employment for 2005, provided by ace demographer Kurt Metzger, indicates that Michigan now ranks 46th in terms of state and local full-time employees per 10,000 population.

That means all but four states have proportionally more government workers than we do. Michigan has 7,400 fewer state employees today than in 2001. When it comes to state government alone, Metzger says Michigan comes in 40th out of the 50 states.

We're being sold a bill of goods, and there's a well-financed national agenda at work here, folks. And the SOS proposal that will be on this fall's ballot is the direct descendant of something called the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) that Colorado adopted in 1992.

All you need to know about that is that after experiencing financial chaos and sharply deteriorated public services, Colorado voters — led by a Republican governor — last fall suspended TABOR for five years. Except that the Michigan proposal would be even worse. Colorado's only applied to state government. Ours would hit local government as well.

Roger Martin, who's helping organize the Defend Michigan Coalition, which seems to include just about every organization you ever heard of, says: "Our opponents call the SOS proposal 'Stop Overspending.' We call it 'Shaft Our State.'"

He's right, of course. It's too bad that explanation can't be on the ballot. But what really matters is that our poor battered state, now struggling to cope with a changing economy, not saddle itself with a crippling new burden right when we can least afford it.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

# Same-sex debate shifts focus from hard issues

Legislation now sailing through the State Capitol paints same-sex facilities and programs as the cure for what's wrong with Detroit Public Schools.

House Bill 4264 and Senate Bill 1296 would amend the state school code to allow single sex schools in Detroit.

The Senate Bill includes a floor amendment to require districts where same-sex classes or buildings are offered to make the same-sex option voluntary, by offering equal programs in a coed setting.

Another bill on the fast track, introduced June 20 and approved June 28, is House Bill 6247. It would add language to the landmark Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, so that it can't prevent schools districts from offering "separate but equal" classes, programs and schools.

Over the past few years, credible news sources have told us boys are in an educational crisis. Their test scores have fallen, they aren't achieving. Move from this to the "scientific fact" that boys' and girls' brains work differently, and you're just a half-step away from insisting on the need for same-sex schools.

Trouble is, even credible news sources can be less than accurate.

In a study released June 26, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a federally funded accounting of student achievement since 1971, found boys' test scores are higher than they were 30 years ago, and more boys are going to college. So why the hue and cry about an educational crisis?

Maybe because while boys are doing better, girls are outperforming them. Maybe because we are extremely reluctant as a society to face the root causes of school performance issues, which are complex and difficult to address.

When you're poor, you see, it doesn't matter whether you're a boy or girl. You will perform at a lower level than most of your peers.

Consider that Detroit is one of the most racially and economically segregated metropolitan areas in the United States, and Detroit Public Schools may well reflect the cellular damage caused by this great divide. As more of our children fall into poverty and violence claims more young

In a study released June 26, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a federally funded accounting of student achievement since 1971, found boys' test scores are higher than they were 30 years ago, and more boys are going to college. So why the hue and cry about an educational crisis? Maybe because while boys are doing better, girls are outperforming them.

lives, our state lawmakers are all about the business of putting boys and girls in separate classrooms.

While hundreds upon hundreds of important bills languish in committee or die slowly of neglect and disinterest, these moved so quickly that opponents were unable to attend committee meetings, where the real issues debates occur.

What's the hurry? Here's a thought. Maybe it's the same drive that compels us to create a national crisis over gender and ignore public education's insufficiencies, natural biases and challenges.

We in suburbia are generally blessed with award-winning schools and programs, children who stay in school and pursue higher education. In these affluent communities, property owners find a way to pay the price for good schools, in financial and human capital.

Rather than face the real reason behind the differences between Detroit and suburban public school systems, our state lawmakers, many citizens and even some educators, would rather look at this one simple, perfectly understandable concept. Same-sex classrooms and buildings and programs fit with all those years of scientific, medical data, after all.

And in this senseless, time-warp of an idea, we give ourselves permission to once again ignore the real needs of our undereducated children.

