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Young patients get new lease on life

HOMETOWNLIFE - SECTION C

SUNDAY
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A troubled future

Garden center feels pinch of bad economy

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Clyde Smith & Sons garden center, a 172-year-old family business and Westland landmark, may be in jeopardy of closing.

"We're here until Christmas for sure. I don't know after that," family member Carol Smith McCreedy said Thursday. "It's getting harder and harder to make money. All the garden centers in the area are hurting."

Clyde Smith & Sons, a one-time chestnut orchard and roadside stand that grew to become a sprawling farm, has stopped selling garden vegetables.

"We're no longer doing produce," McCreedy said. "We hadn't made money on it for the last couple of years. We just couldn't see doing it this year."

Located on Newburgh Road south of Joy, the business still has its greenhouses and retail garden center, selling such items as cut flowers, perennials, trees, shrubs, potted plants and houseplants.

Smith & Sons will sell pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and other seasonal items this fall, McCreedy said, "and we're still planning on having Christmas trees."

After that, the future poses a big question mark for a family business started by Stephen Smith in 1834, when Andrew Jackson was president and three years before Michigan celebrated its statehood.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's a familiar sign, a Westland landmark, but Clyde Smith & Sons may face closing unless the economy turns around and business picks up.

Loyal customers and local historians hope that business will turn around and that Smith & Sons will survive amid tough economic times.

"It upsets me to think that after all these years it wouldn't be Clyde Smith's anymore," Westland historian Jo Johnson said. "It's kind of a shock. I guess I thought that Clyde Smith & Sons would always be there. It would bother me to see it go under after all these years."

Rumors have circulated for years of potential problems, McCreedy said, but the busi-

ness has always survived. David and Edna Smith own it, and their three children with help from spouses have kept it going, at times with their own children pitching in.

But the sour economy and rising costs for heating fuel, employees, taxes and other expenses may ultimately put the family out of business.

"Think of what you paid to heat your home last winter and multiply that by a hundred or more," McCreedy said. "It's hard to make money. People are spending all their money on

groceries and gasoline to get to and from work, and a lot of people are out of work."

Many customers who once welcomed spring and summer by spending money on flowers, plants and other decorative items have had to adjust their expenses, she said.

Closing would be the end of an era - the end to one of Michigan's longest-standing businesses.

Said McCreedy: "I don't want to go anywhere."

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

Wounded Warriors backers plan for new benefit

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Country music star Lee Greenwood will headline a benefit organized by a Westland committee that wants to help wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Greenwood, known for such hits as *God Bless the U.S.A.*, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

"This is not meant to be pro-war or against the war," said Westland City Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer, who is chairing the *Wounded Heroes* benefit. "This is simply to help the troops who are coming home wounded."

The concert will help two organizations dedicated to helping wounded soldiers - the national Wounded Warriors Project and Wayne-based Veterans Haven Inc., which serves all of western Wayne County.

Dubbed the *Wounded Heroes* tribute, the concert will raise money to help offset the financial and emotional burdens suffered by wounded military personnel and their families.

The U.S. Army Band also will perform, Stottlemeyer said.

Veterans Haven President Vince Berna issued a statement seeking help in selling out the 1,200-seat Ford Center for Greenwood's concert.

"I know a lot of you have been asked to dip into your pockets lately to support other recent causes, but this one is an exception," he said. "We all need to do this."

Ticket prices range from \$33 to \$50. They can be ordered by calling the Ford Center at (313) 943-2354 or by going online at www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

Greenwood's concert will mark the second year that Stottlemeyer has organized a fund-raiser to help wounded soldiers. Last year, he led a committee that brought the Glenn Miller Orchestra to Burton Manor for a benefit that raised \$48,000.

Stottlemeyer recalled how Vietnam War veterans returned home to a sometimes-hostile atmosphere, and he said he wants military personnel in Iraq and

PLEASE SEE BENEFIT, A4

CFLF: Board's refusal to negotiate spawned 'revolt'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

More than two months since the grass-roots group Citizens for Livonia's Future obtained more than 10,000 signatures per board member to secure a recall election, its members are now focused solely on follow-through - the recall of five school trustees Aug. 8.

The names Dan Lessard, Rob Freeman, Cynthia Markarian, Lynda Scheel and Kevin Whitehead will officially appear on that ballot. All five trustees supported the district's Legacy Initiative, a plan to close and reorganize schools.

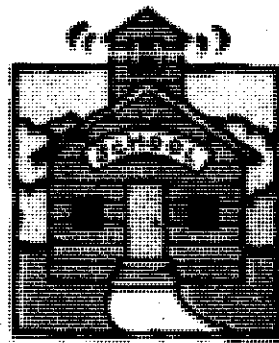
The CFLF was formed by a group of concerned citizens, including its president Steve Futrell, "who didn't understand what was happening" as the district unveiled its plan. They

asked why this change was necessary, and whether it was in the best interest of the students and families in Livonia. The group's members still maintain they haven't had those questions adequately answered.

Though Futrell and other members of the citizen's group spoke several times with Supt. Randy Liepa and various board members, Futrell said they were unable to make progress. "Their method of negotiation was very clear," Futrell said. "If you agree to do it our way, we'll be in agreement."

Despite efforts made by CFLF in public and private meetings with trustees, questions con-

PLEASE SEE REFUSAL, A4



RECALL
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Trustees: Perspective of whole district led to plan OK

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The five Livonia school board trustees who face a recall election Aug. 8 stand by their decisions to support the Legacy Initiative, a plan to close and reorganize schools in the district.

"We are proud of the decision we made," said Lynda Scheel, board president. Speaking on behalf of herself, Dan Lessard, Cynthia Markarian, Kevin Whitehead and Rob Freeman, she said they did what they see as being in the best interest of the children.

"We feel a recall would be bad for the community," she said, "and bad for the school district."

The trustees defended the Legacy plan - which is meant to save the district \$1.8 million even after the costs associated with implementing its changes. Some of those costs, such as paving parking lots and bus loops, would have been necessary regardless, Scheel said.

The Citizens for Livonia's Future group, which would recall the five board members, named communication with the board as a primary concern. Members said the board did not hear their concerns about the plan. Those ranged from longer bus ride times to filled-to-capacity buildings, and multiple transitions.

Scheel said she and other trustees met with people in the community throughout the process and weighed concerns. "Yes, we listened," she said. "They don't believe we listened

PLEASE SEE PLAN, A4

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Concours d'Elegance is a classic car show with international clout. This year, organizers are planning an elegant



Detroit man charged in cash store holdups

A 36-year-old Detroit man who is accused of robbing numerous cash advance stores throughout metro Detroit was arraigned on four crimes in Livonia's 16th District Court on Thursday.

