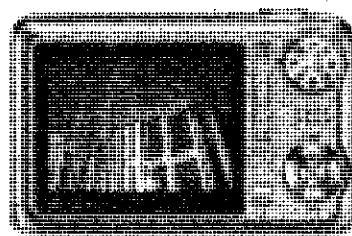




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Council split over vote on Maida Woods

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A citizens group appears to have won a skirmish in its larger battle to block the 36-home Maida Woods subdivision on Westland's southwest side.

Barring a shift in position, four Westland City Council members confirmed this week that they will not vote during a Feb. 20 meeting to approve a site plan.

Royal Oak-based developers Kentmoor LLC had implored council members during a study session Monday to approve a site plan that they say meets all legal requirements, including protecting wetlands on the site.

But a council majority has indicated that such a vote could be premature until a state administrative judge rules on a challenge filed by the citizens group, which is contesting an October wetlands report as potentially flawed.

City Attorney Angelo Plakas has indicated that the judge's decision could be issued as late as April, although a hearing is set for early March.

Developers have proposed building 36 homes on the heavily wooded south side of Palmer Road between John Hix and Hannan.

During Monday's session, council members James Godbout, Cheryl Graunstadt and Bill Johnson said they don't feel prepared to decide the site plan until they receive more information

about such issues as the disputed wetlands and a storm-water system plan.

On Tuesday, Councilman Robert Stottlemeyer responded to questions from the *Observer* by saying that he also isn't ready to vote on the site plan. His decision gives Maida Woods critics the council votes they need to stall the project, and it's possible the council majority could become larger.

"I'm not ready to vote on that," Stottlemeyer said.

Earlier Tuesday, Douglas Monroe, one of the developers, confirmed that Kentmoor LLC wants the issue placed on the council agenda for Tuesday, Feb. 20. The item had been tabled last September.

Council President Charles Pickering pledged to

place the Maida Woods project on the agenda. He said the city's past practice has been to vote on a site plan and, if approval is given, then have developers get all the permits they need from government agencies, such as the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Wayne County.

"I think the developer needs to have an answer," Pickering said, indicating the city could face legal troubles by holding Kentmoor LLC to a higher standard than other developers.

The citizens group - the Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation - brought its own attorney and engi-

PLEASE SEE **MAIDA WOODS, A5**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland ATHENA Award winner Lynn Malinoff watches Vandenburg Elementary first-graders, twins Alona (left) and Alexa Hill work on a Valentine craft they were doing with the help of Wayne Memorial High School senior Justin Newman.

'We can't afford not to do that'

ATHENA winner Malinoff has zeal, dedication to help women

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Lynn Malinoff admits that she's had a few bumps in her life, but every one has made her a better person. Life, she said, is a journey, not an event.

She also admits that she has had many mentors over the years, women older than she is who have helped steer her to the place where she is today, the 2007

Westland ATHENA Award winner. "I'm overwhelmed, completely humbled by the experience," said Malinoff who received the award at the Women of Westland's annual Chocolate Ball Saturday evening. "I'm very grateful for the honor."

Ronaele Bowman, former director of the Westland Youth Assistance Program, nominated Malinoff for the honor, saying that she "can think of no one more deserv-

ing of this honor for her dedication and zeal in helping women, young and old, to reach their full potential."

"Her goal in life is to promote, support and educate strong, independent females in the Wayne-Westland district and in her community," Bowman wrote in her nomination.

Malinoff has been with the Wayne-

PLEASE SEE **ATHENA, A5**

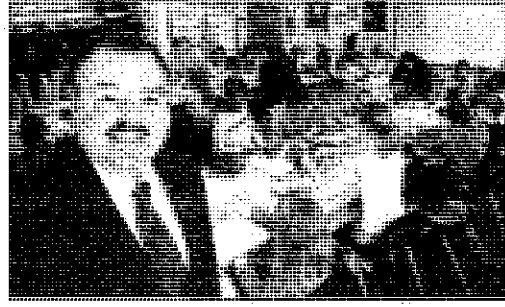
Baracy is 'humbled' by state award

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's not quite the description of a school superintendent you'd expect to hear, but it was how Lynn Malinoff chose to describe Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy. "He's our big cheerleader,

but he's also not afraid to get his hands dirty planting a tree or pulling a red wagon," said Malinoff.

Malinoff was talking about Baracy's support of district-wide service-learning, support that has earned him the Michigan



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Gregory Baracy's leadership, programs like the Literacy Corps which pairs up students from John Glenn, Wayne Memorial and Tinkham Alternative High Schools work with students like these first-graders at Vandenburg Elementary.

PLEASE SEE **BARACY, A5**

Shooting suspect awaits extradition from West Virginia

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 25-year-old man wanted in Westland for attempted murder was awaiting extradition this week after being captured in West Virginia.

Vincent Edward Emery, accused of fleeing Michigan in a Greyhound bus, faces multiple felony charges in a warrant authorized in Westland District Court.

Emery is wanted in connection with a shooting and armed robbery that happened just after midnight Feb. 3 inside a residence on Belding Court, in the Norway subdivision, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

Acting on a tip, authorities captured Emery last Thursday near Huntington, W.Va., where he had found a job with a work crew for Red Roof Inn, Harhold said.

Emery has waived his extradition, although it wasn't clear when he might be brought to Michigan. He faces charges of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, being a felon with a firearm, felonious assault and felony firearms. He faces charges as a third-time felon.

