

**Bridesmaid dresses they can wear again**

BY [Name] - PAGE D8



**Teens learn the way of the road**

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**Local farmers markets serve up fresh stuff**

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## Salvation Army reaches out with summer bash

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, known for its serious mission of helping people in need, will put on its party hat for a summer bash. Capt. Matt O'Neil confirmed Wednesday that a summer block party featuring live Christian bands,

carnival games, inflatable bouncers, fellowship and food will be held 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5.

The annual bash, which drew 350 people last year, will be held in the Salvation Army parking lot at 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer, in the Norwayne neighborhood where many low-income clients live.

"We want to show that there can be

fun things in Norwayne. It's just another way The Salvation Army can provide for the community," O'Neil said.

The local organization serves Westland, Wayne, Romulus, Inkster and New Boston. The summer block party will be free, and the public is invited, even those not served by the organization.

"We open it up to the whole community," O'Neil said. "It's open to anybody."

The alcohol-free event has proved popular in recent years. It's one of several ways The Salvation Army has attempted to bring some fun to the Norwayne neighborhood and to boost community spirit.

The Salvation Army provides such

services as food for needy residents, after-school tutoring for students having trouble in school, and summer day camp programs for youngsters who otherwise can't afford such outings. The organization also provides church services for the community.

For more information about The Salvation Army or the services it provides, call (734) 722-3660.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margot McCormack works at removing vines growing up from the drainage way toward the newly planted grow zone.

## How does the garden grow?

City, school district join in planting grow zone in city park

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Mary Ernat isn't quite the Mary, Mary quite contrary of nursery rhyme lore, but she certainly does have a garden to tend.

A fourth-grade teacher at Schweitzer Elementary, she's spending part of her summer caring for a grow zone along a Rouge River drainage way in Westland's Central City Park that her students and those of Edison Elementary fourth-grade teacher Judith Muller planted as part of the "Rooting for the Rouge" Project.

"It was very thrilling for the students and it was a great help," Muller said. "They knew what to do because it relates to the environment. It all ties in with the fourth-grade science curriculum and the core democratic value of civic duty."

On May 31, 70 students and some of their parents converged on the site which straddles the park's walking path and the drainage way along the western edge of Tot Town to plant 800 wildflower and wild grass plugs.

"When they know the purpose and how it's going to affect them

where they live, they're on task," Ernat said of the planting.

"The kids had an assembly line going," added Lillian Dean, the Rouge Education coordinator for Westland.

According to Dean, "Rooting for the Rouge" came out of discussions between the city's former planning director Tod Kilroy and Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy. The two men were looking at how the city and school district could work together to support education in the community and came up with the Rouge project, which ties in with the fourth-grade science curriculum.

Classes that participate in "Rooting for the Rouge" have planted trees, stenciled storm drains and created buffer growth zones as part of the project. Dean credits Department of Public Service Director Tom Wilson with the creation of the Central City Park grow zone.

"He had a vision and looked for a site and this is the one he preferred," Dean said.

DPS prepared the site, removing

PLEASE SEE GROW ZONE, A5



Lillian Dean serves as the Rouge Education coordinator for Westland.

## Livonia district aims at improving communications

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to improve and focus on communication throughout the Livonia Public School District, the Board of Education has established two new ways to engage its constituents.

Community Conversations, informal discussions with trustees hosted a few times each month, will give residents a less structured opportunity to ask questions or discuss con-

cerns about the district. And the board's new Asset Utilization Committee will involve community members in the ongoing discussion of how district property will be used in the future.

On Monday evenings — when there is not a scheduled meeting of the school board — one to three trustees will gather at the board office and give residents a chance to speak candidly regarding any concerns

PLEASE SEE COMMUNICATION, A4

## Woman's competency delays court hearing

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman charged with trying to suffocate her blind mother last November still hasn't had a court hearing to determine whether she should stand trial.

Diane Paul, 62, remains in a state forensic center eight months after police said she tried to suffocate her mother with a pillow at the house they shared on Glen Street, near Wayne and Avondale.

A police investigation indicated that the Nov. 25 incident may have happened because Paul mistakenly believed she had somehow messed up her mother's benefits from Medicaid and Social Security.

"She blamed herself for it, and she dreaded caring for her mother without the money," police Sgt. David Heater said. "She wanted her mother to be at peace. She didn't want her to suffer."

Paul, still under psychiatric care, has been ruled incompetent to appear in Westland 18th District Court for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether she should stand trial. The issue of her competency

is expected to be revisited in September, said David Wiacek, court administrator. Her status has been reviewed every three months.

Paul was arraigned in late November for assault with intent to murder. She confessed to police that she had intended to kill her mother, but she gave up after a struggle, Heater has said.

Paul told one police officer that "she couldn't bring herself to finish it," he said.

Paul then left the ranch home and went to her own daughter's house in Westland, and the two of them returned to the Glen residence, Heater has said.

The victim, meanwhile, had reached for a telephone near her bed and began randomly pressing numbers until an operator came on the line and notified police.

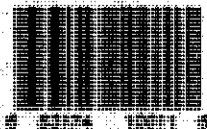
Paul had cared for her mother for at least a decade, and police had no indication that the two of them had argued prior to the assault, Heater said.

Authorities described the entire family as traumatized by the incident. Even the victim was in tears after the incident "because her daughter was in jail," Heater has said.

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**Coming Sunday in Health**

Physical therapist is on a roll





# Firefighters take heat with new training

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

In a move that could potentially save lives and reduce property damage, Westland firefighters have upgraded their training to battle propane gas fires.

The new skills could prove useful for responding to propane gas fires ranging from backyard grills to huge industrial tanks, Deputy Chief Kevin Riley said.

The Westland Fire Department hosted the training earlier this month on the former Sam's Club site on Central City Parkway. Firefighters from five other communities - Garden City, Canton Township, Wayne, Inkster and South Lyon - also participated.

In all, some 40 firefighters received the training, Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal said.

Tanks were brought to the site and used for training exercises led by the Michigan Propane Gas Association.

"There was a significant risk of danger (to firefighters) if we didn't do things right," Riley said.

Fortunately, they did.

The latest program marked the second time in as many months that firefighters have used the old Sam's Club site to upgrade their skills.

The key to averting a potentially disastrous propane tank explosion is to swiftly respond to a fire and to shut off the valve, regardless of the size of the tank, Neal said.

Firefighters learned a method of spraying propane tanks that pushes the flames away from them so that they can reach the valve and shut it off, fire officials said.

"The fire is external on the tank, so you're trying to redi-



Westland firefighters train to respond to a propane tank fire.

rect the flame and the heat so that you can reach the valve and turn it off," Riley said.

Propane fires can become much more threatening - with the potential for an explosion - unless firefighters reach the scene quickly and address the situation, fire officials said.

Although explosions occur, they are more likely to happen in a rural area where firefighters can't reach the scene as quickly as they can in more populated areas, such as Westland, Neal said.

Firefighters who received the training also can use the skills when battling fires that erupt at natural gas meters, Neal said.

The latest training came as the Westland Fire Department continues to upgrade its firefighting skills, officials have said.

Just last month on the Sam's Club site, firefighters



Westland firefighters upgrade their skills for responding to a propane tank fire.

learned to recognize and prevent a deadly "flashover" - the point at which a fire inside a structure suddenly causes a room to burst into

flames. A special semi-trailer was brought in for that exercise.

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# Man reports being beaten with bat

A 24-year-old Westland man told police that he was beaten with a baseball bat and left unconscious behind Jefferson Elementary School about 9 p.m. Thursday, July 13.

The man told police that three carloads of men pulled alongside him while he was walking in front of the school on Dorsey. He estimated that 10 men got out of the cars, surrounded him and began to beat him.

The man told police that one of the assailants accused him of raping of his girlfriend, leading the man to believe he had been mistaken for someone else, according to police reports.

The man told police he was struck in the face with a baseball bat, dragged behind the school and beaten until he was unconscious. He said some neighbors near the school apparently called 911. He was treated at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center in Wayne and released the following day.

According to police reports, the assault resulted in three of the victim's teeth being knocked out. He also received stitches to his lower lip, and he had swelling and bruising to his left eye, forehead, nose, face and back.

## CRIME WATCH

### Condo break-in

A condominium, not lived in for a month as it was being sold, was broken into sometime between 3 p.m. July 5 and 10 a.m. July 11, according to police reports.

The condo is located in Central Parkway Condominiums, off Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford.

The daughter of a woman whose condo was being sold told police that someone broke in and took a toaster oven, clothing, silverware and cleaning supplies. The items were valued at more than \$500, according to police reports.

### Dunkin' bandit

The Dunkin' Donuts at 1625 S. Wayne Road was broken into sometime between 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, and 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 12, while it was closed for renovations, according to police reports.

An intruder pried open a door and stole plumbing and electrical items that were being used for the renovation, police said. The items were valued at several hundred dollars.

## DEATHS

<b>A</b>	<b>L. John (Lothar E.H.) Miller</b> Miller, 71, formerly of Plymouth, died June 29.
<b>B</b>	<b>Sassamma Nadasen</b> Nadasen, 66, of Canton, died July 11.
<b>D</b>	<b>Jennie G. Yun</b> Yun, 57, of Livonia, died July 16.
<b>M</b>	<b>Adam Menozzi</b> Menozzi, 89, died July 16.
<b>N</b>	<b>John F. Adamson</b> Adamson 85, formerly of Birmingham, died July 10.
<b>P</b>	<b>Barbara J. Budd</b> Budd, 79, of Livonia, died July 15.
<b>W</b>	<b>William Denny</b> Denny, 83, formerly of Wayne, died July 14.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A16.

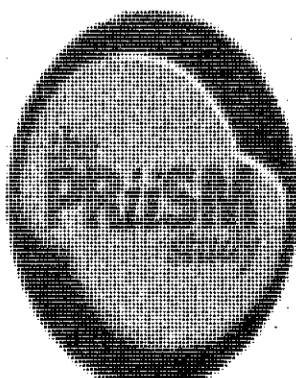
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**COMMUNICATION**

FROM PAGE A1  
 about the district. Board president Lynda Scheel called it a casual "coffee and conversation" time.  
 The concept kicked off July 17. Community members were invited to attend by members of the District Transition Team.  
 Supt. Randy Liepa said the DTT includes "a nice cross-section of people" from all areas of the district. That's why it was chosen as a starting point for this concept.  
 Scheel said not everyone is comfortable speaking to board members during the more formal audience comment time, set aside during televised open meetings.  
 Community Conversations are not open meetings. They will not include a majority number of trustees, but they will create another option for residents of the district.  
 Scheel imagined the conversation would include everything from personal questions from parents about education, to broader topics like the new high

school curriculum standards.  
 The plan is to offer this option from 6:30-8 p.m. a few times a month, as scheduling permits. Upcoming conversations are set for July 24, July 31, and tentatively Aug. 7, Aug. 21 and Sept. 11. To reserve a spot, send e-mail to [transition@livonia.k12.mi.us](mailto:transition@livonia.k12.mi.us).  
 Scheel said she wants the public to know that she and her fellow trustees do listen to concerns and take them into consideration "in every decision we make."  
 Liepa said the open format of his "Breakfast with the Superintendent" chats have proved successful. He hopes the same will be true for the board's Community Conversations.  
 "We want to make sure people feel more comfortable," Scheel said.  
 Other traditional avenues of contacting the school board will remain the same. Board members can be contacted by phone, mail or e-mail, and are at regular and committee meetings to hear audience comments.  
 Community members may also choose to join in discus-

sions that will impact the future of Livonia Public Schools.  
 The board is in the process of establishing an Asset Utilization Committee to look at the assets the district has — land, vacant buildings and more — and determine the best use for them before any decisions are made or direction is taken.  
 Scheel said if the district is considering moving programs or selling land, they'll seek community input. This committee will provide a new way of adding to that charge. She envisions the ad-hoc committee will include parents, residents and professionals — including Realtors — as well as district employees.  
 Scheel said these options are meant to make an impact on long-range planning in the district, and to help board members and the community come together on common ground.  
 "We're looking forward to the beginning of the school year," said Scheel, "to more positive changes and to bringing the community together."  
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**On-line Freecycle helps find 'homes' for unwanted items**

BY SHERRIE PRYOR  
 CORRESPONDENT

A woman walks up to a stranger's porch, picks up a bag with her name on it. She takes it back to her car, places it inside and drives away.  
 She is a member of Freecycle and joins thousands of other Wayne County residents, and millions of other people around the world, who are making this same pilgrimage to strangers' homes retrieving items of all shapes, sizes, and values, rescuing them from the landfill.