Dwain Winse III was charged with attempted armed robbery, felony firearm, carrying a concealed weapon and driving with a revoked license. He is being held in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond.

Winn said Winse has been cooperative with investigators since his arrest Tuesday. Along with Livonia police, investigators from Farmington, Southfield, Madison Heights, Warren, Centerline, Dearborn, Garden City and Westland have interviewed Winse about other robberies committed in recent months.

Reading the leaves

Livonia native finds niche with tea shop

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

After toiling for some 16 years in the corporate world, the last five at DP & Company in Farmington Hills, Colleen Cannon needed a change.

While contemplating her own move into the world of small business ownership, Cannon accompanied her husband, Patrick, on a business trip to Tennessee. While killing time between conferences, the Cannons happened into the Franklin (Tenn.) Tea Shop.

And Colleen suddenly knew what she wanted to do. And TranquiliTea was born.

"I was like a kid in a candy store," she said. "After 16 years, I just wanted something entirely different, without the deadlines and the up-and-down (nature) of that industry."

She wasn't entirely certain she could make a tea shop, selling leaf tea by the ounce, work. Cannon said most people have to go on-line to shop for tea, and "it's really a guessing game."

At TranquiliTea in Plymouth, customers can open the jars, smell the aromas, and know what they're getting.

"When you get customers opening the jars, it's a lot of fun," said Cannon, who grew up in Livonia. "For those who've never been exposed to that, it's like being a kid again."

Cannon soaked up advice from the owner of the Franklin Tea Shop she and Patrick walked into. She's talked to her about opening the store, and she met up with her not long ago at a World Tea Expo.

"She's been my mentor," Cannon said. "She's a great

TEA TOWN

- What: TranquiliTea
- Where: 580-3 Forest, in Westchester Square
- What's available: Some 60 kinds of leaf tea, sold by the ounce. Grandma's Fruit Garden is the current favorite.
- When: Tuesday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Contact: Colleen Cannon, (734) 459-9686



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colleen Cannon samples a whiff of Chocolate Mint Black Tea, one of her favorites, at her new TranquiliTea shop in Westchester Square.

woman and she gave me some really good advice."

After getting the inspiration, the Cannons had to find a space. They knew they wanted to set up shop in downtown Plymouth, but "space was being snapped up," according to Cannon.

Finally they found the Westchester Square space, and the family went about getting it ready. Youngest son Patrick, 22, did a lot of the painting, hauling furniture and setting up displays - "the dirty work," his mom said, laughing - while eldest son Ryan, 24, is working some hours at the store while he's on a break from pursuing his master's degree at the University of Michigan.

"It took us awhile to find the space," Cannon said. "I really like the aspect of a shopping community, and Plymouth really supports its downtown businesses."

TranquiliTea sells some 60 different kinds of tea - Cannon said she's hoping to be at 100

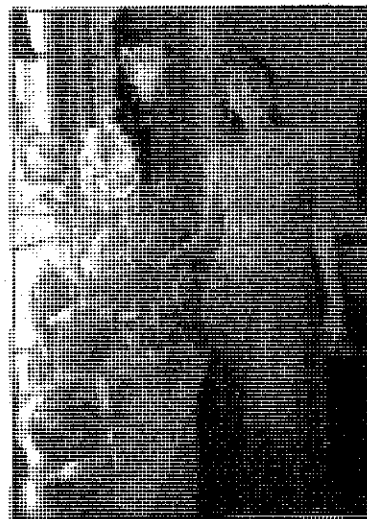
soon - with Grandma's Fruit Garden, a strawberry flavored tea made from dried fruits, reigning as the current favorite.

She wasn't entirely sure she could make a going concern out of a tea shop, but Cannon has seen the business grow.

"Every month we're gaining new customers and having more and more return customers," Cannon said. "I wasn't 100 percent certain it would work, but I knew how I felt when I walked into that tea shop."

Cannon said the family is "constantly testing teas," and she's been to the World Tea Expo to gain experience and insight. It's all been a blur for her so far, but she's enjoying the ride.

"I'm having a great time, I love my customers, they have great stories and I really love that interaction," she said, breaking into a wide smile. "I



Colleen Cannon's new tea shop, TranquiliTea in downtown Plymouth, sells more than 60 types of loose tea, teapots and accessories.

don't miss the corporate world at all."

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AROUND WESTLAND

'Magic Monday'

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department and WMGC 105.1 will be again teaming up for Magic Monday Family Night with WMGC 105 7-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at the Bailey Recreation Center, outdoor pool and Concrete Jungle Skate Park.

In honor of National Clown Week, Clowns Around Redford will be "just clowning around, doing magic tricks, face painting, and balloon animals. Other activities include inflated games provided by Bobby's Bouncers.

Pool admissions \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. The Concrete Jungle Skate Park cost \$3 per child, \$5 per adult. Bring your own skateboard, helmets, knee and elbow pads available for rent.

The Bailey Recreation Center is 36651 Ford in the civic center complex. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Fishing Derby

Children ages 3-14 are invited to show off their fishing skills at the seventh annual Fishing Derby at Friendship Lake in Central City Park 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.

Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., followed by the derby, lunch and the awards ceremony at about 11 a.m. There will be juice and doughnuts (coffee for the parents) for breakfast and a hot dog lunch.

Participants will need to bring a fishing pole and bait. Those without fishing poles

may reserve a pole in advance by contacting the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620. A limited number of fishing poles available on first come first served basis.

The goal is to catch and release as many fish as you can in a two-hour period. Prizes will be awarded for the most fish caught for various age groups. Fishing at Friendship Lake is catch and release only, so no fishing license is required.

The cost is \$7 per child, ages 14 and under and \$3 per parent, including breakfast and lunch. Pre-register by Aug. 17. Entries are limited, no walk-ins allowed. Register at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

The event is sponsored by the Westland Fire Department, which will provide a mobile first aid station throughout the event, and the Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

Recall rally

The Citizens for Livonia's Future will host a rally with refreshments and snacks from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, at St. Mary's Church, 18100 Merriman Road.

Flea Markets

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.

Space is available for a farmer's market/flea market Friday-Sunday, Sept. 8-10, at the Oddfellow Hall, 344 Elizabeth St. at Ann Arbor Trail. The markets are being sponsored by the Westland/Plymouth Grange 389.

The 10-foot by 10-foot space (no electricity available) is \$20 for Friday or Sunday only, \$25 for Saturday only and \$60 for all three days, if registered by Aug. 18. Cost increases \$5 after that date.

Send name, address, phone number, items to be sold and days needed with a money order payable to Grange No. 839, to 5692 N. Globe, Westland, MI 48185.

