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Williams

LOCAL NEWS - A5



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SUNDAY
September 17, 2006

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Police believe suspect involved in 3 carjackings

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland police are investigating an armed robbery and carjacking that occurred early Thursday on Flamingo, a residential street on the city's north side.

Police believe the same suspect was involved in two earlier carjackings in Garden City.

In Westland, a gunman approached a man and robbed him about 3:40 a.m. Thursday as he was leaving his parents'

house with his girlfriend in a neighborhood southeast of Joy and Merriman roads, police Sgt. Jeff Trzybinski said.

The gunman then demanded that the couple, in their 20s, give up the keys to a Chevy S-10 pickup that he used to escape, Trzybinski said.

"The vehicle was found within the hour just a couple of blocks away," the detective said.

The incident was similar to two other carjackings that happened earlier in the week in neighboring Garden City.

Westland police Lt. James Ridener said

authorities believe the same suspect was involved.

The suspect remains at large, and Trzybinski said he was described in Westland as a white male, about 35 years old and approximately 5-foot-8 and 170 pounds.

It's believed the gunman was wearing a green "hoodie" type jacket, a green shirt and dark pants, Trzybinski said.

No shots were fired and no one was injured during the incidents.

"The people were minding their own business, and this guy approached

them with a handgun," Trzybinski said.

The gunman took the man's wallet before demanding the keys to the pickup truck, the detective said.

Authorities are asking anyone with information to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

In Garden City, the first incident occurred about 9:30 p.m. Monday at Parkway Car Wash on Warren. A

Westland man told police he was using the change machine when he was approached by an armed man who demanded his wallet and car keys.

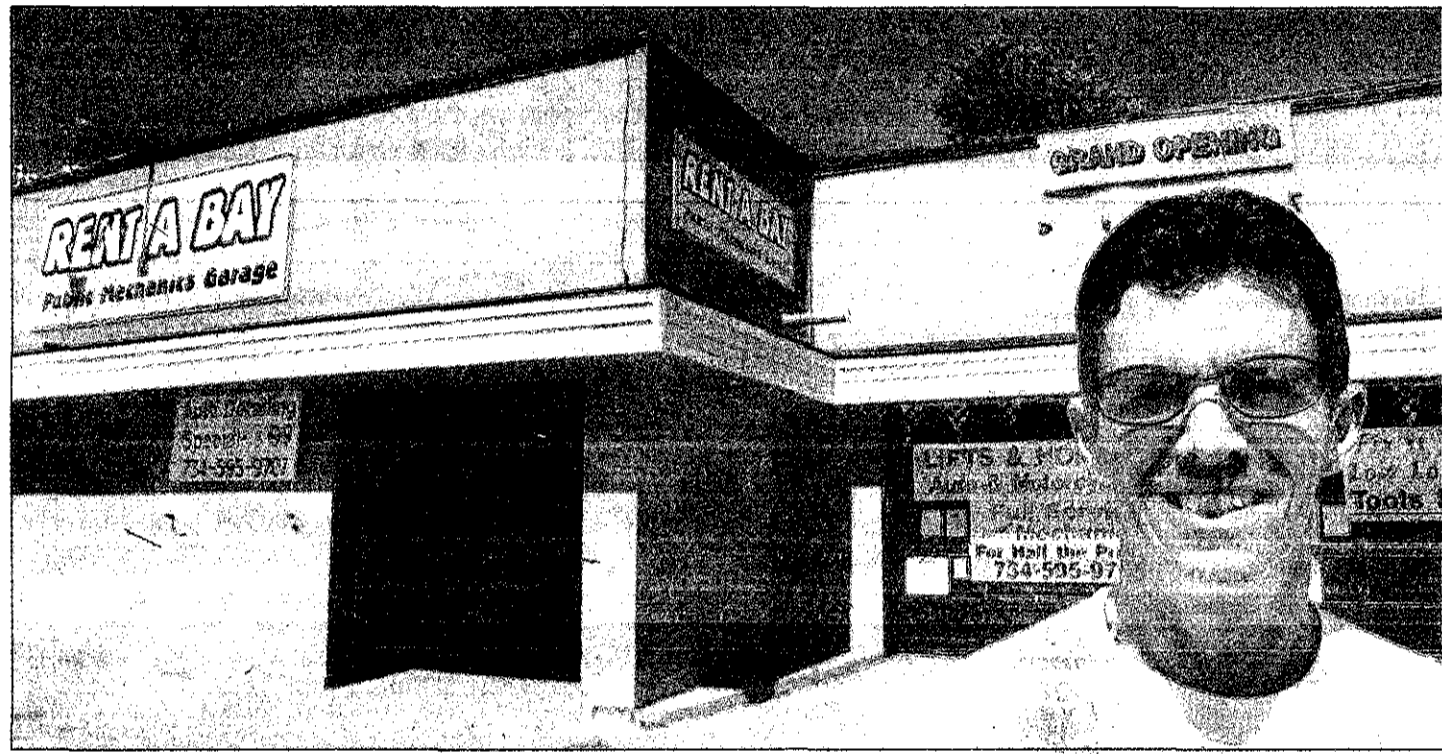
The suspect allowed the man to get his wife and child from the vehicle.