Joni Hubred-Golden is a Farmington resident and publishes Michigan Women's Forum, a women's issues e-zine published at www.forum-online.info.



Joni Hubred-Golden

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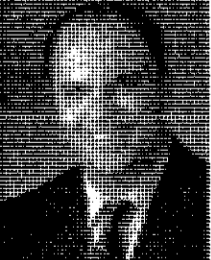
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# Nurture future musicians by donating used instruments

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Midge Ellis has a special request for music lovers attending the Michigan Jazz Festival Sunday, July 16, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Please bring your used band instruments. The Michigan Jazz Festival committee, Inmart Group (a marketing firm in Farmington Hills), and musician Cliff Monear are working together to collect playable instruments to distribute to students in schools located in the Schoolcraft College District which includes Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, part of Novi, Plymouth-Canton, and part of Westland.

With the help of suggestions from the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), the drive has been organized to benefit the recipients as well as the donors. Monear, a sales representative at Hammell Music in Commerce Township, is evaluating the instruments so the donor can receive a tax deduction of 100 percent on their Michigan returns because the donation is going to an educational institution.

"We're asking for people to bring their instrument they're not going to use anymore and probably never will, any playable musical instrument to the festival," said Ellis, a Livonia resident who serves on the committee.

"In the Schoolcraft College district people have lost their jobs and don't have money to buy their kids instruments, and we know some of the band (curriculum) has been cut because the first thing to be cut in the school budget is band. You can still be nostalgic about that instrument but musical instruments are supposed to make music not sit in a closet."

Visitors to the festival will not only enjoy performances by 187 musicians comprising the 23 groups including five Big Bands on five stages, but be able to feel good about nurturing future horn, bass and string players; percussionists; keyboardists, and guitarists.

"Inmart on Haggerty north of 12 mile has warehouse space where we're going to store the instruments," said Ellis. "There will be a form for school band directors which must be co-signed by the principal or superintendent to request instruments."

The MSBOA will send a list of available instruments and a request form to each of the bands in the Schoolcraft College District. After the instruments are distributed, donors will receive a letter to inform them of the destination of their instrument. If this year's drive is successful, Ellis says the project will remain a part of the festival and probably expand to include students in a different district next year.

"We hope there is going to be a lot of donations," said Ellis. "I know a lot of people their kids have gone away to school or gotten married and the instrument is just sitting there. We have a big room reserved at the college for it - VT 405 in the VisTaTech Center. We will have volunteers there all day long and will keep them in a locked room. They will be well taken care."

Instruments will be accepted from noon to 9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 16, at the Michigan Jazz Festival on the campus of Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. For more information, call Ellis at (248) 474-2720.

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### Congressman in Iraq

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, talks with General George W. Casey Jr., Commanding General Multi-National Force Iraq, during a Congressional Delegation visit to Iraq July 2. McCotter, who is a member of the House International Relations Committee, spent the Fourth of July holiday in Iraq visiting American troops, lending support to Iraqi officials and assessing the security situation in the country. The delegation visited Camp Victory, Balad and Camp Taji, and watched demonstrations of American troops training Iraqi soldiers and police officers. They also stopped in Baghdad to hear the concerns of members of the national government. McCotter has traveled to Iraq twice in the past six months and four times since being elected to Congress in 2002.

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# Hines 'like a family picnic' on Saturdays

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Every Saturday they come. From May 6 to Sept. 30, Hines Drive is a car-free zone from the Warrendale Picnic area in Dearborn Heights to the Nankin Mills Picnic area at Ann Arbor Trail in Westland every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Walkers, runners, bicyclists and inline skaters take over the roads usually occupied by automobiles. Picnickers, ball players, nature lovers, dog walkers and music lovers enjoy the park without the noise and pollution from cars.

On Saturday, Linda Ewald of Westland was pushing her granddaughter Stella, 1, in a stroller while grandson Logan, 4, rode ahead on his bicycle with training wheels.