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City police detective bureau adds two

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With thousands of criminal investigations and hundreds of prisoners taken into custody each year, the Westland Police Department has one of the busiest suburban detective bureaus in Wayne County, authorities say.

"My hat is really off to those guys," said Westland 18th District Court administrator David Wiacek, whose court stays busy partly because of the efforts of local detectives.

Last year, alone, nine Westland detectives investigated more than 4,300 criminal cases and took into custody 780 prisoners, said police Lt. James Ridener, who oversees the bureau.

Now, the bureau is welcoming two new detectives, Tim Pennington and Ed Price, sworn in this month for their new jobs.

Even with two new detectives, the bureau will see a net gain of only one investigator, due to the recent retirement of longtime Sgt. James Dexter.

Still, authorities said, the one-position gain - approved this year by the Westland City Council - will help a detective bureau that struggles to handle an avalanche of criminal cases.

Officers Tim Pennington and Ed Price, nephew of former Police Chief Emery Price, have become the latest investigators promoted to the detective bureau.

Pennington has worked for the department more than 16 years, mostly as a uniformed patrol officer, police Chief Daniel Pfannes said.

Pennington is an evidence technician and has worked as a youth officer, Pfannes said. Pennington's promotion comes in the same summer that he will have another life-changing experience - marrying Westland Fire Department Capt. Colleen Fedel in August, Pfannes said.

Pennington's promotion has been long-awaited. Twice he was No. 1 on a promotion list that expired before he got his opportunity.

Price has worked for the Westland department for 13



Police Chief Daniel Pfannes (center) is flanked by his department's two newest detectives, police Sgts. Tim Pennington (left) and Ed Price. The picture was taken at Westland City Hall, where the two sergeants were sworn in for their new assignments.

years, mostly as a uniformed patrol officer. He served three years in a special investigations unit and played a major role in solving a cold case that involved the drug-related killing of teen Michael Connor, according to Pfannes.

Price is a field training officer and has been a longstanding sniper on the police department's tactical response unit. He graduated from Madonna University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

So you call yourself a numbers person? The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is packed with information for all you left brain thinkers. Whether your interests lie in brushing up on number theory or experiencing numbers with flair, it's all here.

If you ever wondered if a link exists between numbers and art, the evidence is in. Examine Piet Mondrian's works in *Mondrian*, edited by Jose Maria Faerna or Meyer Schapiro's *Modern Art, 19th & 20th Centuries*. Also, Grant Wood's treasured painting, *American Gothic*, is a wonderful example of combining patterns with art. Learn more about Wood in Deborah Leach's *Grant Wood: The Artist in the Hayloft*.

Fractals keeping you awake at night? View a myriad of patterns and colors as you peruse Theoni Pappas' *Fractals, Googols and Other Mathematical Tales* and Clifford Pickover's *Chaos in Wonderland: Visual Adventure in a Fractal World*.

If statistics fascinate you, you're in luck. Why not pick up Harvey Brightman's *Statistics in Plain English* or Ruma Fulk's *Understanding Probability and Statistics: A Book of Problems?* For the skeptic, Stephen Campbell's *Statistics You Can't Trust: A Friendly Guide to Clear Thinking About Statistics in Everyday Life* and Darrell Huff's *How to Lie With Statistics* may capture your attention for hours.

If numbers have worn you out, why not relax and enjoy the latest craze with Robin Wilson's *How to Solve Sudoku* or Carol Vorderman's *Master Sudoku*? Any way you count it up, these books are sure to keep you entertained.

But no matter where you run, you can be 100 percent certain that numbers won't be far behind. And that's the best odds you can hope for.

Add up your options and stop by the library or visit us on the Web. Call (734) 326-6123 or log on to www.westland.lib.mi.us - 24/7.

The library's summer hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday. "Creature Feature": Teen Summer Reading Program Finishers Party 6:30 p.m. Aug. 1.

Get 10 stamps on your Reading Log and you will receive an invitation (for you and a friend) to this teen-only party. This is an invitation only celebration.

Internet 101: 10:30 a.m. Aug. 2. For the very beginner. No registration or fee required.

Teen Advisory Board: 7 p.m. Aug. 9. Help plan programs, choose prizes and materials for the Teen Collection (and meet our new Young Adult Librarian). Call (734) 326-6123 or stop at the Reference Desk for more details.

Information Central is compiled by Marilyn Kwik, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

Letterman 'Stupid Trick' auditions come to Westland facility

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Remember this word - unique. It could land you a spot on national TV. Well ... you and your pet.

Producers of *The Late Show with David Letterman* will be in western Wayne County on Sunday, Aug. 20, looking for potential stars of show's "Stupid Pet Tricks" segment.

The auditions will be held at the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland and are the only "Stupid Pet Tricks" auditions currently scheduled for the Midwest for the remainder of 2006.

"What the producers are looking for is unique tricks," said Michael Robbins, Michigan Humane Society marketing and communications director. "They've found that a majority of the tricks that do make it are what the animal naturally does and is

Auditions will be 1-4 p.m. in the Berman Center's Pet Education Room. The center is at 900 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, in Westland. Each audition will be evaluated by representatives of the 'Late Show.'

built on. Unique wins the day." "Stupid Pet Tricks" has been a signature segment of the *Late Show* for many years, and producers usually hold only three or four auditions around the country. The Berman Center date is the only audition scheduled in the Midwest for the remainder of 2006, Robbins said.

Late Show producers struck up a relationship with MHS several months ago, and when they decided to tape another

"Stupid Pets" segment, they approached MHS to host the auditions. It didn't take long to say yes.

"This will bring attention to the MHS in particular the celebration of the human-animal bond which we foster," Robbins said. "That's why this is a such a perfect fit."

"The Michigan Humane Society does a great job caring for pets and working with the community," said Ryan Williams, talent assistant for

The Late Show with David Letterman. "I'm glad to be working with them on such a fun project."

Auditions will be 1-4 p.m. in the Berman Center's Pet Education Room. The center is at 900 N. Newburgh, south of Ford, in Westland. Each audition will be evaluated by representatives of the *Late Show*.

All performances will be taped for review by the show's producers. Local contestants will be evaluated from among a pool of national performers gathered by the show. Acts that the producers deem interesting will receive callbacks to select the finalists, Robbins said.

All tricks must be safe, humane and appropriate for both the animals and their

guardians, he added.

Contestants must pre-register, which can be done right up to the audition date. They can do it online at www.michiganhumane.org or by calling the Michigan Humane Society at (866) MHUMANE (648-6263) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"We already have a pony registered," Robbins said.

The MHS has been told that up to 100 contestants could show up for the auditions, and Robbins is hoping to top that number here in Detroit.

"We know we have a lot of talented pets in Detroit," he said. Our goal is to overwhelm the producers."