A similar incident happened just after 9:30 p.m. Wednesday when a Wyandotte man was approached by a gunman while parked in the driveway of a home in the 28000 block of Rush.

Like in Westland, the vehicles taken during the Garden City incidents were found nearby.

Staff writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.

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



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anthony McDaniel stands in front of Rent a Bay, a business allowing customers to rent space to work on their vehicles.

Do-it-yourself mechanics have their bay

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Anthony McDaniel upset his neighbors when he pulled his Ford F-100 pickup into a Westland condominium parking lot and started switching its engine.

"I didn't have a place to do the work," he said, "and I didn't have the money to pay somebody else to do it."

McDaniel got more than dirty looks and a better engine from the ordeal.

He started his own business.

With help from his financial partner and father, Bruce, he opened Rent a Bay, a garage where do-it-yourself mechanics can pay to lease space to fix their own vehicles.

"A guy should have a place where he can work," McDaniel said.

Rent a Bay is located on Ford Road west of Wayne, and McDaniel said his research has indicated he may have opened the only business of its kind in the United States.

Customers can pay as little as \$10 to do a 30-minute oil change or as much as \$135 for all-day use of a mechanics bay fully equipped with a two-post vehicle lift, a ventilation

What do you think about this story? E-mail your responses to smason@hometownlife.com.

system, air hoses, electrical tools and other amenities.

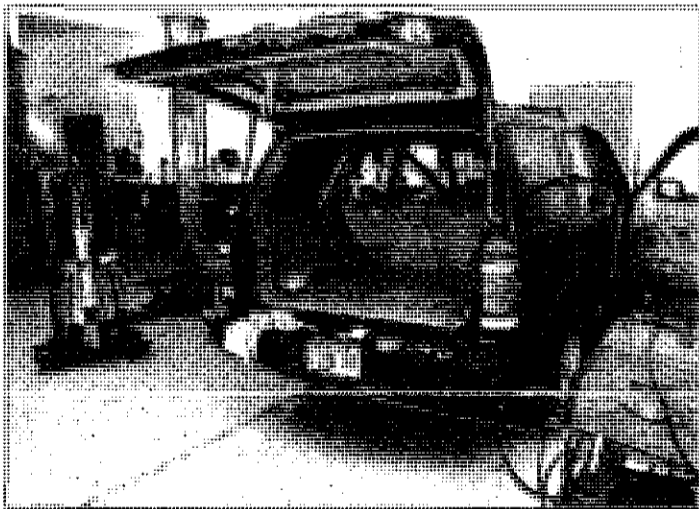
"I think it's a great idea," said Canton resident Dan Mauti, who stopped by Rent a Bay to check on rates.

Mauti should know. He manages an automotive shop and is a certified mechanic.

Customers can bring their own tools or use Rent a Bay's. Patrons who have prior training with a vehicle lift can use it on their own after taking a quick, 20-question safety course, or McDaniel will operate the lift.

Rent a Bay also has a motorcycle mechanic's bay and an outdoor area where customers can work on their vehicles or store them. It also offers a fluid recycling service.

Rent a Bay's hours are typically 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sunday, but McDaniel will arrange later hours and Monday appointments for customers who call ahead. He requires a refundable deposit ranging from \$25 for a reservation to \$150 for use of a lift bay.



Rent a Bay offers a wide range of tools to help customers work on their own cars.

He also said he will provide mechanic services at prices cheaper than other garages.

McDaniel, a former boiler-maker and Texas native, spent a year deciding where he wanted to start his business. He settled on Ford Road because of the accessibility and visibility for motorists.

And, he said his customers can find two auto parts stores within a quarter-mile.

McDaniel offers a 30 percent discount of bay rentals for active military personnel and veterans.

He has made the Rent a Bay name a trademark and

set up his business for potential franchisees.

Rent a Bay opened for business last month. Until now, McDaniel has depended on word of mouth to help develop a customer base.

"I think it will be a marketable service," he said.

And it just might help do-it-yourself mechanics keep peace with their neighbors.

For more information about Rent a Bay or its various rates, call (734) 595-9707, or check out the Web site at www.usarentabay.net.

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Annapolis Park historical marker's text under review

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland historians have embraced a decision by state officials to approve wording for a historic marker for Annapolis Park, a south-end neighborhood that became one of the first U.S. suburbs to welcome black homeowners.

"I am very pleased with it," said Edna Parker, who moved to Annapolis Park when it was developed in 1953-57.

With help from other Annapolis Park residents, Parker and Westland historian Ruth Dale led a successful effort to get the neighborhood placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

That cleared the way for them to seek a state historic marker recognizing Annapolis Park for its place in history.

"It's been a long time coming," Dale said. "I'm very happy about it."