"Usually every Saturday, I'm riding my bicycle out here. I enjoy it a lot," she said. "Today I'm helping my daughter by babysitting and I said I'll bring them out and get my walking in and have a Saturday in the park."

On a typical Saturday, Ewald said she rides from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., marking 20-25 miles.

"It's tranquil, it's peaceful when I come out here. After all week of working and the stress," she said.

A group from Single Point Ministries of Ward Presbyterian Church was gathering its bicycles Saturday for one of the four rides members do each summer along Hines.

"You don't have the people, the noise and people beeping at you to get out of the way," Barbara Clarridge of Westland said.

John Ziots of Westland, who organizes the rides, said between 12 and 25 riders come out each Saturday for rides at various park locations.



Mark Waldron from Westland knocks the ball into the waiting hands of one of the center fielders during a soft ball game that he and his friends gather to play on the field behind Nankin Mills picnic area.

"This is a great ride because they shut off the road to traffic," he said.

A Single Point group ride usually ends with a cookout. The pace is easy.

"It's a tourist-type ride and we invite novices to come out," Ziots said. "We stop every three miles and regroup." (For information about their rides call Ziots at (734) 722-1703.)

Doris Campbell, 65, of Northville has a more rigorous regimen.

"I do the 38-mile round trip (from Northville to Dearborn and back) twice a week," she said.

Campbell rides a recumbent bicycle with feet forward, a wide saddle and a seatback.

"I rode a standard bike for seven years. I like long distance and after

about 15 miles, the butt hurt and then the next morning the butt hurt," she said.

She hasn't had any problems since switching to the recumbent. She enjoys the six miles of Hines without traffic.

"It's fantastic, I really like it, but I generally stay on the side, it's a bad habit," she said.

Margaret Beardslee of Livonia walks and bikes, but on Saturday she was inline skating through Hines Park. Her husband had skated ahead to Telegraph, but she turned around at Merriman.

"It's like a big family picnic," she said of Hines on Saturday.

About 100 people were expected for a real family picnic, a reunion of the Duncan, Trail, Crosland clan, originally from Coffee County in Tennessee.

"We eat, we like to eat, play some baseball, some volleyball, we have a moonwalk for the kids," said Jack Hille of Livonia. "My mother's brother has a band that's been together for years and they'll be here to play."

At the Warrendale Picnic Area, Duane Malinowski and his band members were hurrying to set up their equipment to kick off a two-day Polka Fest. The Toledo bandleader and accordion player said he enjoys coming up to Hines every year. Many of those waiting under the covered picnic area called out to him like he was an old friend.

Malinowski said his band plays polka music, but also country and western and rock and roll.

The two-day event featured several bands, Polish dancers, food and a beer tent.

Another busy Saturday on Hines Drive.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com | (734)953-2149



PHOTOS BY MARCUS SINGLETON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lue Gybert, age 74, from Canton uses land skiing to practice during the summer for cross country skiing in the winter. He has been CC skiing for 25 years.

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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 (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. 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 childbirth 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. 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.ci.westland.mi.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 3:30 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 for more information.

Exercise Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies,

overview of day/ overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

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. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

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 holds a book sale during regular library hours.

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 • People are loved regardless of race, age or background.  
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**St. James Presbyterian Church, USA**  
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 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.  
 Sunday School - 10:15 A.M.  
 Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M.  
 Thrift Store Every Sat. 10am-2pm  
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## LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

## CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

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 LIVONIA • (734) 261-1360  
 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES  
 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
 PASTOR JAMES HOFF  
 PASTOR ERIC STEINBRENNER

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1628  
 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.  
 Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
 Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.  
 Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
 NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN:  
 455-3196

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

**WARD**  
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
 40000 Six Mile Road  
 "just west of I-275"  
 Northville, MI  
 248-374-7400  
 Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor  
 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M.  
 Contemporary Worship 11:40 A.M.  
 Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services  
 Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.  
 Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday  
 WMUZ 560 AM  
 For additional information visit [www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org)