Freecycle is an International nonprofit organization whose mission is to rescue unwanted, but still good, items that would otherwise go to the landfill and to find them good homes.

Westland resident, Bridget (Rowland) Jarvis, co-moderates the local Freecycle group that serves Westland, Canton, Plymouth, and Livonia.

Jarvis, who was recently named Freecycle's National New Group approval coordinator, monitors the addition of new Freecycle groups across the nation ensuring that only one group serves each geographic area.

"Freecycle is an online gifting community where you can de-clutter your life and turn trash into treasure," Jarvis said. "As I go through my house, anytime I notice something that I don't want or need, I put it aside and post it immediately on Freecycle. When someone e-mails me saying that they can use my unwanted item, it's a good feeling knowing that my stuff is going to good use somewhere."

"It feels good to have the extra space in my home, as well."

Lisa Smith of Westland said she first heard about Freecycle through a friend.

"I was skeptical at first, it sounded too good to be true," she said, "I mean why would someone offer a perfect stranger a stereo when they could sell it? But it was all true and very much real."

How did Freecycle start?  
 In May 2003, founder Deron Real of Tucson,

Ariz., discovered that his neighbor had hired a dumpster to clean out her garage full of "junk." He e-mailed 40 of his friends to see if they could use any of the items that were about to be sent to the landfill.

Several of his friends showed up and rescued many still useful items from being dumped. Freecycle grew from that single effort and now boasts three million members in 67 countries with more members joining every day.

Polly Kiesznowski has been a member of Freecycle for almost two years.

"Every few weeks or so I post offers; I like to wait until I have a variety of items to offer instead of just one thing at a time," she said. "I have offered everything from children's clothes to hosta plants to an Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Oven to landscape rocks."

Kiesznowski likes the ease of Freecycle.

"I don't have to load things up and take them somewhere," she said. "People come to my house and pick up from the porch. So far everything that I have offered has been 'wanted' by someone else, even things that I would not think anyone would want."

Jarvis estimates that Freecycle has saved enough items from the landfill to fill three columns of garbage trucks piled to the height of Mt. Everest. She says that almost everyone has e-mailed, so there is the potential to have a lasting and significant impact on improving the environment as more people learn about Freecycle.

"In the United Kingdom, in just two days, more than 80,000 new members joined after hearing about Freecycle on the BBC," she said.

In March, Jarvis was recognized, along with her co-moderator, Melissa Katchuroff, as one of the top 50 environmental stewards by Waste Management.

"The best thing about Freecycle is the true generosity of the members," Smith said. "In the end we are all members for the same purpose: to keep our unwanted items out of the landfill, and in the process maybe bring a smile to someone's face."

**Are you missing the good stuff?**

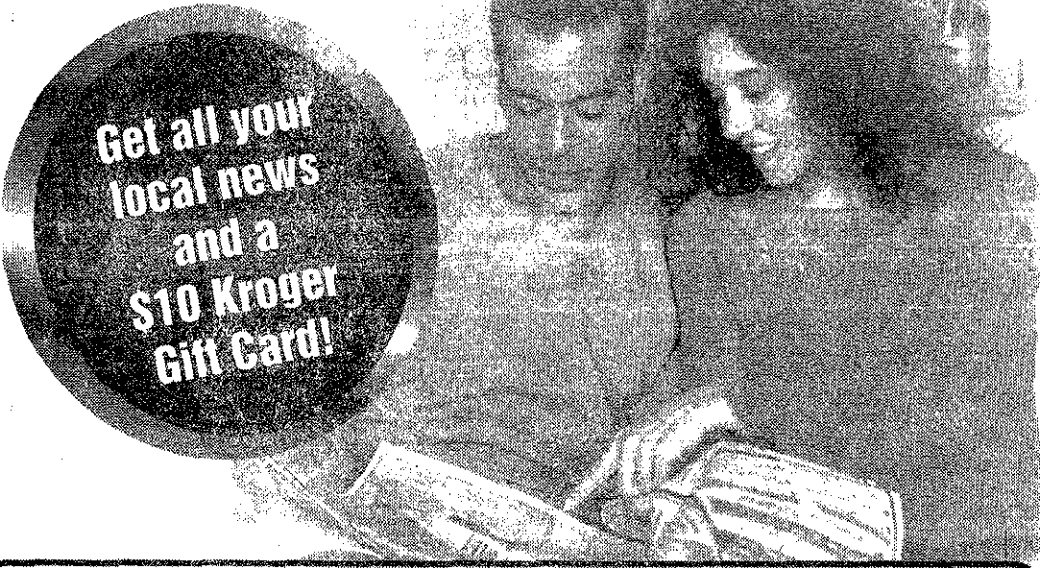
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**GROW ZONE**

FROM PAGE A1

the weeds and tilling the ground. It also provided the plants, purchased from Vern Stevens' Nature by Design. Stevens works with school groups around the state, providing native plants grown from seed. The selections were from southeast Michigan seed sources and suited to soils and climate of Westland, Dean said.

Among the plants provided for the grow zone were Switch Grass, Prairie Dropseed, New England Aster, black-eyed Susan and sweet black-eyed Susan, Butterflyweed, Gray Headed Coneflower, Spiderwort, Michigan Lily, Swamp Milkweed and Prairie Smoke to name a few.

The plants are native prairie species with deep roots that encourage storm water infiltration and filtering. Their planting is a demonstration of a natural method for storm water management. As the plants mature, they will form a vegetative buffer between the pavement and the Rouge River,

helping to slow runoff and hold pollutants. "We're dealing with a woodland ecosystem, so we're using prairie plants that reach down and contribute to the health of the river," she said. "It's a small ecosystem and we want lean soil."

Dean had expected a loss of almost 50 percent of the plants since the students planted them, but was totally surprised when she, Ernat, Muller and Margot McCormack showed up late last month to weed the grow zone and mark the sites of the plants.

The mortality rate was far less than she thought and the layer of wood chips helped keep weeds at bay. McCormack, however, pulled out the pruning shears to work on removing a wild vine that threatened to take over the patch.

"I'm a garden junkie," she said. "I love to garden and my gardens are environmentally friendly. My yard looks like a cottage garden or a kitchen garden. However, I save the unusual stuff for the front yard to freak people out." Dean is pleased the three

women have volunteered to help tend the grow zone during the summer. She calls them "the true leaders of Rooting for the Rouge" and its spark plugs.

"I was concerned about maintenance, but when the teachers came and said they'd volunteer, I knew we're home free," she said.

With the patch starting to take root, the next step will be to get a sign out letting people in the park know what the area is, especially since the park has been proposed as a grow zone under the Wayne County Department of Environment's Rouge River Program.

"It will look delightful enough that kids may want to pick the flowers, and if one gets picked, it won't be the end of the world," Dean added.

For residents interested in using wildflowers in their home gardens, there will be a presentation, "Native Wildflowers for Home Landscaping," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex on Ford west of Wayne Road.



Mary Ernat (from left), Margot McCormack and Lillian Dean check out the young plants while marking their location with sticks.

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

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Craft show tables**

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore C.W. Craft Show on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Call Mary at (734) 425-4421 (voice mail No. 10) to reserve a table.

**'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.

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.

**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. Call the YWCA Western Wayne County at (313) 561-4110 Ext. 18.

**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 for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

**Eclectic Crafters**

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

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

The program is offered in association with the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. For \$3, participants can try out different crafts, art materials and tools or bring their own project to work on. There will be inexpensive make-and-takes available. Call (734) 620-3938.