Annapolis Park has become the first Westland subdivision placed on the National

MARKER'S TEXT:

WHAT IT WILL SAY

Here's the text approved by the Michigan Historical Commission for a historic marker for Annapolis Park:

During World War II Detroit's black population doubled from 150,000 to 300,000 and faced the extreme housing shortage that had existed since the early twentieth century. Restrictive covenants, inflated rents, and other discriminatory practices confined blacks to certain areas and hindered their ability to purchase property. In 1953 brothers Julius and William Schwartz broke around for Annapolis Park, a modern suburban neighborhood for African Americans. Because few banks would approve loans for potential buyers, the Schwartzes and their brother-in-law Jack Kellman established the Franklin Mortgage Company. By 1957 Annapolis Park's 354 lots were fully developed and African American families were able to live in a well-built home with "nice trees, nice country living."

PLEASE SEE ANNAPOLIS, A5

Teen journalists - the Observer wants you

The *Observer Newspapers* is looking for students (ages 13-18) who are interested in producing local newspaper pages and online material for teens by teens.

Teens will report, write, edit and take photographs for the *hometownLIFE.com* print and online sections which will appear periodically in Sunday editions of the *Observer*.

The first pages and online stories are scheduled to appear in November.

To participate, e-mail a brief résumé and at least two short writing samples to hgalagher@hometownlife.com. Make sure you include a phone number and e-mail address.

"We want teens to take ownership of the section both in print and online," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

"Teens will decide what to cover, what to write about - what's important to them. They'll be mentored by reporters, editors and photographers at the O&E," added Rosiek.

Deadline to apply is Wednesday, Oct. 4.

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Volume 42
Number 33

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NEW HOMES	E2
OBITUARIES	C4
PERSPECTIVES	A7
REAL ESTATE	D4
SERVICE GUIDE	D7
SPORTS	B1

Coming Thursday in Filter

Summer slips away - But there are still a few outdoor concerts as IJTE extends its season. How about some metal?

New music teachers join Livonia district

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Students attending Cooper or Johnson upper elementary schools in Westland this year were welcomed by two new music teachers.

Two of three new fifth- and sixth-grade only schools within the boundaries of Livonia Public Schools are home to teachers Karen Danke and Nicole Kasper, in a move that expands the district's vocal and instrumental music program.

Kasper grew up in Livonia Public Schools. She attended Buchanan Elementary, the former Riley Middle School and Churchill High School. Now it's her name that graces the blackboard at Cooper.

While attending high school, Kasper participated in the Creative and Performing Arts program, as well as Choralation. She always wanted to be a performer. It was her teacher, Pat Hutchison at Churchill, who convinced her to consider teaching.

"She said, 'You're always on stage when you're with students,'" Kasper said. "I always remembered that."

Danke, a Redford resident, has also been immersed in music since childhood. She began playing piano at age 8, cello at age 11 and has been involved in church choirs for 22 years. She is currently director of youth ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. Her own children attend South Redford Schools.

"Teaching is just a natural fit," Danke said. "I'm a talker. That works good with students."

WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Danke comes to Johnson



Karen Danke is a new music teacher at Johnson Upper Elementary School. She's teaching breathing techniques to her sixth-grade vocal music students.

with a wealth of teaching experience, and a familiarity of surrounding communities. Danke has taught orchestra at the high school level, and played accompanying piano for choirs. Her most recent experience is teaching at a charter school in Detroit — where she also created the music program from scratch.

Starting a new 5/6 music program at Johnson was an exciting proposition, Danke said, and one that gave her the chance to work with younger children again. She enjoys teaching at the elementary level, she said.

Danke, an Eastern Michigan University gradu-

ate, is also a proponent of the new upper elementary schools.

"It's such a pivotal time," she said.

Prior to being hired at Cooper this year, Kasper earned degrees in music education and in English at Madonna University. She taught music and drama at Northville Christian School, an after-school program at Ward Presbyterian Church, and then a summer program for ninth- and 10-graders at Thurston High School in South Redford.

By returning to her home district, though, Kasper has come full circle. She's begun

her career with LPS as her mentor, Hutchison, prepares to retire.

She considers this her chance to give students the opportunities she didn't have.

"When I was in fifth and sixth grade, they dropped the instrumental music program," Kasper said. "In middle school, there weren't enough students for choir."

That never deterred Kasper. She started playing piano at age 7. She is now a member of the Livonia Civic Choir and was a recipient of the Madonna Scholarship.

Danke recalled a time when Livonia Public Schools



New music teacher, Karen Danke at Johnson Upper Elementary School, discussing the importance of stretching before her students begin to sing.

was known for its music program. By losing music instruction due to budget cuts at the younger grades, that reputation seemed to falter for a while. With the addition of 5/6 vocal and instrumental classes, Danke said she hopes to see the program grow and thrive once again.

'REALLY RECEPTIVE'

So far, her students are "really receptive" to the classes. She considers the upper elementary to be like a "safe middle school" where students have more opportunities. Her students will perform their own musical this year, for example.

For Kasper, music education means extends beyond the classroom.

"I think (music) is really important in building confidence and discipline," she said. "I've always been very confident speaking in front of people and performing."

That skill also translates into success at school, Kasper said.