MHS also is hoping Mother Nature cooperates the day of the auditions. The Pet

Education Room is at the rear of the building and contestants will line-up outside. One or two contestants will be allowed into the room at a time. Two-legged spectators only will be allowed to sit in on the tapings.

"It's truly a unique opportunity for the communities of Michigan and also our neighboring states to demonstrate both our creativity and passion for our animals," said Robbins, adding that people in Ohio and Indiana have been notified of the auditions. "We encourage every animal and their guardian with a unique talent to come out. Mark the date and start practicing."

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Shop summer sales at Parisian

Livonia's Parisian store will offer special events for children and adults this summer.

Located at Laurel Park Place, the store is hosting Carnival Kid Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5. Come see a children's fashion show, at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. highlighting back-to-school trends. Visit the children's department for light refreshments, a special

guest, face painting, bean bag toss and putt-putt for prizes.

But children won't have all the fun. Parisian is hosting special menswear sale next month. The Men's Golden Opportunity Sale begins Saturday, Aug. 4 in Livonia. A private opening will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Aug. 6, before doors open to the public. Again, the store will offer light refresh-

ments, and opportunities to win gift certificates to the Coffee Beanery and Charisma Salon. Personal consultants will be on hand throughout the men's department for assistance.

Customers will save 10 percent for the first four pre-sale days by purchasing one item, 15 percent when purchasing two items and 20 percent when purchasing three or more items.

To make an appointment with a personal consultant, call (734) 953-7505.

REFUSAL

FROM PAGE A1

continued to go unanswered sur-rounding the Legacy plan, and concerns lingered, Putrell said, adding, "It becomes an issue of ego."

From the beginning, the CFLF members have sought one goal — to halt the implementation of the Legacy plan for one year and take a second look at ways to close schools and save money. District administrators and trustees continued to move forward, closing and leasing buildings and moving resources.

Former Livonia Mayor Bob Bennett, a CFLF member, pointed to previous instances in which the board's actions were called into question. "There is no challenge of how we spend money," he said. "I'm appalled at what I see happen-

ing." His own letters to the district administration have gone unanswered, Bennett added.

Marge Roach, a former board trustee, said she's concerned about the education of her own grandchildren and about the property values on her own home. "What I have in my home is what I have to live off of," she said.

Jody Hamilton, a CFLF member who has been among those spearheading the recall effort, said it's become a question of accountability.

Brad Wolkan, also a member, agreed: "We want to be able to trust in these people."

Putrell said he wants to see someone on the board scruti-

nize how money is spent, to challenge and question rather than be "a rubber stamp." "I do not want these people making decisions for my family again," said Futrell, a father of four.

Should the recall of five board members succeed, CFLF members recognize it may or may not impact the Legacy Initiative for the 2006-07 school year.

The group has simultaneously been pursuing a lawsuit against the board and superintendent in an effort to stop the plan from being put in place at the start of the school year. On Aug. 4, a Wayne County Circuit Court hearing will determine whether the group will be granted a preliminary injunction.

Four days later, voters will determine whether or not to recall the five board trustees based on their decision to support the Legacy Initiative.

"There will be no winners here," Bennett said. "Both sides have lost a lot."

From friends to feelings about their community, he said, the decision to pursue a recall comes at a price. But the CFLF members won't back down. They say they are doing what is in the best interest of the children in the district by working to maintain neighborhood schools and restore trust on the school board.

"In the 1700s this would've been called a revolution," Bennett said. "And that's what it is."

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

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
Notice of Election

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that the General Primary Election will be held in the City of Garden City on,

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006

From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the regular polling places. Candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices are to be voted upon:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor
United States Senate
Representative in Congress
State Senator
Representative in State Legislature
County Executive
County Commissioner
Delegate to County Convention
Judge of Third Circuit Court, Non-Incumbent Position Vote 1

The following proposal will also be voted on:

PROPOSAL S

If approved this proposal shall renew the 0.59 mill levied by the Wayne County Transit Authority in 2006 and allow continued support to the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, serving the elderly, handicapped, and general public of Wayne County.

Shall the tax imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Transit Authority area which expired with the 2005 tax, be levied for four (4) years, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, inclusive, at 0.59 mill (59 cents per \$1,000 taxable value), for the purpose of making contributions in aid of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) and its purpose of serving the elderly, handicapped and general public in the County of Wayne? It is estimated that 0.59 mill would raise approximately \$13,241,363 when levied in 2006.

_____ YES _____ NO

I, **RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ**, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of June 22, 2006 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	08/08/2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency	08/06/1974 11/08/1988 08/06/2002	1 mill 1 mill 1.5 mills	2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely 2005 indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	08/06/2002	1 mill	2005 thru 2010
Wayne County Parks	08/02/2005	0.25 mills	2005 thru 2010

OTHER TAXING AUTHORITIES			
Schoolcraft Comm College	Date	Rate	Term
Schoolcraft Comm College	10/07/1985	.05 mills	Unlimited

GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS			
Garden City Schools	Date	Rate	Term
Garden City Schools	08/08/2000	1 mill	2005 thru 2011
	06/11/2001	3.1 mills	2005 thru (not to exceed 30 years)
	06/10/2002	18 mills	2005 thru 2012
	06/10/2002	2 mills	2005 thru 2012

GARDEN CITY			
Garden City	Date	Rate	Term
Garden City	05/03/2005	1.3866 mills	2006 thru 2020

The places of voting for the Primary Election to be held on August 8, 2006 will be as follows:

- Precinct 1 Farmington School 33411 Marquette
- Precinct 2 Memorial School 30001 Marquette
- Precinct 3 Lathers School 28351 Marquette
- Precinct 4 Lathers School 28351 Marquette
- Precinct 5 Memorial School 30001 Marquette
- Precinct 6 Garden City Middle School 1851 Radcliff
- Precinct 7 Maplewood Center 31735 Maplewood
- Precinct 8 Henry Ruff School 30300 Maplewood
- Precinct 9 Civic Center 6000 Middlebelt
- Precinct 10 Douglas School 6400 Hartel

All polling places are handicapper accessible. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, August 7, 2006 to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, August 5, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN

Publish: July 30, 2006

BENEFIT

FROM PAGE A1

Afghanistan to know that people care about them.

"I said to myself and to my wife (Betty) that I don't want to ever see anything like that happen again to our troops," Stottlemeyer said.

The Wounded Warriors Project helps injured military personnel as they try to resume their lives. The organization provides such necessities as housing and food, and it seeks to help them re-enter the workforce.

The project also provides clothing, prepaid calling cards, personal CD players, magazines and other items to military personnel who are wounded and staying in hospitals.

Veterans Haven Inc. provides many of the same services, but its focus is closer to home in the western Wayne County area. Some 97 percent of the money raised by Veterans Haven goes directly to help veterans.