**Senior volleyball**

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

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

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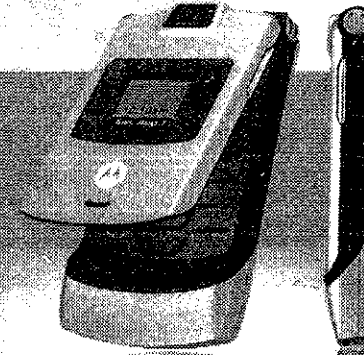
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| <p><b>ANN ARBOR</b><br/>2570 Jackson Ave.<br/>(next to Blockbuster)<br/>734-769-1722</p> <p><b>BRIARWOOD MALL</b><br/>(In Sears Wing,<br/>near Center Ct.)</p> <p><b>AUBURN HILLS</b><br/>Great Lakes Crossing Mall<br/>248-253-1799</p> <p><b>COURTLAND CENTER MALL</b><br/>(near JC Penney)</p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b><br/>8159 Chalis, Suite C<br/>(off Grand River,<br/>in front of Target)<br/>810-225-4789</p> <p><b>BURTON</b><br/>1295 S. Center Rd.<br/>(at corner of Lapeer Rd.)<br/>810-743-4846</p> <p><b>COURTLAND CENTER MALL</b></p> <p><b>CANTON</b><br/>42447 Ford Rd.<br/>(corner of Ford &amp; Lilley<br/>Rds., Canton Corners)<br/>734-844-0481</p> <p><b>DEARBORN</b><br/>24417 Ford Rd.<br/>(Just West of Telegraph)<br/>313-278-4491</p> <p>Teamed with<br/></p> | <p><b>FAIRLANE MALL</b><br/>(3rd floor next to Sears)<br/>3035 S. Rochester Rd.<br/>810-441-0168</p> <p><b>DETROIT</b><br/>14126 Woodward<br/>(Model T Plaza)<br/>313-869-7392</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b><br/>31011 Orchard Lake Rd.<br/>(S.W. Corner of Orchard<br/>Lake Rd. &amp; 14 Mile Rd.)<br/>248-538-9900</p> <p><b>FENTON</b><br/>17245 Silver Pkwy<br/>(in the Sears Plaza)<br/>810-629-2733</p> <p><b>FT. GRATIOT</b><br/>4129 24th Ave.<br/>810-385-1231</p> <p><b>LAKE ORION</b><br/>2531 S. Lapeer Rd.<br/>(Orion Mall 2 miles<br/>N. of the Palace)<br/>248-393-6800</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE</b><br/>Three Generations Plaza<br/>20580 Hagertry Rd.<br/>734-779-0148</p> <p><b>NOVI</b><br/>43025 12 Mile Rd.<br/>(Twelve Oaks<br/>Service Dr.,<br/>North of Sears)<br/>248-305-6600</p> <p><b>TWELVE OAKS MALL</b><br/>(lower level play area)</p> <p><b>PONTIAC/WATERFORD</b><br/>454 Telegraph Rd.<br/>(across from<br/>Summit Place Mall)<br/>248-335-9900</p> | <p><b>ROCHESTER HILLS</b><br/>3035 S. Rochester Rd.<br/>(at Auburn Rd.)<br/>248-853-0550</p> <p><b>ROYAL OAK</b><br/>31921 Woodward Ave.<br/>(at Normandy)<br/>248-549-4177</p> <p><b>ST. CLAIR SHORES</b><br/>26401 Harper Ave.<br/>(at 10 1/2 Mile)<br/>586-777-4010</p> <p><b>SOUTHFIELD</b><br/>28117 Telegraph Rd.<br/>(South of 12 Mile Rd.)<br/>248-358-3700</p> <p><b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b><br/>45111 Park Ave.<br/>(M-59 &amp; M-53,<br/>Utica Park Plaza)<br/>586-997-6500</p> <p><b>LAKESIDE MALL</b><br/>(Lower Ct. play area)</p> <p><b>TAYLOR</b><br/>23495 Eureka Rd.<br/>(across from Southland Mall)<br/>734-287-1770</p> <p><b>SOUTHLAND MALL</b><br/>23000 Eureka Rd.<br/>(in the JC Penney wing)</p> <p><b>TROY</b><br/>1913 E. Big Beaver Rd.<br/>(Troy Sports Center)<br/>248-526-0040</p> <p><b>OAKLAND MALL</b><br/>(Inside Main Entrance,<br/>next to Food Court)</p> | <p><b>WESTLAND</b><br/>35105 Warren Rd.<br/>(S.W. Corner of Warren<br/>&amp; Wayne Rds.)<br/>734-722-7330</p> <p><b>OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY</b></p> <p><b>ANN ARBOR</b></p> <p><b>AUBURN HILLS</b></p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b></p> <p><b>DEARBORN</b></p> <p><b>HARPER WOODS</b></p> <p><b>LAKESIDE</b></p> <p><b>NOVI</b></p> <p>See store for Return/Exchange Policy.</p> <p></p> <p>Proud sponsor of the Detroit Tigers</p> <p></p> <p>Free Handset Software Upgrade!</p> | <p><b>BLUMFIELD HILLS</b><br/>Global Wireless<br/>1-858-507-1800</p> <p><b>BRIGHTON</b><br/>Auto One Brighton<br/>810-227-2808</p> <p><b>CELLULAR AND MORE</b><br/>810-227-7440</p> <p><b>CANTON</b><br/>Cellular and More<br/>586-468-7300</p> <p><b>CLARKSTON</b><br/>Cellular Technologies<br/>248-625-1201</p> <p><b>CLAWSON</b><br/>Communications USA<br/>248-280-6390</p> <p><b>COMMERCIAL</b><br/>Cellular Source<br/>248-360-9400</p> <p><b>DEARBORN</b><br/>Wireless Tomorrow<br/>248-669-1200</p> <p><b>DEARBORN</b><br/>Kelly Cellular<br/>313-582-1130</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b><br/>Cellular City<br/>248-848-8800</p> <p><b>FENTON</b><br/>Cellular and More<br/>810-629-7440</p> <p><b>FERRISVILLE</b><br/>Communications USA<br/>248-542-5200</p> <p><b>FT. GRATIOT</b><br/>Wireless Solutions<br/>810-385-3400</p> <p><b>GROSSE POINTE</b><br/>Authorized Cellular<br/>313-417-1000</p> <p><b>HOWELL</b><br/>Celltronics<br/>517-548-7705</p> <p><b>MACOMB</b><br/>Authorized Cellular<br/>586-568-8555</p> <p><b>MONROE</b><br/>Herklimer Radio<br/>734-242-0806</p> <p><b>HERKIMER TOO</b><br/>734-384-7001</p> <p><b>MT CLEMENS</b><br/>Authorized Cellular<br/>586-468-7300</p> <p><b>NEW HUDSON</b><br/>Fusion Communications<br/>248-437-5353</p> <p><b>NOVI</b><br/>MultiLinks<br/>248-476-0077</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b><br/>USA Wireless<br/>248-236-9888</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b><br/>Ann Arbor Wireless<br/>734-456-3200</p> <p><b>ROSELAND</b><br/>Authorized Cellular<br/>586-293-6664</p> <p><b>ROYAL OAK</b><br/>Fusion Communications<br/>248-549-7700</p> <p><b>SOUTHFIELD</b><br/>Wireless USA<br/>248-395-2222</p> <p><b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b><br/>Authorized Cellular<br/>586-795-8610</p> <p><b>STYLVAN LAKE</b><br/>Wireless Link<br/>248-681-1700</p> <p><b>TAYLOR</b><br/>Call Phone Warehouse<br/>734-374-4472</p> <p><b>TROY</b><br/>The Wireless Shop<br/>248-458-1111</p> <p><b>UTICA</b><br/>Mobile2Mobile Wireless<br/>586-739-9977</p> <p><b>WARREN</b><br/>MultiLinks<br/>586-497-9800</p> <p><b>WIRELESS NETWORK</b><br/>586-573-7599</p> <p><b>WEST BLOOMFIELD</b><br/>Global Wireless<br/>248-681-7200</p> <p><b>WIXOM</b><br/>Auto One<br/>248-960-0500</p> <p></p> |
|---|--|---|---|--|

Activation fee/line: \$35. **IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION:** Subject to Customer Agreement, select Calling Plans, Rebate Form, V CAST brochure & credit approval. \$175 early termination fee & other charges. Rebate takes 8-10 weeks. While supplies last. Limited time offer. Network details & coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. V CAST Music: charges & conditions may apply. Offers, coverage & service not available everywhere. VZ Navigator: Requires capable handset; download of VZ Navigator "Free Trial" option and airtime for use; not available to existing VZ Navigator subscribers; offer expires 9/19/06. VZ Navigator only available in the National Enhanced Services Coverage Area; accuracy and completeness of info is not guaranteed; info about location of device will be used to deliver service. ©2006 Verizon Wireless

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VB652

# Art on Grand expands offerings this year

Artists from all over the U.S. will display their artwork at Art on the Grand 2006, a juried art fair presented July 21-23 as part of the annual Farmington Area Founders Festival.

This year, due to its popularity, Art on the Grand has doubled in size. It will be located in downtown Farmington, from Farmington Road south bordering Grand River, to the end of Memorial Park.

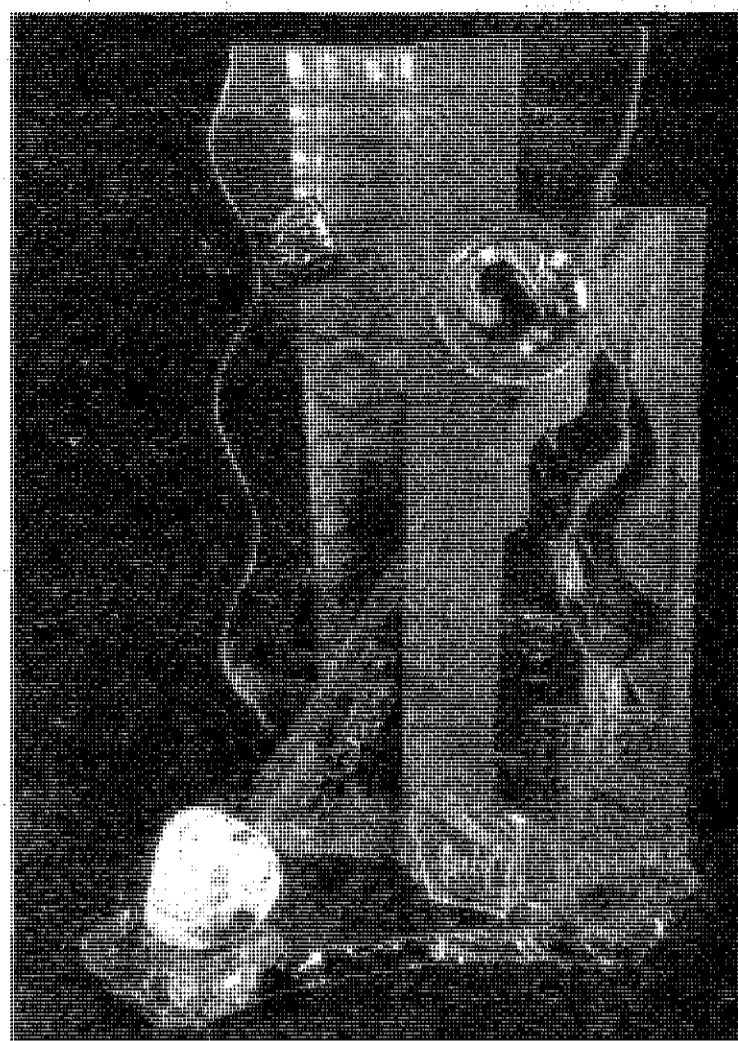
Art on the Grand is a family-oriented, interactive fine arts fair offering art, entertainment, and fun for all ages. A wide variety of art will be available for purchase including jewelry, woodwork, pottery, paintings, sculpture, and photography.

The art exhibits are sponsored this year by Judge Asset Management.

Visitors can enjoy live musical performances of sizzling jazz, pop, and oldies during the three-day festival by many award-winning performers. The free kids art activity tent, the clowns, and free face painting around all allow Art on the Grand patrons to truly "get into art."

This year, a wide variety of artists will have their artwork on display and for sale at Art on the Grand, including a large tent featuring members of the Farmington Artists Club.

Entertainment on the Art on the Grand stage Friday evening



Glass work by artist Steve Brewster.

will be provided by Truth, a jazz quartet, and Uprizing, a "feel good" mixture of steel drums and Caribbean beat. Saturday night will feature more jazz with Brazil and Beyond and then swing into pop and oldies with Rock & Soul. Other performances include Flamenco dance, sax, blues, and jazz ensembles.

Art on the Grand show hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, July 21, and Saturday, July 22; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 23.

Art on the Grand 2006 is presented by the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division.

Additional support is provided by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. For more information, please call (248) 473-1857.



## Cruisers of the Week

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week for July 12 goes to Gary Lee of Garden City with his black 1968 1/2 Pontiac GTO. The car has a 400-cubic inch ram air engine. Lee, a member of the Motor City Muscle Car Club, has owned the GTO for 30 years. It's one of 199 ever produced. Member of the Week is Bob Lane of Garden City with his custom chopper. The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's show is 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesdays at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road east of Middlebelt in Westland.

## Restaurant rally nears sellout

With 30 slots out of 500 still remaining, an event that allows people to pay \$20 and sample food from 10 restaurants is nearly sold out.

Called a restaurant rally, the Westland Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.

Participants can sample food from Applebee's, Beaver Creek, Casa Fiesta, Farwell & Friends, Johnny Carino's, LongHorn Steakhouse, Malarkey's Irish Pub, Marvaso's Italian-Grille, Panera Bread and Uno Chicago Grill.

Participants will be given special T-shirts, entitling them

to sample food at the 10 restaurants.

Those who don't want to drive may ride on shuttles that will be provided among the restaurants.

To get involved, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or stop by the office 9-5 p.m. Friday or Monday on Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, August 5, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office up to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2006.