Her courses at Cooper are interdisciplinary, she said: Kasper teaches vocal performance, instrumental music and band.

Students learn about the physiology of singing, practice math in counting rhythm, read music and write assignments.

She is planning holiday and spring performances for her students. The spring concert will feature students from fifth grade through high school.

Like Danke, Kasper said her classes will include more than music. She plans to incorporate acting and movement, as well.

The program is a time of learning for students — and for their teachers. Danke said she's teaching the same lessons 14 times — due to the number of classes — and working to keep them fresh.

"We'll work through it," she said with a smile.

The upper elementary concept has served to connect the music staff so they may work together on curriculum and concepts.

Danke is truly anticipating performance opportunities for her students.

Above all, she sees her new job as a perfect fit. "I love coming to work every day," Danke said.

For Kasper, it's the beginning of a career in the footsteps of her mentor.

"I hope to accomplish half of what my teacher Mrs. Hutchison did," she said. "Even now, she keeps in contact with me. She is so inspiring."

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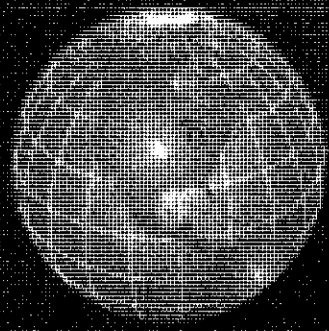
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Dr. Williams, early proponent of redevelopment, remembered

Former Westland resident Dr. Daryl Williams, one of the early proponents of redeveloping the old Carver subdivision on the city's southeast side, died Sept. 7. He was 58.

Dr. Williams grew up in the historic Annapolis Park neighborhood next to Carver subdivision, and he told the Observer several years ago that he wanted to see redevelopment in the area.

Dr. Williams was born July 22, 1948, in Detroit, where he was living when he died. He was the second son of three children born to William H. and Nellie Williams, who still live in the Annapolis Park area. His mother has been instrumental in such events as organizing programs for the birthday observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Williams graduated from Inkster High School in 1966. He continued his education at Wayne State University and later transferred to the University of Michigan, where he received his master of science degree in pediatric dentistry.

Dr. Williams spent a year at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago as an intern, as well as a year teaching at Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. He eventually returned to Detroit, where he opened his own

Dr. Williams spent a year at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago as an intern, as well as a year teaching at Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. He eventually returned to Detroit, where he opened his own pediatric dental office. He practiced dentistry for 20 years with a specialty in early orthodontic intervention.

pediatric dental office. He practiced dentistry for 20 years with a specialty in early orthodontic intervention.

Dr. Williams had an impact on many people and always did his best with all of his endeavors, according to his family. He gave financially to such organizations as the Fred Smiley basketball school for boys and girls.

Services were Wednesday at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Westland.

Dr. Williams is survived by his parents and a brother, Otto Todd, among other relatives and friends.

ANNAPOLIS

FROM PAGE A1

Register of Historic Places. Many original residents remain in the homes they bought in the 1950s in the neighborhood southwest of Annapolis and Middlebelt roads.

The Michigan Historical Commission has approved wording for a historic marker that is expected to be placed at Middlebelt and Hanover.

Ken Reeves, president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, said the group's executive board will soon convene a meeting to discuss the marker's text.

The next step would be to raise just more than \$2,700, which will be needed to officially order the marker.

Unlike many historic sites, Annapolis Park has gained recognition not for its architecture, but for its social and cultural significance as one of the first U.S. suburbs where officials say white developers made a direct appeal to African-American homeowners.

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Tickets now available for Senior Celebration

Tickets are currently on sale for the 12th Annual Western Wayne County Senior Celebration Day.

The annual event is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, at Burton Manor on the I-96 service drive east of Middlebelt in Livonia. It's put on by state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, state Rep. John R. Pastor, R-Livonia, and the local non-profit Senior Citizen Achievement Needs.

Angela Hospice of Livonia is the major sponsor of the event for the third year in a row.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Garden City Maplewood Senior Center, the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, the Redford Senior Center, the Westland Friendship Center and the Dyer Senior Center in Westland.

Admission includes a hot meal and participation in all the day's activities.

For more information about the event, those interested can call Toy's office at (517) 373-1707 or Pastor's office at (517) 373-3920.

Local communities, DWSD close to new water contract

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The pressure is nearly off. Or rather, it's nearly back on, for customers of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, which has nearly completed its draft contract with all of its 126 customer communities.

The draft was recently presented to the Conference of Western Wayne, an agenda-setting consortium of Wayne County community leaders.

"The old contracts date back to the 1950s. They were really very vague. Basically what it said was Detroit will supply water to the customer then charge the customer for it," said Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas.

"The new contract is much more specific. They guarantee that the communities will purchase a certain amount of water and in return DWSD

will supply the water at a guaranteed pressure."

What that means is that distant suburban communities will have better water pressure, and inner ring communities - those which are close to Detroit, such as Dearborn and Grosse Pointe - will be guaranteed that their pressure will not exceed those high ranges of pressure, and they will have fewer problems with water main breaks due to spikes in pressure.