Money raised from the Greenwood concert will be divided evenly between the two groups, Stottlemeyer said.

Those who can't attend the Greenwood concert but who want to help may send checks, made payable to Veterans Haven Inc., to Veterans Haven Outreach Center, 4924 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI.

Potential donors or those who have questions also may contact Stottlemeyer at (734) 721-4594.

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

NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland:

(APPENDIX A)

PARCELS	PARCELS	PARCELS	PARCELS
0001 0000 0000	0002 0000 0000	0003 0000 0000	0004 0000 0000
0005 0000 0000	0006 0000 0000	0007 0000 0000	0008 0000 0000
0009 0000 0000	0010 0000 0000	0011 0000 0000	0012 0000 0000
0013 0000 0000	0014 0000 0000	0015 0000 0000	0016 0000 0000
0017 0000 0000	0018 0000 0000	0019 0000 0000	0020 0000 0000
0021 0000 0000	0022 0000 0000	0023 0000 0000	0024 0000 0000
0025 0000 0000	0026 0000 0000	0027 0000 0000	0028 0000 0000
0029 0000 0000	0030 0000 0000	0031 0000 0000	0032 0000 0000
0033 0000 0000	0034 0000 0000	0035 0000 0000	0036 0000 0000
0037 0000 0000	0038 0000 0000	0039 0000 0000	0040 0000 0000
0041 0000 0000	0042 0000 0000	0043 0000 0000	0044 0000 0000
0045 0000 0000	0046 0000 0000	0047 0000 0000	0048 0000 0000
0049 0000 0000	0050 0000 0000	0051 0000 0000	0052 0000 0000
0053 0000 0000	0054 0000 0000	0055 0000 0000	0056 0000 0000
0057 0000 0000	0058 0000 0000	0059 0000 0000	0060 0000 0000
0061 0000 0000	0062 0000 0000	0063 0000 0000	0064 0000 0000
0065 0000 0000	0066 0000 0000	0067 0000 0000	0068 0000 0000
0069 0000 0000	0070 0000 0000	0071 0000 0000	0072 0000 0000
0073 0000 0000	0074 0000 0000	0075 0000 0000	0076 0000 0000
0077 0000 0000	0078 0000 0000	0079 0000 0000	0080 0000 0000
0081 0000 0000	0082 0000 0000	0083 0000 0000	0084 0000 0000
0085 0000 0000	0086 0000 0000	0087 0000 0000	0088 0000 0000
0089 0000 0000	0090 0000 0000	0091 0000 0000	0092 0000 0000
0093 0000 0000	0094 0000 0000	0095 0000 0000	0096 0000 0000
0097 0000 0000	0098 0000 0000	0099 0000 0000	0100 0000 0000

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th day throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2006. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the dates mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in Section 106-97 of the Westland Code of Ordinance and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the City in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner, occupant, or agent, shall be spread against the property on the next County and School tax roll or the next general City tax roll.

Thomas Wilson
City of Westland
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

Publish: July 30, 2006

US#1 PRODUCE CUKES - GREEN PEPPERS 3/\$1.00 PLUMS 99¢ lb	USDA SELECT BEEF WHOLE N.Y. STRIP LOINS \$4.49 lb SAVE 50¢ LB.	FROM OUR DELI DEPT. KOWALSKI - MEAT GARLIC BOLOGNA \$3.19 lb LIPARI - OLD TYME MUENSTER CHEESE \$2.99 lb
USDA CHOICE BEEF BLACK ANGUS GROUND BEEF FROM GROUND ROUND \$2.49 lb SAVE 80¢ LB.	USDA CORNFED BEEF A GRILL FAVORITE PORTERHOUSE STEAKS \$5.69 lb SAVE 1.30 LB.	GROUND FRESH HOURLY GROUND BEEF FROM GROUND SIRLOIN \$2.19 lb FAMILY PAC - SAVE 80¢ LB.
USDA GRADE A WHOLE PORK CENTER CUT BONELESS LOINS \$2.29 lb SLICED FREE - SAVE 50¢ LB.	USDA GRADE A BONELESS - SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST \$1.99 lb SAVE \$1.20 LB.	USDA GRADE A LEAN - JUICY PORK SPARE RIBS \$1.99 lb 3/2 LBS. OR LESS SAVE 80¢ LB.
USDA GRADE A SMITH'S LAYER BACON \$2.49 lb SAVE 50¢ LB. 5X6 RIPE TOMATOES 79¢ lb THINK BLT'S	USDA SELECT BEEF MARINADE & GRILL BONELESS BEEF \$2.19 lb SAVE 80¢ LB.	USDA SELECT BEEF T-BONE STEAKS \$5.39 lb SAVE \$1.30 LB.

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PRESCHOOLS

Preschool listings should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@oe.homecomm.net. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

St. Michael

St. Michael Lutheran Preschool at 3003 Hannon, Wayne, is accepting registration for the upcoming school year. Openings are available for three- to four-year-olds in both the morning and afternoon sessions. For more information or to make an appointment to visit the school, call (734) 728-3315.

Willow Creek

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, on Cherry Hill between Wayne and Newburgh in Westland is now enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Willow Creek programs include Parent/Tot, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and 4-year-old year classes. For more information please call (734) 326-0078.

Preschool program

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district has registration for preschool programs at Stottliemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 419-2635.

McKinley

Looking for a great preschool? Choose McKinley Cooperative Preschool at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Nondiscriminatory and fully licensed,

the program is open to youngsters ages 2-4. Morning and afternoon classes are offered. For information, call (734) 729-7222 or visit the Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

Little Lambs

Little Lambs Preschool in Canton is now accepting applications for their 3-4-year-old preschool programs for fall 2006. Call (734) 981-0286 to set up an appointment to come in for a visit or for more information about its programs.

YWCA Readiness

The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

Charter school

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

Free Methodist

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is currently enrolling for the 2006-2007 school year. Four-year-olds attend on Mondays and Wednesdays, three-year-olds attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. To have further information, a tour or to enroll your child call the Preschool Office at (734) 728-3559.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clip job

Amber Fandrey, 11, of Westland watches as Secretz hair salon stylist Tracy Rusnell cuts a 13-inch ponytail off 11-year-old Mara Bule's hair. Behind Amber, her stepmother, Kristen Fandrey, waits to have her hair cut, too. The hair is donated to Locks of Love for wigs for people who lose their hair due to medical reasons. Below, (from left) Mara Bule, 11, of Westland, Cami Craggs, 4, of Canton and Amber Fandrey, 11, of Westland show their ponytails.