Eileen DeHart, Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 20, 2006

CE0845294

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of Westland will hold its public accuracy test on the M-100 voting equipment for the August 8, 2006 Primary Election on Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballot results count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Eileen DeHart  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 20, 2006

CE0845293

### 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 13 & 20, 2006

CE0845807

### 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)263-3890, on 7-26-06 at 9:30 am. Personal property described below in the matter of

- 153 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 Hellesms - 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

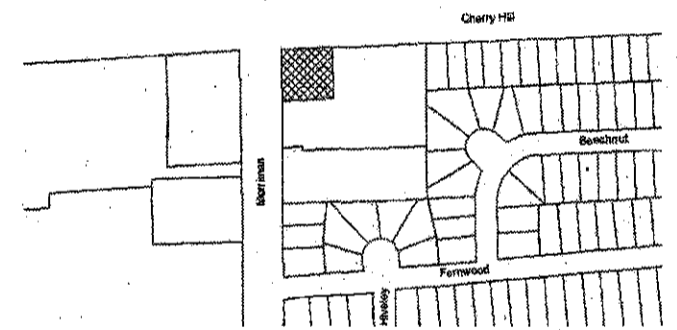
Publish: July 13 & 20, 2006

CE0845637

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #1367C - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Mobil Service Station Proposed Renovation, 125 S. Merriman Road, Parcel #069-99-0005-001, Southeast Corner of Merriman Road and Cherry Hill Road, Bill Goodream (Jihad Dabaja)



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 20, 2006

CE0845491

### 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 Hearns - 11 Boxes, Portable Television, 8 Totes
- B036 Michael Goodwin - Computer, Printer, 3 bags
- B145 Najah Zaaed - 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 Debry Ector - Washer, Refrigerator, Stove
- C015 Alaina Silagy - Dressers, 20 boxes, 10 bags
- C022 Renee Esteen 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

CE0845529

### WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

#### PROVISION OF PROJECT BASED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK VETERANS UTILIZING THE SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHER

Sealed proposals will be received by the Westland Housing Commission, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186 on or before **4:00 P.M. Wednesday August 30, 2006**, for the provision of project based supportive housing utilizing Federal Section 8 Housing Vouchers for up to (20) rental units. This program is targeted to assist At-Risk veterans within the City of Westland under a demonstration program using funds the Westland Housing Commission is making available for this purpose provided for under Part 983 of the Code of Federal Regulations for project based assistance. The number of vouchers allocated towards project based assistance may be increased over time, if the demonstration program is successful. The Westland Housing Commission's interest is limited to existing housing and no proposal for new construction or rehabilitation (as defined by Part 983 of the Code of Federal Regulations) will be considered. Only applications submitted in response to this advertisement will be accepted.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS RFP IS ONLY FOR THE OWNERS OF MULTIFAMILY APARTMENT BUILDINGS. DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE IF YOU ARE A TENANT SEEKING HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**

A complete request for proposal packet and other pertinent information may be obtained from the Westland Housing Commission main office at the address listed above.

1) **Acceptance:** The Westland Housing Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in part or in total, and to waive any irregularity in any proposal if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Commission. 2) **Equal Employment Opportunity:** The contractor will be required to comply with all applicable federal and state equal opportunity, affirmative action, and minority representation laws. 3) **Ineligible Bidders:** All contractors will be required to certify that they are not on the U.S. Comptroller General's list of ineligible contractors nor any firm, partnership or association in which they have substantial interest nor any other person, both natural and corporate, having substantial interest in their business is designated as an ineligible bidder or on the U.S. Comptroller General's list of ineligible contractors. 4) **Questions:** Any questions pertaining to this request for proposals should be directed to the Westland Housing Commission at (734) 595-0288.

JOHN FRANKLIN, PRESIDENT  
JAMES GILBERT, DIRECTOR

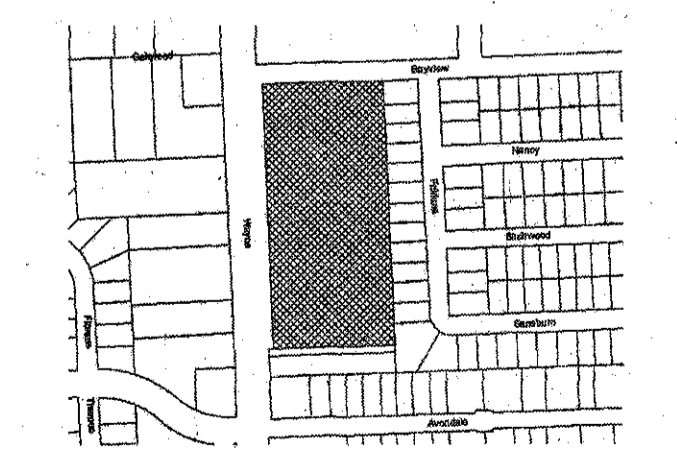
Publish: July 20 & 27, 2006

CE0845702

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #2149B - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed National Coney Island Restaurant with Drive-Thru, Parcel #062-99-0008-000, East Side of Wayne Road, South of Cherry Hill Road, Joseph Paluzzi



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

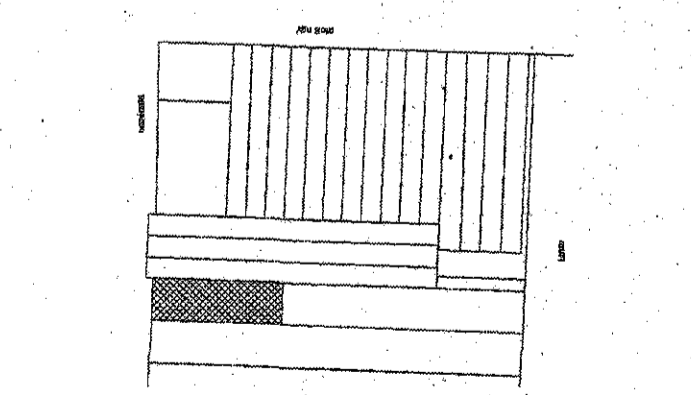
Publish: July 20, 2006

CE0845494

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #1276G - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed T-Mobile Wireless Telecommunications Facility, 5235 Merriman Road, Mr. Stor-It, Parcel #081-99-0027-004, East Side of Merriman Road, North of Van Born Road, Mark Jones (David Zuckerman)



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.

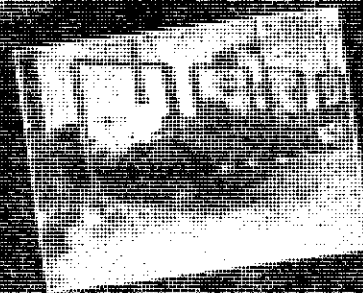
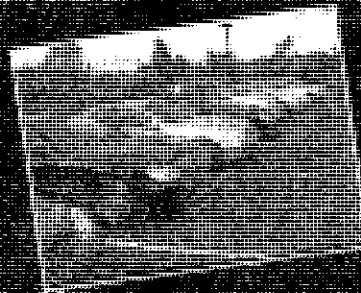
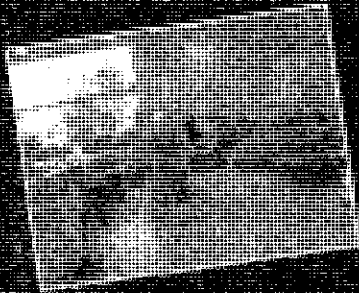
Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: July 20, 2006

CE0845498

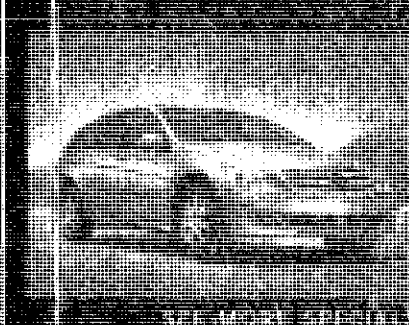
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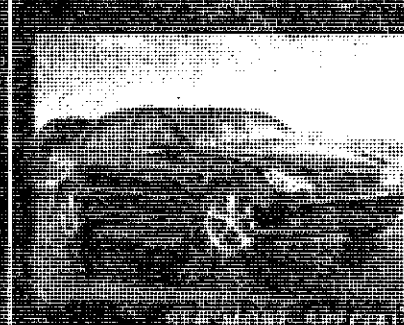
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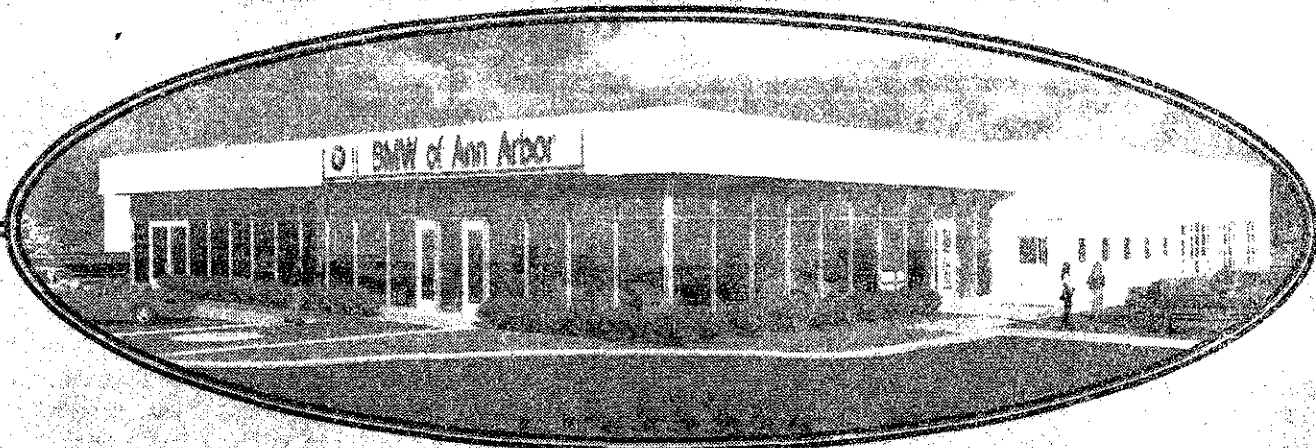
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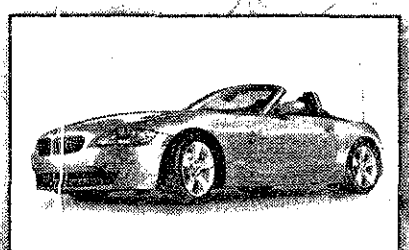
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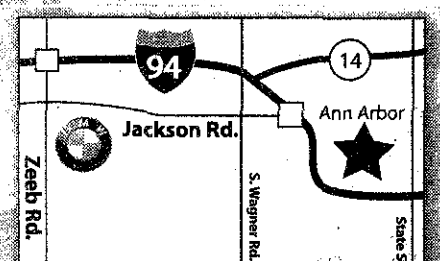
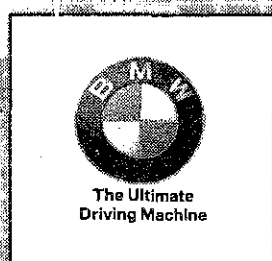
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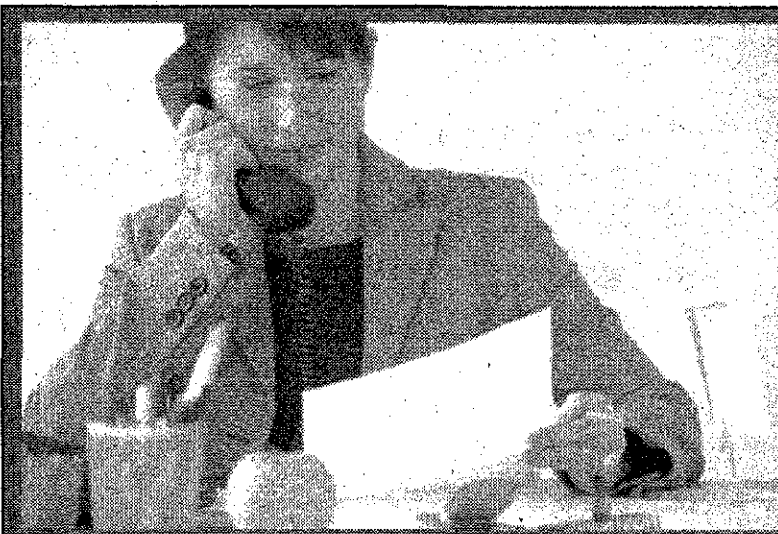
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# Readers express their views about LPS board recall election

## Board did its job

When the Demographics Committee investigated and proposed a solution to LPS' financial dilemma, input was solicited from parents and teachers. The community had the opportunity to express concerns and interests. There was no guarantee that anyone's idea would be implemented. Had the board been mandated to implement the most popular solution, an election would have been held. The new system had to be what would be best for LPS, not necessarily what appealed to others. The board was required to implement what they determined to be the best solution — not the most popular. That is the job of the school board.