The contract, which is proposed for a 35-year term, will ensure DWSD that it will have the continued revenue it needs for capital improvements, and at the same time will provide municipalities with consistent quality they demand, Faas said.

The contract has been long overdue.

"Canton's contract with DWSD expired in 1989," Faas said. But Canton was unique

in that the original contract had built-in automatic 10-year renewals. "So we have a few years before we have to renew."

The proposed contract is approximately 80 percent completed, and Faas anticipates that it will be approved later this year.

The relationship between suburban community leaders and the DWSD has at times been strained, Faas acknowledged.

Under former leadership, communities often had some difficulty getting assistance when it came to understanding rates set by the water and sewer provider.

Arguments have been known to erupt, and can easily get off-course and wander into issues of competence and even racism.

But the DWSD and suburban officials since 2002 formed a Technical Advisory

Committee, or TAC, which has taken most of the political friction out of the contract process, Faas said.

Every one of the 126 communities served by DWSD are invited to participate in TAC, though only about a dozen or so regularly do.

Canton is also represented on a TAC subcommittee which has been working on the new contract.

"We buy into the TAC process because it takes to some degree the political posturing out of those discussions. They're people like me, DPW and DPS directors, who tend to focus on the issues," Faas said.

He was encouraged that TAC is a key element of the new contract, and will not be dissolved once the negotiations are completed.

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DEATHS

- B**
James R. Byrd
Byrd, 70, died Sept. 9.
- C**
Rick Chavey
Chavey, 57, died Sept. 15.
- Virginia O. Christensen (Simon)
Christensen, 89, formerly of Garden City, died Sept. 8.
- Doris Joanne Gervais Colling (nee Palmer)
Colling, 73, formerly of Livonia, died Sept. 6.
- E**
Charles E. Ervin Jr.
Ervin, 90, formerly of Birmingham, died Sept. 8.
- K**
Michael Kosko
Kosko, 77, died Sept. 7.
- M**
Kristen D. Michalak
Michalak, 40, of Redford, died.
- Susan Mary Mohrhardt (Simmons)
Mohrhardt, 70, formerly of Plymouth, died Sept. 9.
- Margaret E. "Peg" Moore
Moore, 81, of Brighton, died Sept. 13.
- P**
Lucille Patrick
Patrick, 97, formerly of Livonia, died Sept. 9.
- Nina Ruth Hudson Price
Price, 88, of Bingham Farms, died June 26.

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

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Tiger power

Matthew Karpiuk of Westland was among more than 300 Detroit Tigers fans who turned out at the Art Van store on Wayne Road in Westland Saturday, Sept. 2, to meet pitcher Nate Robertson. Fans received an autograph and took home a photo from the popular player.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Dollars and sense

The ways of obtaining, budgeting, saving and spending money are numerous and the abundant amount of advice available for managing your finances reflects that.

Here at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, you can obtain the tools to help you with assessing your personal financial situation, setting short and long-term goals, creating a plan and putting your plan into action.

No matter what your age, it is important to start thinking about your financial future. *Save, Spend, or Donate? A Book About Managing Money* by Nancy Loewen teaches children the fundamental basics. For young adults, there is *Savings and Investment Information for Teens* edited by Kathryn R. Deering.

Current and prospective college students will find the various titles on paying for school, such as *Debt Free College: 79 Secrets for Successful College Financing* by Robert A. Sparks, very useful. Recent graduates facing particular financial burdens will find financial expert Suze Orman's *Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke* quite pertinent to your situation.

With credit becoming a growing concern for these age groups, *Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number that Shapes Your*

Financial Security by Liz Pulliam Weston explains financial credit worthiness.

Resources on debt management include *The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness* by Dave Ramsey and *Good Debt, Bad Debt: Knowing the Difference Can Save Your Financial Life* by Jon Hanson.

Tax breaks can greatly help one save and Jeff Schnepfer's guide for breaks allowed by the IRS, *How to Pay Zero Taxes, 2006*, provides excellent advice.

If you dream of one day retiring comfortably and relaxing in some exotic locale, a number of our books on short-term or long-term investing and retirement planning can aid you in achieving your goal.

Lee Eisenberg's *The Number: A Completely Different Way to Think About the Rest of Your Life* and *The Motley Fool's Money After 40: Building Wealth for a Better Life* by David and Tom Gardner can serve your needs.

So whether you are looking for information on saving money, improving credit, obtaining loans or planning your retirement, the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is a great place to begin. Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at our Web site, www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Microsoft Word for Beginners: 2 p.m. Sept. 23.

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font style and size, check spelling and print. No registration is required.

Anime/Manga Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Sept. 26.

Join our Teen Anime/Manga discussion club for 7th-12th graders. Plan on viewing and discussing *Parallel Dual*. Popcorn and drinks will be served. Bring pillows, bean bags, anything comfortable to sit on. Register for this free program at the Reference Desk, or call (734) 326-6123.

Introduction to Scrapbooking: 7 p.m. Sept. 27.