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WOW Fresh Sliced **ASSORTED PORK CHOPS** Only **\$1.49** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW USDA Center Cut **BONELESS CHUCK ROAST** Only **\$1.69** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Fresh Boneless • Skinless **CHICKEN BREAST** Only **\$1.79** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW USDA Select Tender **BONELESS SIRLOIN STEAK** Only **\$3.79** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Our Own Counter "Thick Sliced" **LEAN SLICED BACON** Only **\$1.88** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Lean • Sliced **CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS** Only **\$2.49** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW USDA Center Cut **BONELESS ENGLISH CUT ROAST** Only **\$1.88** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Fresh Ground Beef **GROUND SIRLOIN** Only **\$1.89** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Mike's Delicious Storemade **FRESH KIELBASA** Only **\$1.69** lb. (10 LBs or more) Limit 2

WOW Fresh Grade A Bone-In **SPLIT CHICKEN BREAST** Only **99¢** lb. (10 LBs or more)

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Vote yes on recall

Comment to the board of education: Good evening, I am here to comment about last Monday's meeting. Mr. Lessard has stated his constituents are not to question his integrity or the board's without an attorney. Well, I stand before you without my attorney and wonder how a board who was voted in by the citizens of this city can forget a few important reasons why we, your constituents, can question your integrity.

In 2003, during the hiring for the superintendent's position, a former trustee filed an OMA violation against a few of our current trustees.

Also during 2003, the group called FOSIL filed a second OMA violation for the sale of the Rosedale School. This property sold without an open bid and sold for less than its market value to an LPS consultant. Many current trustees were found by the court to have violated the OMA.

During one of the first Demographics meetings you may have been in violation again. Many of the current trustees may have voted on the LI in violation of their Code of Ethics, which states you are not to place yourself in a "Conflict of Interest." Developing then voting on such an important issue is a conflict. It prevented you from listening to thousands of citizens because you can't say your plan may not be the best for the district.

"With your lack of disregard for the citizens concerns and for an adherence to a defined standard of values, is it any wonder how we can question your integrity?"

This board should be more transparent with our tax dollars and less arrogant with their public comments. There are plenty of educated residents to fill trustee seats after the recall. Can recalling five people who don't represent their constituents hurt our city? Livonia's jewel is our neighborhood schools. This arrogance is best represented by a "YES" vote to recall.

Ed and Kim Naccashian
Livonia

Let district shine

I have attended nearly all board meetings this year, chaired events at McKinley, attended all PTA meetings and chaired events. Volunteer with groups such as Spree. I attend our schools as well.

I am pleased that the board has agreed to form a district assets committee. The committee would look into how we use properties that are leveled, review leases, and look at all options regarding the closed building as a result of the Legacy Initiative, and more.

When I spoke about school and city leadership developing closer working relationships, I was not confusing the fact that both the city and schools are separate entities with separate leadership, budgets, priorities, responsibilities, and assets. However, issues like district land, traffic flow, and property values certainly need to involve city hall and central office working together.

We know funding follows the student and funding has been scarce. I asked the district over two years ago to look at all

budget cuts, waste reduction, revenue enhancements and the controversial issue of closing schools. Our board has cut \$19 million out of the budget with little effect to educational programs or controversy.

I have worked along with others to get both parties talking to solve the division before it ended up with a recall. It concerns me that we could have five new board members appointed and maybe new ones to replace those in November. No matter how much experience they have, it would take a while to get them, Mr. Bailey and Mr. King to form working relationships with themselves and the administration. That is why we do not elect all of the board members at the same time.

These things have a way of working themselves out and in the end everything will be just fine. I am optimistic about our future because I believe in all the great people in our community. This district calls itself a light house district. Together we will get through the fog and the light will have never shined brighter.

John Grzeblak
Livonia

Senior opposes plan

Recently I've heard some people speaking out on the behalf of the senior citizens of Livonia, stating that they support the Legacy Initiative. I am a senior citizen and I am definitely NOT supporting this plan. Many of my senior neighbors, friends, the former mayor and even the current mayor oppose this plan. I have lived in Livonia 40 years and have seen many changes and school closings, but none

compare to the negative impact that this plan will have. I will affect everyone in Livonia. I am voting on Aug. 8 to RECALL THE LIVONIA SCHOOL BOARD.

Donna Burham
Livonia

It was all a done deal

It appears the Board of Education and their allies have all turned into letter writers. "Administrators support board" stated that seven members of LEADS, Livonia Educational Administrators, were on the Demographics Committee. Along with the other school board members and teachers, perhaps there was too much input from one group and not enough from parents and other concerned people who could have balanced the outcome - and the budget.

The article mentioned taking into account class sizes, but is the idea of 900 to 1,000 kids bused to one school a good idea? They mentioned use of existing facilities. Is closing seven schools in the best interest in trying to keep the neighborhood schools intact?

They mentioned all the bad things that may happen if the school board is recalled, including loss of property value. This fiasco has already had an adverse effect - people moving out of Livonia or not moving in because of this situation. In addition, parents moving their children to private schools will also be costly to the LPS.

A board of education that would have communicated with parents when they asked and begged to be heard could have resolved many of the present

problems. They say they listened but there was no acknowledgment or action on any ideas except their own. It was all a done deal.

Liz Jarvis mentioned the board had to come up with a solution they determined was the best for LPS. The best solution is one designed by the school board and communicated to the public, the people who voted for them. This plan was rejected by a majority of the people surveyed and should never have been voted on without more public input.

Her statement that the recall is being conducted by a minority I believe is wrong, since 11,000 plus signatures were collected for the recall. That minority just put Steve King on the board and hopefully will give us five new board members Aug. 8. Her statement was that the board made a mistake - "they asked for input." I think they made a bigger mistake by not listening to some of the public input and proposals ...

Michael Greis
Livonia

LPS looks long term

As a former, long-term Livonia Public Schools employee, I find it disheartening to see how divisive the restructuring plan has become for parents in the community. It is my understanding that the Legacy Committee was seeking a long-term solution, not a short-term fix. There are many ways to cut dollars from the school district budget. The Legacy Committee chose to protect the integrity of the educational program even though they anticipated that not all members of the commu-

nity would support their plan.

They could have cut staff, which would have necessitated increasing class sizes, which would have a direct impact on student learning. They could have cut after school sports programs, decreased bus transportation, eliminated academic programs, and cut dollars for textbooks and lab materials, all of which would have had a direct impact on students and their families.

Instead they chose to protect the educational program for students and to consolidate some buildings, which will provide a long-term solution to budget woes. Our children will still be attending school with their neighborhood friends and, once they get to fifth grade they will attend school with the same group of children right through high school.

Although some people in the community may not like the plan, let's at least give it a chance. Children are very adaptable and will do fine in the new situation ... Our school board members as well as all the members of the Legacy Committee need to be commended for being true leaders and following a path that supports our educational program and student learning, even though they recognized that change is always difficult. What is the true responsibility of a school district?