**First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth**  
 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI  
**734-453-0970**  
 Sunday Service 10:40 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:40 a.m.  
 Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
 Reading Room located at church  
 Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
**734-453-0970**

## JEWISH

**CONGREGATION BEIT KODESH**  
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 31840 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia  
 Rekindle your Jewish roots with us.  
 Friday Night Services 8:00 pm  
 Saturday Services 9:00 am  
 Sunday School 9:30 am Sept.-May  
[www.beitkodesh.org](http://www.beitkodesh.org)

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121



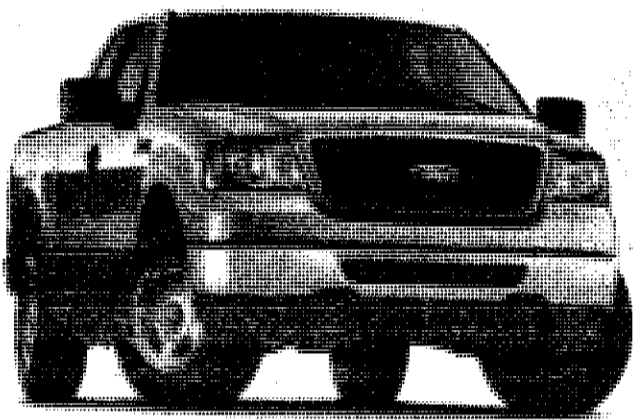
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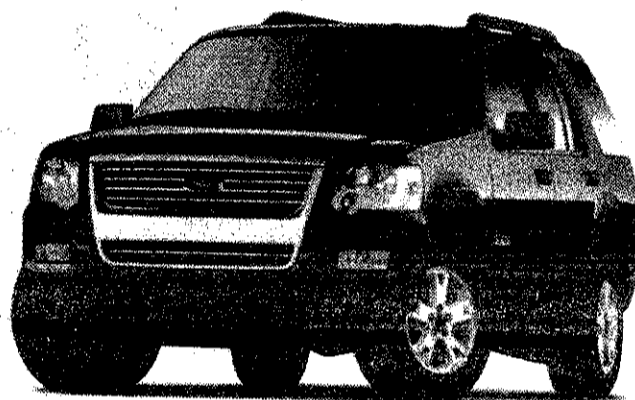


Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 F-150 SC 4x4 XLT

For as low as **\$159** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,129 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$3,000 cash back and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.

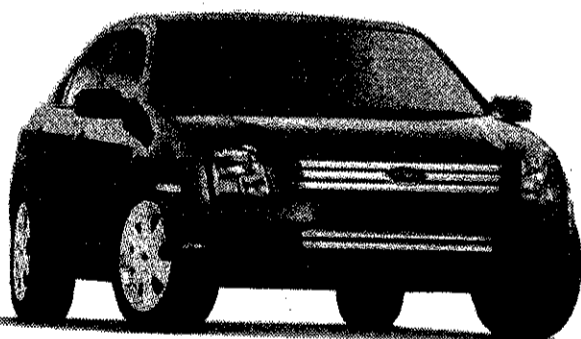


Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Explorer XLT 4x4

For as low as **\$199** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$3,269 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; waived security deposit.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$3,500 cash back and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Ford Fusion SE

For as low as **\$199** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$2,344 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 cash back.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Ford Escape XLT FWD

For as low as **\$199** A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$3,344 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived\*\*. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$2,000 cash back.

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(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payments may vary; All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, AZ Plan Cash RCL Renewal Cash and FMCC bonus cash, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/31/06. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. See dealer for complete details. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. \*\*Not all buyers qualify for Ford Credit limited term financing. Not available on Ford GT, Mustang GT. Receive maximum \$1,100 debit card; amount varies by model. Not available on Ford GT, Mustang GT, F-350 & E-350 models and higher. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/31/06. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. \* Security deposit waived.

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