Join Kristin Nutt, Independent Consultant for Creative Memories® as she demonstrates how to create a Short Story Card. Bring two or three related personal photos. All other supplies will be furnished. Seating is limited, so register for this free program at the Reference Desk, or call (734) 326-6123.

Information Central is compiled by Marilyn Kwik, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Coffee hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 18, at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter.

Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the third Monday of each month.

Garage sale

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will have a garage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the church, 32500 Palmer east of Venoy, Westland. There will be a \$2 a bag sale starting at 4 p.m. Large items will sell for \$2 at the bag sale.

Open enrollment

McKinley Cooperative Preschool, a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-discriminatory organization owned and operated by parents and licensed by the State of Michigan, offers a three-year-old and four-year-old preschool program and a toddler/parent program for two-year olds. The program is offered at 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For information call (734) 729-7222 or visit the McKinley Cooperative Preschool Web site at www.mckinleypreschool.org.

Eucre returns

Friday Night Eucre/Pinochle Card Parties are back at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. and play starts at 7:30 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available.

The scheduled dates are Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5, 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16. St. Bernardine Parish is on the southwest corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman in Westland. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Fall seminars

Barson's Greenhouse is offering a series of free fall seminars on winterizing ponds and constructing new ponds.

The winterizing seminar, which focuses on preparing the

AROUND WESTLAND

pond for cold weather, will be offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 and 30, 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, and at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20.

The pond construction, providing information on all you'll need to build a pond, will be offered at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30. Barson's Greenhouse is at 6414 Merriman south of Warren. For more information, call (734) 421-5959.

Internet safety

St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School in Westland will sponsor an Internet safety class at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20. The class will be for older students and for parents who may want information on how to keep their children safe online. It will provide information on what information youngsters should avoid putting online. The class is free and open to the public. The school/church are at 5885 N. Venoy.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly "Best Spaghetti Dinner in Westland" returns to the Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, Friday, Sept. 22. Dinner will be served 4-7 p.m. The cost is \$6 for spaghetti, including salad, desert, entertainment and dancing. For additional information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Groovy time

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896, at 28945 Joy Road in Westland, will sponsor a "70s Hippies Dance" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Second Wind will perform. There will be a prize for best hippie attire. Those attending also are urged to bring their 70s photos. There will be food, raffles and a cash bar. For more information, call (734) 525-9454.

Mom 2 Mom sale

St. Damian School is hosting a Fall Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. New this year will be a Dad 2 Dad Sale which will take place at the same time at the school, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman. Table rental is \$20 table rental for the Mom 2 Mom Sale and \$15 outdoor space rental for the Dad 2 Dad Sale. For more information, call Dawn at (734) 983-0221.

Senior dinner-dance

The Wayne Ford Civic League will be holding a senior dinner

and dance at noon Sunday, Sept. 24, at the hall at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a full buffet dinner, beer, wine, coffee, and pop and dancing to the live entertainers.

Seniors must be at least 60 years old to attend. Tickets are \$8 for league members and \$10 for non-members. Memberships are on sale year-round and cost \$5 for seniors. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call (734) 728-5010.

Adoption event

The Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven is hosting an adoption event to raise funds and awareness for pet rescue and help find local, homeless Samoyeds a new home for life at the Petco, 35725 Warren Road, Westland. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

Crafters sought

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is seeking crafters for an annual fall craft show that will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. The post is located at 28945 Joy Road. Tables and chairs are available. Reservations are needed by Oct. 4. Call Dianna Welchman at (313) 278-3784.

Table rental is available at the cost of \$20 for the annual St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women 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.

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.

Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

Pancake breakfast

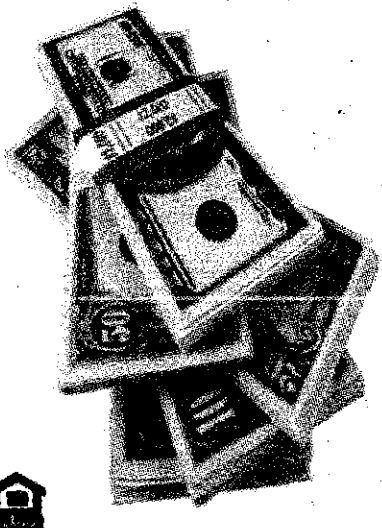
The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person.

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Movie 'Take the Lead' has lessons for school leaders, community

On a missionary trip to Trinidad, West Indies, in early August, a film was shown that somehow I had not heard of though it was released in April of this year. *Take the Lead* stars Antonio Banderas as Pierre Dulaine, a former ballroom dancer, now turned ballroom dance instructor. I couldn't but help thinking about how certain themes pulsating through the film prompted me to think of young people and education, especially in the Wayne-Westland schools.

No. 1, sometimes the only thing standing between a depressing statistic and a promising young life is an adult who's willing to invest some time and talent. It could be a parent, an administrator, a teacher, a custodian, a coach, or a parent/volunteer. In the film, Pierre Dulaine uses dance to facilitate the students' rising above tough, dysfunctional circumstances. The principal remarks, "everyone else calls them 'rejects.' They're in (detention) for the rest of the term." Following one of his class sessions, she confronts Dulaine with the statement that "life, for these kids, is like a fight to stay alive and have just enough to make ends meet."