LPS is not alone in its quest to find solutions to budget woes; school districts across the state are in the same situation and doing some of the very same things we are doing.

Karen B. Zyczynski
retired LPS teacher, Novi

G2 CONSULTING GROUP
MetroPCS proposes to expand an existing tower compound and collocate antenna atop the existing tower located at 7651 Merriman Road, Westland, Michigan. MetroPCS invites comments from any interested party regarding the likelihood that the proposed project would adversely affect historic properties. Comments may be sent to G2 Consulting Group, LLC, Attn. K. Lewandowski 1866 Woodslee Drive, Troy, MI 48063. Comments must be received by August 26, 2006.
Publish: July 30, 2006

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
On AUGUST 15, 2006 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1991	Ford	Ranger/PU Trk	Red	1FTCR10A7MPB07609
1999	Ford	Explorer/SW	Dk Blue	1FMZU34X4XZA12240
1990	Buick	2 Dr	Silver	1G4NM14N7LM008126
1993	Buick	Skylark/4 Dr	Silver	1G4NJ54N4PC255857
1989	Mazda	929/4 Dr	White	JM1HC2217K0209363
1988	Cadillac	4 Dr	Maroon	1G6CD5153J4318779

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.
Publish: July 30, 2006

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment, and programs which will be used to record and tabulate voted ballots for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: August 2, 2006
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

Publish: July 27 and 30, 2006

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE
There will be an official public test of the M-100 tabulation system to be used by the City of Wayne for the Primary Election, August 8, 2006. The test will be held in the Clerk's storage area at the Building & Engineering Department, 4001 South Wayne Road, on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
Mary E. Carney
City Clerk
Publish: July 30, 2006

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See Thursday's Newspaper For Details!
SALE BEGINS FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT 10 A.M.

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LETTERS

A catalyst for change?

After reading Karen B. Zyczynski's editorial "LPS looks long term," I am frustrated with teachers and school district attitudes in showing such blatant disrespect for the taxpayers in Livonia and other cities. When she explains that the only other alternative to closing schools is to cut staff, increase class size, cut after school sports programs, decrease bus services, etc., notice how it's all a one-sided cut on the part of STUDENTS and PARENTS. She NEVER speaks of sacrifices that TEACHERS and ADMINISTRATORS could make in the form of wage and benefit cuts, wage freezes, increased health insurance co-pays, etc., as many of us in the private sector have had to do.

Because of generous pay, benefits and rich retirements, only 57 cents of every dollar we pay in school taxes goes to the classrooms. While many Livonia taxpayers have lost their jobs, benefits, or taken wage cuts, the LPS district "negotiates" with the union automatic wage and benefit increases each and every year - this is the real problem!

We wouldn't have to close ANY schools if teachers and districts would make the financial sacrifices that the taxpayers must make. Although I'm a business and property owner in the city of Livonia, I am not allowed to vote in Livonia (I'm not afforded that "right" even though I pay tens of thousands of dollars in personal and real property taxes to the city). However, I encourage EVERY taxpayer to vote "Yes" on the Aug. 8 recall election. I am proud of the citizens of Livonia for standing up to the powerful LPS district. Your efforts may just be the catalyst our public education system needs for change!

Rich Bezerko, president
EDP Company, Livonia

We can do better: Recall board

It is time for a Board of Education that truly represents the citizens of this community. We, in the Livonia school district, deserve to have trustees who can think independently and respect all the concerns of parents and citizens and address them accordingly. Our children deserve a plan better than the Legacy Initiative. An alternative to the LI (which would keep the K-6 grade configuration, close only four schools, save the same amount of money annually as the LI, and not cost millions of dollars to implement) was presented to the BOE and Dr. Liepa only to be dismissed.

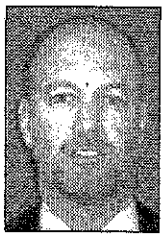
Anyone who knows and believes we can do better for our children realizes we need a new BOE. For our kids' sake, vote YES for RECALL on Aug. 8!

Mary Evans
Livonia

Replace this board to restore faith, trust and begin the healing

It seems to me the people of Livonia are tired. The divide the Livonia Public Schools controversial Legacy Initiative has created in the community has worn both sides out.

Any time a community faces a tough decision it is only natural that there will be two sides to the question under consideration. The key is for



Futrell

friends and neighbors to strive for a solution that allows both sides to take ownership of the outcome. That's all the Citizens for Livonia's Future have asked for: Engagement, involvement and shared ownership. (After all, it is our children's future we are talking about.) Unfortunately, for the past year this has not been a part of the Livonia Public Schools' solution to problem solving. Instead, the Board of Education chose to ignore its community, and a recall was born.

Some basic facts about the recall cannot be ignored:

■ Small kindergarten to sixth-grade schools averaging 400-500 students are now replaced with large grade 5-6 schools and nearly 1,000 students.

■ The school committee used to recommend the Legacy Initiative included too few citizens and too many paid consultants and school district employees.

■ A professional survey paid for by Livonia Public Schools showed that the majority of residents opposed the reconfiguring of grade levels in schools.

■ This same kindergarten-fourth, 5-6 grade level model recently failed in the Holland, Mich., school district.

■ The Board of Education has consistently passed deficit budgets since 1999, spending

down the district's fund equity account.

■ The Dickinson property lease - which promised to bring in \$1 million dollars - was lost, and a portion of the Bryant property was leased for 50 years with no income to Livonia Public Schools.

■ The Board of Education has already spent millions of dollars to implement the plan, well over the \$1.8 million dollars it is supposed to save.

■ After all of these months, the board still does not know how much the Legacy Initiative will cost.

Engage citizens and work for ownership of solutions. That is not too much to ask from our elected officials. Yet time and again, five school board members refused to do so. The community has lost faith and trust in this current board. I find myself wondering, what kind of future does Livonia Public Schools have in the hands of these elected officials who act as if they know better than the community? If they didn't listen to the community today, what decisions will they make tomorrow? We cannot afford to wait for each individual member's term to expire. We need to replace them now, not with strangers, but with elected community leaders who will question proposals and not rubber stamp administration. We need representatives who will listen and work with the community toward solutions.

The red signs versus yellow signs are, indeed, a very sad sign of the times. But we cannot afford to maintain the status quo.

It's time to bring in leadership who will heal the divide and focus our collective energy on educating our children. It is time to put this issue to rest. Vote "yes" to the recall on Aug. 8.

Steve Futrell is a father of four schoolchildren and a business owner in Livonia. He also is president of Citizens of Livonia's Future.