Now some members of the community — and it is a minority — want to recall the school board because the Legacy Initiative wasn't the most popular solution suggested by the community. Yet the board did what it was elected to do: Devised a program which, based on their experience and research, would be best for the Livonia public school system.

The board is being threatened with recall for doing what it was elected to do.

If the recall happens, the damages to LPS would be incalculable. Moreover, one would have to think twice about running for the vacant positions.

Sure, the school board made a mistake: They asked for public input. I don't think they'll try that again.

Liz Jarvis  
Livonia

## Need answers

I have not weighed in on the issues of the school board because I wanted to wait until I believed I had all the information. I don't think that will ever happen but I am going to hold the school board more accountable for the information they provide to me.

The current school board solutions aren't providing me

For more letters from readers about the Livonia schools' recall election, see Page A11.

with answers and explanations that we should be receiving from those who are asking for our trust and call themselves leaders over our schools. Today, I received a flier on my door and in my mailbox as to the reasons why I should vote no on the recall.

All of the reasons are based on fear. There was not one reason for hope or a positive message. Nothing was provided as to what clear-cut leadership they offer. Instead, they said if we vote them out of office the following will happen:

A recall brings chaos to our district's student and staff due to an inexperienced board of education; diverts your tax money; can lead to a drop in student standardized test scores; lowers the district's good credit rating, and lowers property values.

They do not give us hope for the future — what is ahead of us, more cuts? What are their five-year plans after this Legacy project? What about 10 years? What are they doing to attract people to Livonia Schools? I was among the first decade of students in Livonia Schools — my parents moved here when I was a 1 year old and the city was young.

Already, Livonia was becoming known across the country as one of the best school districts, and the boom began. They were innovative, progressive and passionate for pushing the envelope.

What is our school board doing today to put that same message out there? Fear? How is that going to fix anything?

Leaders do not make their point to stay in office by threatening the citizens with fear-filled statements. Leaders present a clear plan, visions, and hope. Leaders address the underlying problem, not just short-term solutions that put Band-Aids on a deteriorating situation. They lay out the short-term and long-term

solutions and support and answer the concerns of the people who voted them in — not take them to court.

Will a real leader please step up to the plate and help give us some real leadership?

This is ridiculous and a shame. Isn't using fear to manipulate people a tactic of terrorists? It isn't something that should be thrown out as a weapon by our own school board. The opposition isn't much better, but they aren't elected officials either.

Valerie Earle  
Livonia

## Shows arrogance

I found it interesting that the Livonia Board of Education found it necessary to extend Dr. Liepa's contract another year despite the fact that his contract was not due to expire until June 30, 2008 — two years from now. I assume this had to be voted on prior to Steve King's seating on the Board, and impending recall of five members?

The Observer reported that Dr. Liepa received a 2 percent raise making up for no increase last year; his new base salary is now \$124,450. However, I think it is important that the citizens of our community are informed that his W-2 reported wages in 2005 amounted to \$141,535.73 (This true information had to be requested through a FOIA provided by LPS).

Why would the board wait to dispute the number of signatures required for the recall? The fact remains, the Wayne County Clerk released the number of required signatures in February; ample time for the board to refute the numbers. Arrogance stalled them, they truly believed that the vocal minority would not meet nor exceed the required numbers.

In efforts to deter the recall, the organization Livonia Cares claims that a recall will lower property values. Didn't these people label the petitioners as "fear mongering people" when

talk of property values decreasing was mentioned?

Lower the district's credit rating resulting in added costs. How much is it costing the district for all the paving depleting our savings? Increasing our transportation budget for 20 new buses and the added variable expenses to operate those buses. This is fiscally responsible.

Lead to a possible drop in student standardized test scores. Research clearly indicates the most equitable and cost-efficient means of delivering high academic student achievement is through smaller schools with broader grade spans.

Our board of education did not do their research prior to their December vote implementing the Legacy Initiative. Bring chaos to our students and staff; LI has literally pioneered groundbreaking chaos (not programs) amongst the LPS community.

As for the potential for 17 board seat changes in one year, we can thank Mr. Lessard, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Scheel, Mrs. Markarian, Ms. Morgan and Dr. Liepa.

Voting yes to the recall on Aug. 8 will not diminish leadership and experience; a yes vote will allow us to seat a board that is not afraid to ask tough questions of our administration and hold them accountable.

Regardless of Mr. Lessard's belief that our community lacks "good people," our district has many experienced, educated and caring (good) citizens to choose from.

Vote on Aug. 8 — recall them all!

Cindi Armbruster  
Livonia

## Another recall?

The recall election for the five Livonia members of the

board of education is scheduled for Aug. 8. These five members did everything they could to prevent this vote from happening. Not asking the citizens of Livonia about other options was the height of arrogance.

Now a month before this recall election, the Livonia City Clerk has received ballots that were coded and printed incorrectly. She said that the ballots cannot be used for absentee voters. This problem is to be a massive undertaking, she said.

So, in four weeks, the City Clerk may not get ballots printed.

This absentee ballot problem sounds like something we read about in this county within the last year. Maybe we need an additional recall election to stop this shortcoming in the future.

Livonia must have a representative government.

James J. Laco  
Livonia

## Committed to city

I want to express my support and appreciation to the dedicated CFLF members for all they continue to do in an effort to find a better way to implement the necessary changes in our school system. Unfortunately the Legacy Initiative has been exposed as an inefficient and possibly detrimental plan.

The board of education had limited input from the community and shoved the LI down our throats.

Because of that, the board is ultimately responsible for the ensuing hostilities between neighbors, friends and the city as a whole.

This could have been avoided! For that alone they should be recalled!

The CFLF has done an excellent job in their commitment to Livonia by allowing us a

voice in this radical overhaul of what was once known nationwide as a great school system. Due to so many unanswered questions, the impact of the LI, if implemented, will not be known for years.

The CFLF discovered many questionable issues with the LI and created an alternate plan that has been acknowledged as accurate and achievable but yet the board will not budge on their position and entertain these alternative ideas. Why won't the board communicate? Are they hiding something?

Their attitude reflects that of a parent telling a child "because I said so, that's why." That is reflective of Dan Lessard's demeaning attitude when he made the statement at a board meeting that "You people are worried about things that aren't even true," and as always refused to elaborate.

His arrogance toward the community is further displayed by such comments as "there are more good people out there than they (CFLF) think."

Why are we the bad people? Why is the board risking such a notably successful school system for the unknown when other options are available? For years I have read about the superior achievements of our fifth and sixth graders locally as well as their above average scores in state and national testing programs, yet the board claims the traditional K-6 system is not working. How long has it been broken?

I hope the CFLF members are considering running for public office because it's time for more real people in our government.

Recall the board of education! What other options have they presented us? Vote yes to recall on Aug. 8.

Rick and Karen Wynns  
Livonia

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OUR VIEWS

## Decision on park was correct one

Citizens for Frontier Park should not be surprised nor offended by city officials' decision not to support their plan for a vast recreation complex near Central City Park. Their decision not to back Frontier Park was prudent and correct in light of the state's economic circumstances.

Yes, it would be wonderful to have three multi-purpose turf soccer fields, two sheets of ice, an indoor pool and two additional basketball courts in this city, but now is not the time. Now is the time to focus on hanging on to basic city services.

The plan is ambitious, impressive and massive, and maybe in the good times, it would have been feasible, but these aren't good times and people are struggling. Businesses are closing, people are losing their jobs. While the economy is booming elsewhere in the country, Michigan is teetering on the brink of a depression or may have already entered one, depending on who you talk to.

When the Westland Youth Athletic Association unveiled its plan in February 2005, city leaders told the organization it needed to do more than promote the project. It needed to fill in the information gaps and garner support. The group did fill in the gaps, but it never was quite able to get the support needed to move the project from a conception to reality.

At that time, we asked the city to give the plan strong consideration, saying that it would take recreation to a whole new level. We still believe Frontier Park would do that, but, as we have said, now is not the time.

Citizens for Frontier Park should not give up on their dream of a premier recreation complex. Rather than view the decision as defeat, we hope they will see it as a bump in the road. The decision may mean having to shelve the plan for a few years, but supporters should use the down time to lay the groundwork for reviving the proposal when the good times return.

Frontier Park is an idea that's ahead of its time. Like a fine wine, it needs to set for awhile to become a nice piece of life in Westland.

## Keep our teens from harm's way

There is a series of articles in today's *Observer & Eccentric* examining the myriad of challenges today's young drivers face and the potential dangers posed by teens ill-prepared for the road.

Many of us don't give a second thought to just how dangerous it is to get behind the wheel, despite the hundreds killed and thousands injured every year. Driving is a necessity; for most people, there is no alternative.

Studies show that young drivers in particular are easily distracted while behind the wheel, which increases the likelihood of an accident. When drugs and/or alcohol is added to the mix, the possibility of a tragedy spikes.

With single-parent homes and dual-income homes at an all-time high, today's teens are less supervised than ever. Kids are left home alone all day and oftentimes into the evening, which can make fighting off peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol all the more difficult.

But parents also have the obligation to set a good example for their children. Summer is the time for parties, cookouts and days at the beach, oftentimes where alcohol is consumed.

How can we expect our youngsters not to drink and drive if they see their parents doing it? If a couple of beers or glasses of wine is OK for us, why not them?

Teens see themselves as invincible, that no harm can possibly come to them. Yet nary a week goes by where a family tragedy is not played out in our suburbs.

A promising teen dies of a heroin overdose. Another is critically injured in an automobile accident where the suspected drunken driver runs a red light. Yet another is injured in a swimming accident where alcohol is suspected as a factor.

Keeping our teens out of harm's way takes diligence on the part of parents. And that starts with leading by example.