As Douglas B. Reeves, in his book, *The Learning Leader - How To Focus School Improvement for Better Results*, states, we must "challenge high-achieving students (while we) encourage and coach the lowest performing students." That, I believe, is one of our mandates in public education.

A second theme that pulsates throughout the film is that the values of teamwork, respect and dignity are an important foundation for suc-

cess in any endeavor. Young people must be given the tools to prove to themselves that they have the courage and qualities to break out of their stereotypical roles and/or labels previously attached to them. Again, known as the school's "rejects," the detention kids are a mixed group of street thugs, latchkey kids and lost souls who have been told all their lives that they have no chance of escaping their surroundings. The teachers have basically given up on them.

Near the end of the movie, Dulaine is forced to defend his program before a PTA group gathered by the antagonist, Mean Teacher Mr. Temple. While others are playing the "blame game," he reminds them that at least he is trying to do something to make a difference. "Assigning blame is OK for the moment, but it doesn't make the problems go away," before engaging the principal in a dance demonstration accompanied by an explanation that ballroom dancing teaches a boy to respect his partner, and teaches a girl that she is worthy of respect. This epitomizes Reeves' contention that "... not everything that counts can be counted, not everything that can be expressed in quantitative terms." In the process, he helped the students discover a love for learning they never knew they had.

The third theme involves the ability to make choices. No matter where you come from, there are no rejects, only choices to be made, and these choices are up to you. Following a confrontation with the more advanced students at the dance studio, Dulaine's students from John Drake High School revolt because they believe that he has deceived them regarding the upcoming competition. The next day he challenges them to compete and promises that his dance studio will cover the cost for each of them. Upon hearing this, "Rock," a misunderstood kid from a dysfunctional family who just lost

his brother in a gang incident, chimes in, as he enters the scene, "Even for school rejects?" Dulaine's response is: "That's funny. When I look around this room all I see is choices - choices to be made and not a single reject ..."

It took trust, courage, determination and respect to accomplish, and each knew they must depend on the other, rather than fight each other. Some quotes worth remembering from *Take The Lead* are:

■ "The people that get what they want in life are the people who show up to get it."

■ "Belief in yourself is the strongest secret weapon."

■ "Trust must be earned."

Incorporating these, along with the aforementioned pulsating themes that resonated with me, will allow us to be what Reeves describes as "architectural leaders in education" (chapter 3). In Wayne-Westland Community Schools we really care for our students' lives in a world of despair.

Parents, take the lead ...

School board members, take the lead ...

Administrators, take the lead ...

Teachers, take the lead ...

Students, take the lead ...

Support staff, take the lead ...

Community, take the lead ...

As Dulaine attempted to give hope to his students by encouraging them to make good choices, may we take the lead in our respective roles for our children's education by making good choices. Like the waltz, it cannot be done without trust in your partner. At various times, some lead while others follow.

And as Dulaine reminded his students in the film, "To follow takes as much strength as to lead." But when appropriate, take the lead!

Terrance R. McClain is minister of the Annapolis Park Church of Christ in Westland, the vice president of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education and lives in Wayne.



Terrance McClain

People in Middle East conflict deserve a peaceful solution

It has been said that the first causality of war is the truth. Anyone watching world events, especially in the Middle East, will come to realize that the truth is lost. In his latest effort to win the midterm election for his party, President Bush has escalated his "war on terror" fight as a war against "Muslim fascists". His mantra now is "we need to fight them in their streets before they come to our streets." Since Sept. 11, 2001, we have become accustomed to the language of war and defense.

We have also become tuned-in to the rhetoric of bravado and disdain toward Arabs and Muslims. We are given daily doses of how well

we are doing in Iraq and how we are defeating the enemies and establishing a crater of democracy that needs to be emulated. As if our fighting words and deeds are not enough, we provided Israel with a green light to invade a sovereign neighbor under the pretense that "Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorists." The list of misguided policies goes on and on, unchecked by the Congress or the public and

perpetuated by a stagnated press. The reality is we are in a quagmire falling into the abyss of violence with no path for escape until we abandon our dogmatic belief that force will secure our freedom and security.

As a Palestinian-American who sees beyond killing for a solution, I am often told by my well-meaning friends that the Middle East crisis is an inherited and ingrained conflict conducted by people who are hell-bent on revenge. They believe that this war is without a solution that will protect both sides of the conflict. This short-sighted and erroneous belief will bring nothing to the table but more death and destruction.

The people in the Middle East on both sides of the conflict deserve better. No one deserves to see their children, brothers, and sisters dead, injured or imprisoned just because they happen to be Palestinian, Israelis, Iraqis, Lebanese or American. The people in the Middle East like the people in the United States, deserve keen leaders who believe that war and weapons are not the answer. For years we have been sold on the idea that force is the only solution to the Middle East crises. With the exception of President Jimmy Carter, we have given lip service to a negotiated solution to the Palestinian-Israeli issue. With the current administration, the United States even abandoned the lip service, choosing to perpetuate violence as the means to seek revenge and gain power.