Board made tough choices; recall could hamper future officials

As a parent in the Livonia School System I urge you to VOTE NO on Aug. 8!

These are challenging times in Michigan. Tough decisions are being made at every level of public governance. In December, our Livonia Public Schools school board made a tough but necessary decision. They voted to save programs and keep lower class sizes by closing seven buildings and reducing the number of neighborhood schools. Our LPS school board did this after reviewing the research and several other options. They did this knowing that some people would be unhappy about their decision. Our LPS school board did this knowing that they were elected to make the tough decisions on behalf of the whole school community.



Wysocki

A vote to recall would send an unwarranted message to all present and future elected office holders at all levels of public service. If a minority of parents adversely affected by a recent LPS board decision can threaten the stability of the entire district by tearing apart the community, then all elected officials should ask themselves, "Do I have the courage to make a difficult decision that may take away my chance to serve my community prematurely?"

It was not merely the Legacy Initiative that divided this community; it was the unwarranted recall petition drive that created negative behavior between neighbors (e.g., spray-painting signs, making threatening remarks, etc.) widening this divide. The people behind the recall effort are nearing the end of an eight-month mission to get rid of the board members that voted for the plan.

Many of the accusations of those in favor of the recall have nothing to do with their official recall reason (the Legacy Initiative). In their efforts to recall our LPS Board Trustees by any means necessary, they are misleading the public and trying to create an environment of mistrust. (For further information please visit www.livoniacares.org)

The Livonia school board trustees acted courageously by reorganizing the schools, ensuring continued quality education, student learning and student achievement, and adequate future funding.

The Livonia school board has done exactly what they were elected to do.

The board has accomplished the following positive outcomes:

■ Maintained property value: Everyone agrees quality education relates directly to high property values. The present board had the courage and experience to main-

tain property values. A new, inexperienced board may well jeopardize the future value of your home.

■ Safe-guarding your tax dollars: This board has done exactly that! In 1970, the school district had 50 schools and approximately 39,000 students. This board and previous boards have closed underutilized schools as enrollments have declined. This fall, our 18,000 students will be appropriately housed in 24 schools.

This board has closed seven surplus schools. The first-year conversion expenses and building renovations are one-time costs. I am proud of this board's downsizing, which will save taxpayers \$15 million to \$20 million dollars in 10 years. (To view an updated financial summary go to http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us/images/legacy_finance.pdf)

■ Stabilized our schools for years to come: Change is difficult. This board wisely decided to reorganize and close all surplus schools at one time, and created a plan that will greatly minimize change in the future.

■ Restored programs: Valuable curriculum offerings such as elementary foreign language and instrumental music, along with enhanced vocal music, physical education and technology will add to our quality educational programs.

Those citizens who unjustly attempt to recall these board members will disadvantage the entire school community by:

■ Creating chaos with the potential of 17 seat changes in less than one year: Aug. 8, 2006 - five members leave; August 2006 - five members appointed by outsiders; November 2006 - five new members elected; and May 2007 - two new members (expiring terms).

■ Wipe out 24 years of board experience: The in-depth understanding of the complexities of a school system can only be achieved through experience. A new board with relatively less experience, and likely less courage in the face of a recent recall, may not make tough budget decisions to save your tax dollars.

Two major newspapers and our own Observer editors objectively analyzed the issue and all three papers said no to the recall.

Regularly scheduled school board elections are a more positive democratic process, without the punitive and negative aspects of a recall election. I feel that our school district will be in a better position to survive the future because the LPS Board Trustees had the courage to make a difficult decision to keep the Livonia Public Schools educationally sound.

Please join me and vote no five times. Vote NO to recall on Tuesday, Aug. 8. A recall hurts us all!

Vicki Wysocki is a Livonia resident.

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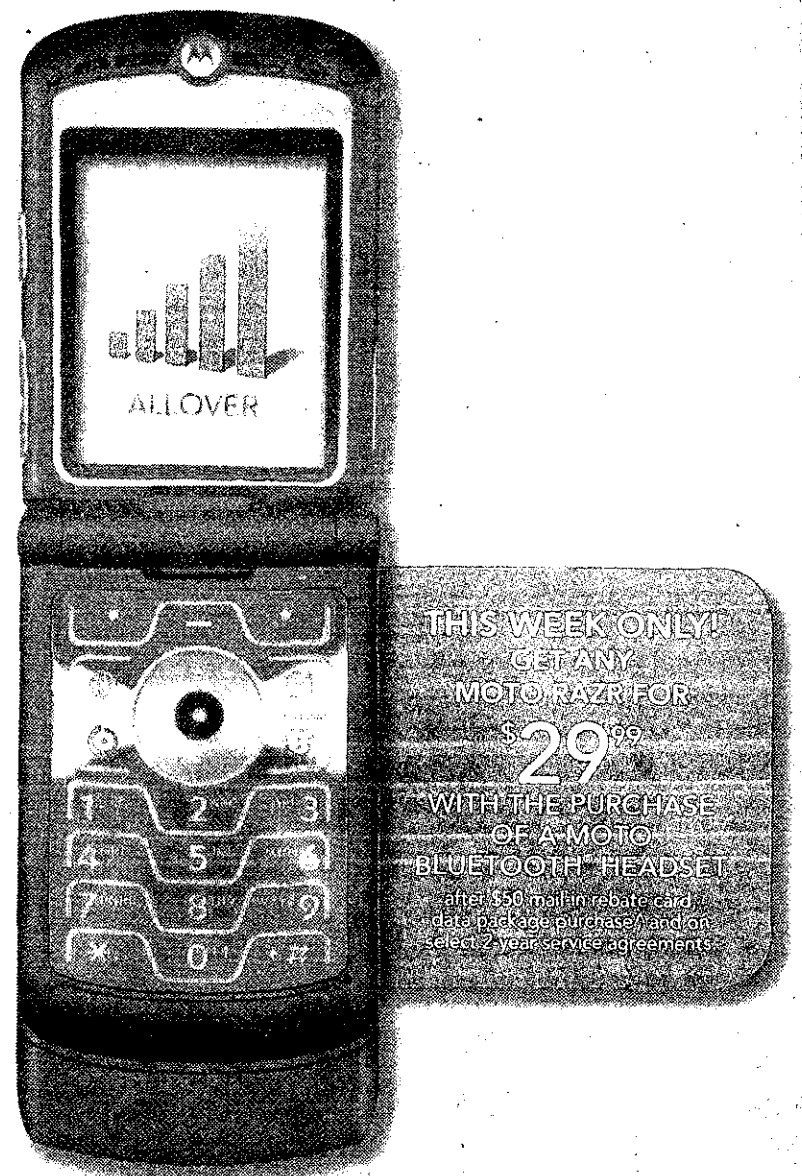
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