### Supports Richard LeBlanc

Having just returned from vacation, I was dismayed to read the *Westland Observer* article about campaign literature from James Godbout that used an unauthorized photo of State Rep. Glenn Anderson as a way to bolster Godbout's election chances. I shook my head and thought, "politics as usual."

Mr. Godbout indicated in his quoted statement that Rep. Anderson "didn't have the decency" to call him about the incident instead of "running to the media" regarding the after-the-fact printing of an old photo of the two men.

How about having the decency to call and seek permission before using any person's photo in your campaign literature? I serve with Mr. Godbout on council and I'd be just as upset if a photo of me, taken during our tenure, was printed without my permission. In our roles as public officials photo opps abound. These snapshots run the gamut from spontaneous to strategically posed. They in no way "show" that one person "can work with another" and should not be represented as such in campaign literature.

I agree that this type of campaigning is misleading for voters and does not bode well for Mr. Godbout. Working with people goes beyond the camera and beyond campaign sound bites.

I've worked with both candidates, James Godbout and Richard LeBlanc, on the Westland City Council. The two men may have been associated with the same people at one time, but I've noticed a change in Mr. Godbout over the years, and I'm not the only one either.

From my perspective, when it comes to trust, hard work, honesty, loyalty and responsible fiscal management, there is a clear difference between Godbout and LeBlanc.

I feel that Richard LeBlanc is by far, the best candidate to represent Westland taxpayers in Lansing. And though his departure on the council will leave a void that will be difficult to fill, I am grateful for our time serving together and for the lessons I've learned from him.

As a rule, I am very cautious about political endorsements; a candidate has to prove him or herself in order for me to put my name behind them. In this case, I whole-heartedly trust and support Richard LeBlanc for our next state representative and encourage others in Westland to do the same.

**Cheryl Graunstadt**  
Westland

### Make an informed decision

The primary election is fast approaching and the absentee ballots have been mailed. Isn't it amazing that the same day the ballots were received there was a political mailer received as well? I for one resent this particular piece of junk mail.

Since when does one singular council person balance the budget, created the streetscape, rid the city of the incinerator, etc. etc. etc. I thought there was a mayor, DDA, and six other council people.

As far as the incinerator there was only one person who was on the council a few years ago that was against a millage (which didn't pass) to keep the incinerator going. And if I remember correctly all but one used their own money to endorse the millage.

### LETTERS

The biggest offender, my opinion, was the insinuation that a previous council person was endorsing when in fact he was not. In the past the term "LOOP HOLLER" has been used. How correct this is. This was not (again my opinion) a way to show how well someone deals with all levels of government, but a symbolic mislead. I think you misjudged the general public.

With this said, I hope everyone takes the time to think before voting. If you have access to a computer check out Web sites. At [www.michigan.gov/elections](http://www.michigan.gov/elections) you can find out who's running for what and who contributes to their campaigns. This is very helpful on nonpartisan candidates.

The important thing is to vote Aug. 8 for the primary. It's just as important as the general election.

**Judy McKinney**  
Westland

### City officials show leadership

I've just finished reading "City refuses to support Frontier Park plan" in Thursday's (7/15/06) *Westland Observer*.

Hooray for Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, Council President Bill Wild, Councilman James Godbout and others for refusing to back a vast recreation complex in Westland.

Westland residents are losing their jobs and taking pay cuts, along with paying high vehicle gas prices and increases in their heat and water utility bills. Not to mention Michigan's budget woes will drag on for at least two years, meaning there will be little money to spread around to cities.

Thus the reason Council President Bill Wild said, "We're just trying to work with what we have and prioritize the dollars we do have."

Westland city officials' concern for the Westland taxpayers and welfare of the city is what good leadership is all about!

Keep up the good work!

**Georgia Conant**  
Westland

### Thank you to local businesses

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Parent Advisory Council would like to thank the following businesses for their financial support of the 2006 graduating class dinner:

The Acorn Shop, Aramark Food Services, Cal Sign Company, Cul-Mac Industries, Curves (Wayne location), Jack Demmer Ford Inc., William D. Ford Career Technical Center, The Imperial Press, Independent Carpet One, Langworthy-Kendall Insurance Agency, Mark Chevrolet, Norplex Associates, Northside Hardware and Wayne Rotary.

A very enjoyable, formal fund-raiser dinner took place on April 27, and musical entertainment was provided by the Wayne Memorial High School Instrumental Music Department and its Vocal Dimension. This dinner provided financial support for an end-of-year event for the graduating senior class.

This was a six-course dinner which was attended by nearly one-third of the graduating class, and was a very entertaining evening which included the viewing of a senior memories video which was given to each student that attended. The outstanding food for both events was prepared by

Chef Tony Paquette and his students of the Culinary Arts Program of the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center.

The Zebra Parent Advisory Council, known as the Zebra-PAC, looks forward to planning another fund-raiser dinner which is to take place in February 2007 and this will provide funding for a "send-off" for the graduating class of 2007. This dinner is open to the community. For further information, call the Wayne Memorial High School office at (734) 419-2000.

Please show support to these generous business owners. Shop at their stores, or make use of their services when possible.

**Zebra Parent Advisory Council**  
Wayne Memorial High School

### Inspections are good thing

Inspections for the rentals within the city of Westland is a very good thing indeed. I am a homeowner residing in this city and a real estate appraiser, doing business within this city. From my experience, when the neighboring homes/rentals are not kept up, housing values tend to drop.

The owners of rental properties should be more than willing to comply with these inspections. It's a win-win situation for the owners of these homes and apartments. When the blight is repaired, the area will become more desirable, then housing values will increase (including your rental).

As for the tenants, we all hope to live in a desirable area, why not make the area we live in, that area. I am also a landlord, with a rental property within the city. You better believe that house is kept up above and beyond what is expected of a landlord, from refinishing the hardwood floors when they get worn to putting grub killer on the lawn.

Blight will definitely bring the property values in this area down, and I like my equity!

As for the inspections on the apartments and the landlord who owns 10 or more houses/units, I did the math and it does seem excessive. For the landlords who own 10 of more units/houses, I feel a select few should be inspected, thence determining the need for more inspections on the others.

**Janice S. James-Falconer**  
Westland resident, landlord and appraiser

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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### QUOTABLE

**"We are a country of immigrants, but we want people to come here and be part of our melting pot. Unfortunately, most of the illegal immigrants coming into this country don't give a diddly-do about this country."**

Edith Simmons, a member of Michigan Citizens for Immigration Reform, about regulations to control illegal immigration.

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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.

# Dropouts: A drag on our region, state and nation

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."

— Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Letters From the Birmingham Jail

I thought of Rev. King's words again recently when I heard (again) that Detroit has the worst dropout rate in the nation. Thinking for a living has replaced lifting for a living in Michigan and across the globe. Gone are the days when one could drop out of school and walk into an auto factory and a middle-class



Tom Watkins

lifestyle. The recent announcement by Google of creating 1,000 new high-paying jobs, requiring a 21st education, in Ann Arbor reinforces this reality. Where is the public outrage and leadership to address this problem? Every child that drops out of school is another anchor weighing down the renaissance of Detroit, our region, state and nation. It is a terrible waste of human potential. If you do not care for the right moral reasons, you should reflect on Rev. King's words and understand that all of us are tied together. Unless we cast off the dropout anchor, Michigan will never soar.

The Editorial Project in Education, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, reported the Detroit Public Schools has the worst graduation rate of the top 50 large urban school districts in America. Detroit Public School officials quickly denounced this study, which further reported that, in 2003, the Detroit schools graduated only a fifth of their students on time. The district quickly provided statistics stating it actually graduated 44.5 percent in 2003 and raised that to 68 percent in 2005.

Boy, am I glad the Detroit school officials clarified these numbers. We should all feel better knowing that more than 50 percent of students did not graduate in 2003 and over 30 percent dropped out in 2005.

Don't shrug your shoulders and think the dropout problem does not impact you simply because you live outside the city limits. Michigan is severely hampered in competing in the 21st century knowledge economy, due to our lack of education for a majority of our residents. Cities, regions, states and countries that educate their citizens are rising, while those which do not are sinking. Areas with high dropout numbers have high welfare rolls, high incarceration rates and high unemployment statistics.

Children who drop out of school do not simply disappear. These children will be coming to your place of business as prospective employees, customers or perhaps to your backdoor with more nefarious ideas in mind.

Where is the public/private investment in

stemming the dropout plague? If these dropout statistics were statistics for cases of bird flu, it would be considered a public health epidemic!

The following are a few recommended action steps to address the dropout problem:

- Challenge the political, civic, business, education, labor and religious communities to develop a proposal to the Gates Foundation seeking resources to get more of our children across the high school finish line. This foundation, the largest focusing on school reform, should be asked to not only fund studies pointing out the problems, but to work with Michigan to address the underlying causes of the dropout epidemic.

- Challenge schools to embrace 21st century e-learning as a tool to stem the dropout tide.

- Invest in high-quality preschool and reading programs to give our youngest students an academic jump-start.

- Create smaller learning environments for high school students that focus on the new four R's — relationships, academic rigor, relevancy and results.

- Create new schools that front-load the excitement of learning, such as a science school at the Detroit Zoo, a school of automotive design and engineering at the GM/Renaissance Center, a health care school at the Detroit Medical Center, a school of the arts at the DIA and a technology school at the Compuware headquarters

- Advocate raising the dropout age from 16 to 18. It is state-sponsored stupidity at best, and institutionalized racism at its very worst, to have a law on the books that makes it "legal" for kids to drop out of school at 16. The dropout rates for poor and minority youths are staggering. If the dropout rates were as high in the suburbs as they are in our cities, perhaps there would be a greater sense of urgency to address the problem.

- Ask — beg — Bob Thompson, the philanthropist who once offered Detroit \$200 million, to build charter high schools, to work with the community to design new educational opportunities for the hundreds if not thousands of Detroit children who leave school without an education or hope for the future.

Our economic and educational opportunities are inextricably linked. We need leadership to take this social eyesore that is more of an anchor to our collective economic upsurge than the restoration of multiple buildings to forge a new coalition to make Detroit the best urban school district in America. It can be done. A true Detroit and Michigan renaissance will not be complete until it is.

Tom Watkins is a business and educational consultant. He served as superintendent of schools for the state of Michigan from 2001-05 and as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., from 1996-2001. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

## LETTERS

### Concerned about recall

For the sake of our children, support Livonia schools. My family lives in the Livonia Public School District and we are concerned about the current recall efforts being carried out by the Citizens for Livonia's Future organization.

I have been an educator for the past 12 years and a school administrator for the past three years. I am currently a middle school assistant principal in Macomb County. My wife has been an elementary school teacher for 13 years and currently teaches in a neighboring school district. We believe that the recall election is and will be damaging to the students of this school district.

The CFLF organization has spent a lot of time distributing literature listing "FACTS" about the Legacy Initiative and our school board. As a parent and as an educator, I am deeply insulted and offended by some of these "facts."

1) A successful recall will not divert educational tax dollars.

FACT: The lawsuit against the district by the CFLF organization has already taken money away from our students. The upcoming recall election will take additional funds away, and the after-effects of a successful recall, such as the potential buyout of our superintendent's contract, could take excessive amounts of money away from our students.

2) A successful recall will afford our students an orderly end to the chaos.

FACT: A recall will create chaos. It will take away local control of our school district for three months. It will replace experienced board members with individuals only interested in one issue and misguided on that particular issue. It will give us school board members prone to "knee-jerk" reactions or too timid to make any tough decisions. This will not benefit the students in our school district, and this is not how I want my children's school district to be operated.