And what did these new policies net us? In six years we have managed to mobilize millions of people who view us as an oppressor that needs to be stopped. Osama bin Laden and his likes were awkward individual zealots with very little respect and support in the Muslim world until

we started justifying the killing of innocent Muslim children while they were sleeping. His vile message of war and destruction is now resonating in the minds of those who believe that they are being killed because they are Muslims. Just like we believe that we are targeted because we are American and considered Christians.

The rhetoric of war is cheap, however its cost is very expensive. Our soldiers on the front line are paying with their lives, just like the Palestinians, Israelis, Iraqis and Lebanese. The cost is unrecoverable, with everyone paying the price. How many people are denied health care in this country so we can continue to build our defense stockpile that must be guarded with our lives, hence it may fall in the wrong hands? How many promises were made by President Bush that "No Child Left Behind Act" would be fully funded, but now, six years later, those promises were left unfunded. Regardless of who started the war? It is time for it to end.

The policy of defense and revenge will only work for the moment. Let us look at the history of our enemies: Japan, Russia and Germany. "The former evil empires" are now our good allies. If we knew then what we know now about our former enemies, we could have spared their families and ours the agony of pain.

If nothing else, we should learn from our mistakes. War never conquers. It may conquer land but it never conquers the heart. If we in the United States want to remain the superpower we profess to be, we must lead the world into an era of peace and prosperity. When we lift the world from the rot of hunger and pain, we will have gained their loyalty and respect for our kindness. If we want to stay the superpower, we can lead the people into following our values by working honestly to resolve conflicts instead of creating more conflicts with our unbalanced actions.

We in the United States have a lot to offer the world. In the past, our global leadership, with programs like the Peace Corp, Fulbright and U.S. AID, have made us an idol in the minds of many recipients for our generosity.

Our past diplomacy created a safer world for us and others who may not even have adhered to our standard of governing.

With our compassionate actions we gained the respect of the world. Sadly to say that those in power choose military might over diplomacy and courage a price for which we are all paying. Osama, Hizballah, Hamas, Ariel Sharon, Olmert were a small group of zealots until it was decided force is the only course of action to settle grievances. How many innocent lives must be lost before we choose peace over war, compassion over weapons, respect over disfranchising?

Superiority can be better achieved with diplomacy, kindness, education, and full bellies. I pray that we use our goodness to guide the world into the future.



Terry Ahwal

Terry Ahwal lives in Canton.

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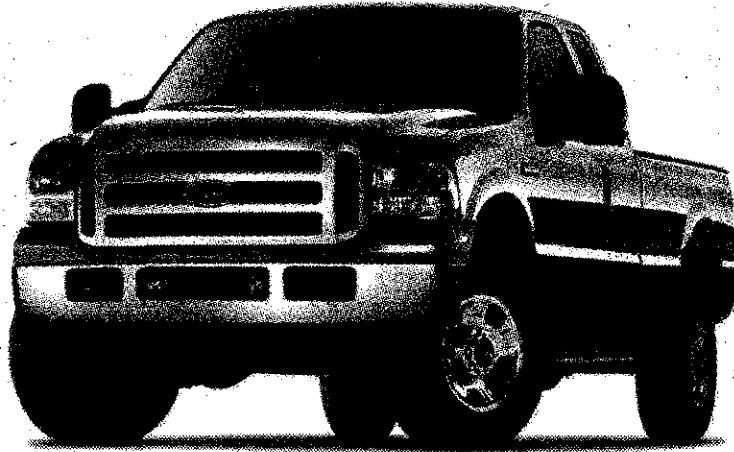
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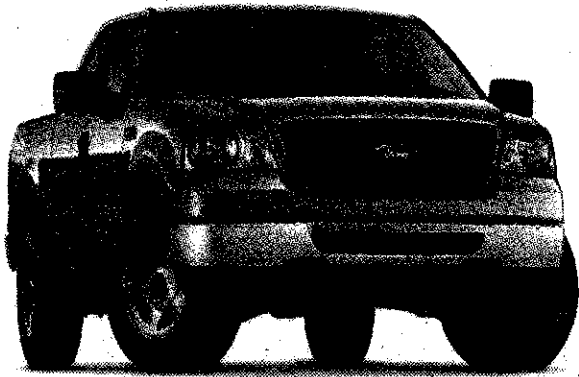
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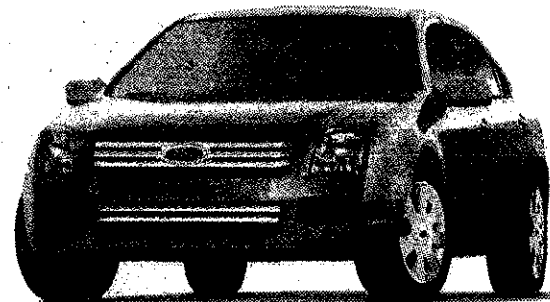


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