3) Five-six buildings and the added transition that comes with them are damaging to students.

FACT: Five-six buildings work and many districts have had great success utilizing non-traditional grade configurations. I had the pleasure of teaching in the Brandon School District in Oakland County for six years. The Brandon Schools utilize a five-six building and have had much success with it. Brandon High School was recognized by the State of Michigan as a Blue Ribbon Exemplary School. Clearly, the students of the Brandon School District have not been damaged by attending a five-six building. The students attending the Livonia Public Schools will not be damaged by attending five-six buildings either.

The research quoted by the CFLF organization on this matter on their Web page misrepresented the document it was taken from. Their research against five-six buildings was actually taken from an article supporting K-8 buildings. K-8 buildings are not, at present time, a valid option for the Livonia Public Schools.

What research does indicate is that the most important factors contributing to high levels of student achievement are not related to grade span but are directly linked to school leadership, the quality of the teaching staff, school expecta-

tion, staff development and the quality of instructional programs and supplemental services (Georgetown, Texas, ISD, 2004).

The Livonia Board of Education should be applauded for taking a proactive approach to school finance. Sure, some parents may be inconvenienced by the Legacy Initiative. I'm sorry that they have to be inconvenienced, but school districts operate in the best interests of the students, not necessarily their parents. I encourage everyone in the Livonia Public Schools community to approach the Legacy Initiative with an open mind. I think that you just might like the results.

Greg Oke  
Westland

### CFLF: Don't dump on Westland

There a distinct tenor coming from a vocal portion of the Citizens for Livonia's Future membership that attending Livonia Schools situated within Westland's northern boundary is akin to donning dirty, sweaty clothes after taking a shower. It has surfaced during the audience communication segment of LPS board meetings on numerous instances, and again on July 10 when they only referred to our longtime educational partners as being from "another town." Johnson and Cooper are frequent targets of the CFLF.

A link on their Web site does nothing to dispel the Cooper site scare. Even though the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, along with NTH Consultants, Jonna Companies and Triangle Development concurred that their most recent findings in the spring of this year (using up-to-date testing methods) did not rise to the level of previous warnings, the CFLF Web site continues to "inform" the citizenry of the potential hazards buried nearby. The responsible step would be to "bury" those links along with the myths. One might also think that the unmasking of this area's own "three mile island" as overreaction might warrant a front page story in the local papers. Did I miss it?

So, as it turns out; the toxic waste landfill that closed down a newly built school, turns out to be hardly more than a routine garbage dump for the City of Detroit back in the '50s. And the dumping continues to this day. Not by Detroit's DPW, but by Livonia's CFLF and the "concerned" parents that trot up to the podium to lament having to send their children or grandchildren to one of the "Westland" schools.

I grew up on August Avenue and went to Livonia schools south of Joy Road many years ago. My parents were happy that I went through one of the finest systems in the state. A school system whose roots even pre-dated the incorporation of the city it was named after, back when education was an endeavor of the surrounding community, not the ZIP code on your mailbox. My parents also never stood before the school board and said "thanks for remembering that we were part of this from the beginning." But I will.

I also have a suggestion for anyone living in Westland with a red recall sign. Pitch it! And sign on with LivoniaCAREs.org. Folks over there won't dump on you.

Peter Heikkinen

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# Young filmmaker debuts suspense film at college

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Even though Brian Crandall has found film fascinating since he was very young, it wasn't until his junior year at Catholic Central High School that he started to make films.

Tonight at 7 Crandall is not only coordinating the showing of his film, *Lethal Occasion*,

but shorts by other students in the Video Production Club at Schoolcraft College. The premier takes place in the VisTaTech Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. Admission is free. For information, call (734) 578-2961.

The Video Production Club is the reason Crandall became seriously involved with film

making. The club was founded recently so students could use the equipment of the Schoolcraft Media Center to record sports event at the school. Crandall wasn't interested in filming sports, but saw potential in the equipment.

"I eventually want to take my interest in film further and use it to be a professional director," said Crandall, a 19-year old

Plymouth resident who plans to transfer to Grand Valley State University to study film and video production.

Schoolcraft students Robert Wilcox of Canton; Brett Storm, Livonia; Karah McPhail, Plymouth; Dominique Diquano, Redford, and Alex Berg of South Lyon star in the film that Crandall wrote,

directed and produced.

In addition to *Lethal Occasion*, Crandall shows one of his shorts, *Quiet Desperation*, along with *Godzilla Zero Hour* by Franz Vorenkamp of Canton, and *A Kiss Composed* which was written and produced by his brother Christopher Crandall, a student at Michigan State

University.

"*Lethal Occasion* is not a slasher movie. It's a suspenseful thriller," said Crandall. "It's influenced by the Golden Age of radio. When I was younger I used to listen to a lot of tapes of old radio theater, especially one show called *Suspense*."

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Two obnoxious students (Dominique Diquano on the left and Alex Berg, right) cross paths with James, the paranoid protagonist played by Robert Wilcox in *Lethal Occasion*.

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## Graduated licensing lets teens learn skills

Michigan instituted a graduated driver's license program for young drivers in 1997. Teenagers may begin learning how to drive as early as 14 years, 8 months old but must complete two phases of driver education, on road experience and three levels of licensing before they achieve a regular driver's license.

Driver's education courses begin with Segment 1, which consists of 24 hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of six hours behind the wheel training. Segment 2 driver's education consists of a minimum of six hours of classroom instruction designed to provide teens with defensive driving skills.

When a young driver completes Segment 1 of driver's training, the driver can apply for a Level 1 Learner's License. A Certificate of Completion for Segment 1 Training, a birth certificate, a parent/guardian signature and passing a vision screening are required. A Level 1 License is available at a Secretary of State branch office. The recipient may only drive with a licensed parent/guardian or designated adult age 21 or older. The parent/guardian or designated adult must sit in the front seat. If driving with a designated adult, the driver should carry a signed letter of authorization from parent/guardian.

For Segment 2 driver's training, a young driver needs to have completed 30 hours minimum of supervised driving time, including two hours of night driving. A minimum of 90 days since completing Segment 1 is required. Upon completion of Segment 2 training: 50 hours of supervised driving, including 10 hours

of night driving; and 180 days of Level 1 licensing a young driver can apply for road skills testing with an independent testing agency approved by the Secretary of State.

To obtain a Level 2 license, a young driver must be at least 16 years old; meet physical and medical licensing standards; possess of Level 1 license for 180 days; completed Segment 1 and 2 of an approved driver education program; passed a road test; completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving, including 10 hours at night; be violation and suspension free with no at-fault crashes during the 90 days prior to applying for the license; and a have parent/guardian's signature on the application. Level 2 drivers are required to drive with an adult over age 21 between midnight and 5 a.m. unless driving to and from employment. A parent/guardian has the option of requesting in writing that a teen driver remain at Level 2 and not automatically advance to Level 3 at age 17.

To obtain a Level 3 license, a young driver must be 17 years old, have held a Level 2 license for 180 days and have no violations or suspensions and no at-fault crashes for 12 consecutive months prior to applying for the Level 3 license.

Beginning July 1, 2003, drivers under 21 have been issued a vertical license to help retailers and police in identifying underage drivers to prevent the illegal purchase of alcohol and tobacco.

For more information on the state's graduated license, see the Secretary of State's website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

## AAA, Ford sponsor teen driving programs

(This is the first of a two-part look at teenage drivers.)

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Kelsey McInnes, 16, Jenny Wells, 15, and Marie Czarnomski, 15, all of Redford know the dangers of driving, but they also know the rewards.

"To have freedom," Kelsey said.

"I just like driving," Jenny said.

The three were part of a Segment 1 drivers training class at the A&A Driving School on Seven Mile in Livonia.

They are at the beginning of a long process of instruction and behind the wheel experience before they obtain their final license under Michigan's graduated license program.

"I think it's a good idea to be sure you can drive well before you get your license and go out on the road," Kelsey said.

"It gives you more opportunity to practice," Jenny said. And practice may be the best way to prevent car crashes involving teen drivers.

Vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of teenagers in Michigan and the United States.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 173 teenagers 16-20 died in traffic fatalities in 2004. Nationally nearly 6,000 teen drivers were killed in 2004.

"The No. 1 reason for teen accidents is a lack of experience," said Jim Graham of the Ford Fund. "When they get a driver's license, they don't have those driving skills, they lack experience. Drinking, seat belt use are important, but experience is the key problem."



In the Hazard Recognition phase, teens have to react quickly and go in the proper direction when one of three red lights suddenly turns green.

### DRIVER PROGRAMS

Ford Motor Co. and AAA Michigan are promoting programs to improve the skills of young drivers. The Ford Fund has created the Driving Skills for Life program with an interactive Web site and a four-day drivers summer camp. AAA Michigan has released two DVDs for teen drivers, sponsors a parent-teen driving contract and is lobbying for changes in Michigan's graduated license program.

"We look at four areas: hazard recognition, kids aren't good at that; vehicle handling; speed management; and space management, how to tell distance and stopping," Graham said.

An interactive Web site at [www.drivingskillsforlife.com](http://www.drivingskillsforlife.com) navigates young drivers through a program on each of these items.

"We have a lot of modules," Graham said. "It takes you through the four areas and you answer questions. There are a couple of simulation games that teach in a more fun way... There are things for teens, parents and educators."

Beginning in spring, AAA

to-Parent contract encourages parents to "adopt a shared view and approach to their teens' driving." The topics covered in the contract include nighttime restrictions, passenger restrictions, seat belt use and good driving behavior. The Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract spells out consequences for violating a number of rules of the road and sets privileges, which can be adjusted as the driver gains experience.

In addition, AAA is lobbying to amend Michigan's graduated license to restrict the number of other teens allowed in a car with a teenage driver.

"Adding other teens in a car just increases the chances of being in a serious crash," Peet said. "Even though it isn't the law, we encourage parents to do that. It's something they should consider. We are pushing to limit the number. Some states have no other teens in a car other than a sibling or parent."

He said some parents have resisted this change because so many young people are involved in car pools. He said the Secretary of State's office has also opposed changing the graduated license program.

The Ford Fund is sponsoring a four-day summer camp, Aug. 1-4 at Ford's Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo. Graham said the program is open to high school students in metro Detroit.

"We'll take 250 teenagers a day, similar to our ride and drives around the country, taking them through the four areas of concern, hands on with professional drivers," he said. "It's a great, fun day for teenagers. It's free, just sign up."

Interested teens can sign up at the [www.drivingskillsforlife.com](http://www.drivingskillsforlife.com) site.

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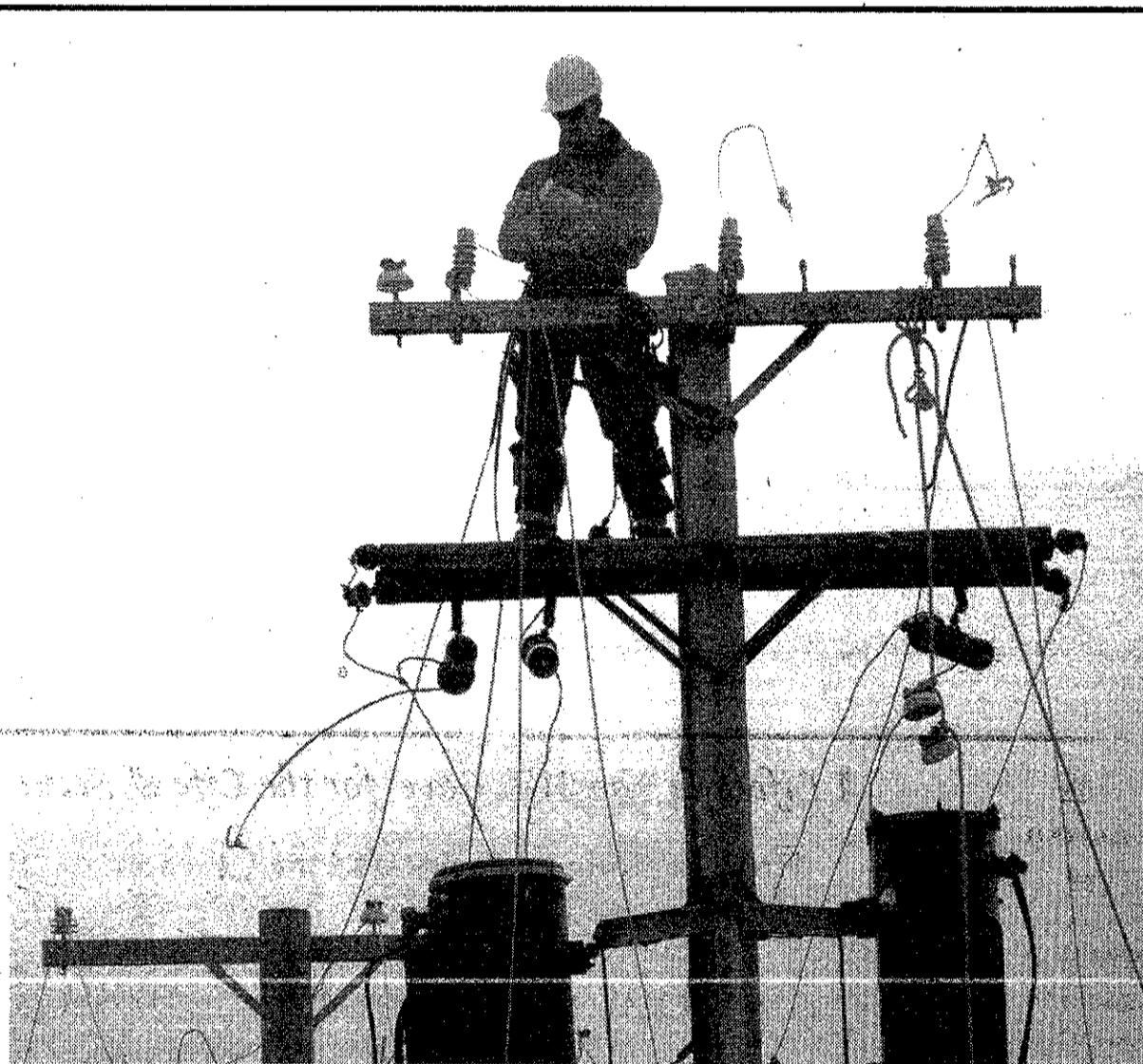
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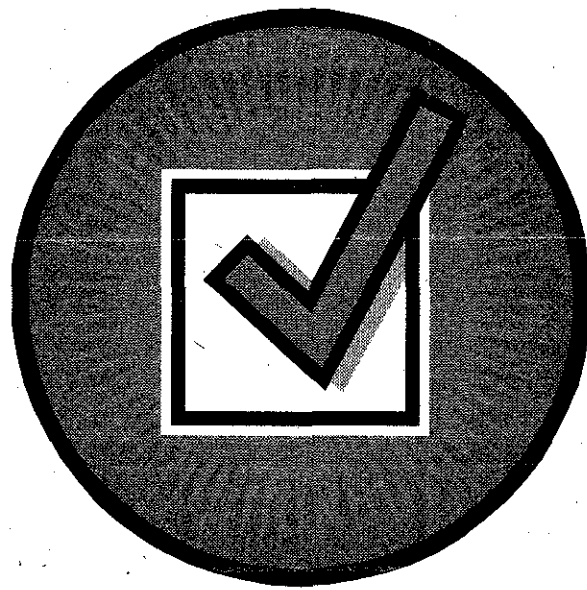
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10:00 a.m.  
• Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs  
• Excellent Music Ministries  
• Small Groups For Every Age  
• Outreach Opportunities  
Pastor:  
Dr. Dean Klump  
Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert  
**First United Methodist Church  
of Plymouth**  
45201 North Territorial Road  
(West of Sheldon Road)  
(734) 453-5280  
www.pfumc.org

**NEWBURG UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.  
734-422-0149  
Worship Service  
and  
Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley  
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD**  
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY  
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.  
**Worship Service**  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
**Sunday School**  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery Provided  
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

**HOSANNA-TABOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
9500 Leveaux • So. Redford • 313-937-2424  
Rev. Jonathan Manor, Sr. Pastor  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
10:00 a.m.  
Education Hour 8:45 a.m.  
Christian School  
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade  
For more information call  
313-937-2233

## CATHOLIC

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

## PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Immemorial Latin Mass  
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570  
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8  
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan  
3 blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121  
**Mass Schedule:**  
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.  
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.  
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.  
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass  
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions  
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

**CHURCH of CHRIST WEST**  
291 East Spring Street • Plymouth 48178  
Sunday Worship • 11am & 6pm  
800 Class  
Sunday School • 10:00am - 11:30am  
(734) 451-1616  
Ministry: Music, Prayer, Service  
John Nafise, Pastor

First United Methodist Church  
15201 North Territorial Road  
(West of Sheldon Road)  
(734) 453-5280  
www.pfumc.org

**Risen Christ Lutheran  
LC-MS**  
David W. Martin, Pastor  
48250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth  
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)  
(734) 453-5252  
Summer Sunday Worship 8:15 am  
May 28th thru Sep. 3rd  
All are Welcome Come as you are!

**RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48117  
451-0444  
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO  
Weekday Masses  
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
16360 Hubbard Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
734-421-8451  
Wednesday 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist  
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist  
Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist  
Office Hours 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
www.standrewschurch.net  
The Rev. John W. Henry II Rector

**BELL CREEK**  
Casual, Contemporary,  
Excellent Children's  
Program  
Meets at Franklin H.S. in  
Livonia on Joy Road  
(Between Merriman and Madeline Roads)  
at 10:00 a.m.  
734-425-1174  
Join us for coffee, bagels and  
donuts after the service!

**Rosedale Gardens  
Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI  
www.rosedalegardens.org  
(734) 422-0494  
Contemporary Service  
9:00 am  
Traditional Service  
10:30 am  
We Welcome You To A  
Full Service Church  
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor  
Rev. Kelly Whitbeck, Associate Pastor

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

## EVANGELICAL COVENANT

**Timothy Lutheran Church**  
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
8820 Wayne Rd.  
Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road  
Livonia • 427-2290  
Jill Hegdal, Pastor  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
(Nursery Available)

**FAITH COVENANT  
CHURCH**  
1 mile to J and Drake, Farmington Hills  
(248) 661-9191  
Sunday Worship  
and Children's Church  
9:15 a.m. Contemporary  
11:00 a.m. Traditional  
Child Care provided for all services  
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

**ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
29016 Jamison Ave. • Livonia  
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds  
MASS: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 a.m.  
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5:00 p.m.  
Sun. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Confessions: Sat. 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
734-427-5220

## EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

**LOOKING FOR A  
CHURCH WHERE...**  
• There's a commitment to truth!  
• There's authentic, contemporary worship!  
• People are loved regardless of  
race, age or background!  
• There's an incredible kids' ministry!  
**HARVEST**  
Meets at Michigan Theological Seminary  
Plymouth, MI  
on Ann Arbor Trail between Haggerty and Utley Rds.  
**Sunday Service Time**  
10:30 am  
734-359-7795  
www.myharvestbible.org

**St. James Presbyterian  
Church, USA**  
25350 West Six Mile Rd.  
Redford (313) 534-7730  
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  
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible  
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

## LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

## CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

**ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD  
LIVONIA • (734) 261-1380  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
6:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
PASTOR JAMES HOFF  
PASTOR ERIC STEINBRENNER

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH  
OF THE NAZARENE**  
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525  
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:  
455-5155

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth  
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI  
734-453-0970  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 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


**WARD**  
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

## JEWISH

**CONGREGATION  
A BEIT KODESH**  
1-248-477-8974  
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

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



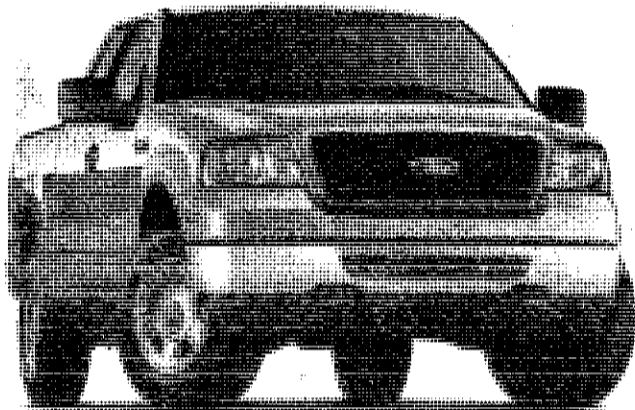
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**\$0**  
For Gas\* Until 2007  
Including **STREET**  
E-85 FUEL CAPABLE

OR LEASE ONE OF THESE VEHICLES



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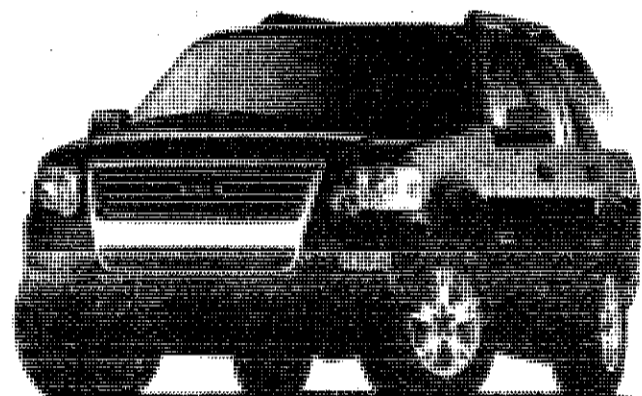
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A month(1) with  
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Lease.

With \$2,129  
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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.



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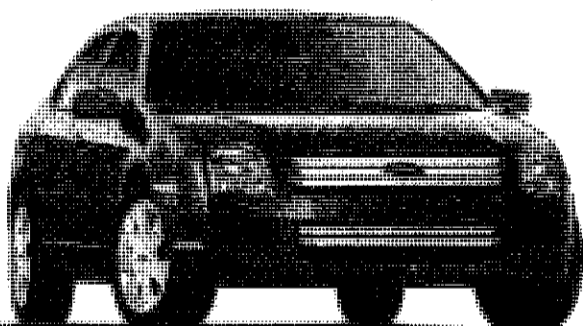
For as  
low as

**\$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.



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a 24 month low  
mileage Red  
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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  
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A month(1) with  
a 36 month low  
mileage Red  
Carpet Renewal  
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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Now, select RCL customers can terminate early with up  
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Your Suburban Ford Dealers

(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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**HINES PARK**  
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\*Closed Saturdays through Labor Day