In a related development, Westland co-defendant Jason David Shuford, 24, faces a preliminary hearing today in district court after his earlier arraignment on charges stemming from the same incident.

Shuford faces charges similar to those against Emery except that Shuford isn't charged with assault with intent to murder. A not-guilty plea has been entered for him, and he remains jailed on a \$100,000 cash bond as he awaits his hearing, which will determine whether he should stand trial.

Vincent Edward Emery has waived his extradition, although it wasn't clear when he might be brought to Michigan. He faces charges of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, being a felon with a firearm, felonious assault and felony firearms.

If convicted, the two men could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

According to police reports, Emery and Shuford were in the Belding Court residence when a woman who knew Emery from high school was visiting with her fiancé.

Emery is accused of robbing the 29-year-old fiancé of money, his cell phone and keys. The victim told police that Emery beat him in the face with a handgun and ultimately fired a shot that struck him in the left forearm.

According to police, Emery then handed the gun to Shuford, and Shuford is accused of threatening the 23-year-old woman at gunpoint.

The two victims were finally allowed to leave, Harhold said, and police found a trail of blood inside the residence and leading from the front door. The woman was driving her fiancé to Garden City Hospital when she was stopped by authorities in that city. The man was taken to the hospital.

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Coming Sunday in Health



Psychotherapist talks with pedophiles

Grant helps police update in-car cameras

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Remember *Dragnet* and police Sgt. Joe Friday – if only from television reruns?

Well, the story you are about to see is true, even if the names have not been changed to protect the innocent.

The plot centers around a criminal making false accusations against police officers during a traffic stop.

The episode ends with the criminal being brought to justice for making false allegations.

Westland police officers have a tool that street cops in Joe Friday's days didn't have – cameras in their patrol cars.

The moral of the story: Think twice before making false accusations against a police officer during a traffic stop.

New digital, in-car cameras are being installed in all 30 patrol cars that Westland officers use to roam city streets and catch criminals.

Police Chief Daniel Pfannes hopes the changeover from older in-car cameras will be complete within a month.

Officials say cameras have become a useful tool for capturing what happens during traffic stops and refuting false allegations ranging from police brutality to sexual assaults.

"We've successfully prosecuted several people (for false claims)," Pfannes said.

At a cost of \$160,000, the new cameras are being bought from New Jersey-based L-3 Communications Mobile Vision Inc.

Mayor William Wild said Westland saved some money – \$15,000 – by receiving a

grant from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, through which the city is self-insured.

Pfannes said the city is involved in a lease-to-purchase plan.

The new system is replacing older in-car cameras that the city bought in late 2000 and early 2001, the chief said.

"They have reached the end of their operational life span," he said.

Hey, even *Dragnet* ran its course.

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Suspect nabbed in gas station robbery

CRIME WATCH

Westland police officers captured a suspect following a robbery that occurred around 3 p.m. Saturday at the Speedway gas station at Wayne and Cherry Hill roads.

The incident started when a man went into the station, approached the counter, pushed a customer aside, reached over and grabbed money from the cash register, according to police reports.

Three witnesses described the suspect, who was captured nearby by police officers.

One officer was slightly

injured after getting out of his patrol car and chasing the fleeing suspect on foot. The officer was ordering the suspect to the ground at gunpoint when another police car, responding to the scene, accidentally hit the officer, who rolled onto the hood and then onto the ground, according to police reports.

The officer wasn't seriously hurt.

Home invasion

A 32-year-old man who lives in the 32600 block of Steinhauer told police he came home and found the side door of his home kicked in about 5:30 a.m. Sunday.

The man told police several items were missing from the home, including a coin bank, jewelry and a laptop computer.

The man said the home invasion occurred between 11 p.m. Saturday and 5:30 a.m. Sunday.

Forced entry

Police reported that a break-in occurred sometime between Feb. 6 and Feb. 10 at a home where residents had been evicted in the 33600 block of Fernwood.

Police went to the house after a neighbor noticed that the front door was open.

Authorities found that the door had been pried off and left on the ground. Officers found the interior of the home to be empty except for garbage that appeared to have been left by the eviction crew.

The company that has a lien on the house was contacted.

– By Darrell Clem



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ACHIEVERS

Named to the honor roll for the first marking period at the Tinkham Alternative High School in Westland were: Jamie Caudron-Griffin, Desiree Clark, Lacrisha Damron, Matthew David, Larry George, Ashley Holland, Joanna Klein, Laura Lambert, Terri Mack, Brittany Neal, Nicholas Portis, Asheana Staley, Amanda Sweet, Markeisha Thurman and Vanessa Wilson.

Named to the honor roll for the second marking period at the Tinkham were Ashley Cannon, Lacrisha Damron, Matthew David, Larry George, Ashley Holland, Laura Lambert, Terri Mack, Asheana, Amanda Sweet, Markeisha Thurman, Todd Treviso and Vanessa Wilson.

Bill Rudnicki of Westland has been named director of quality of the Jervis B. Webb Company, a world leader in material handling solutions.

In this role, he is responsible for Webb's International Standards Organization (ISO) certification, as well as the company's lean manufacturing and lean office efforts in the United States and Canada.

Before joining the Webb Company, Rudnicki was quality manager for RCO Engineering Inc., overseeing the quality function of a large, multi-site prototype manufacturer with an ISO 9001:2000 certified quality system. Prior to that, he served as quality manager for United Metal Products, overseeing the quality function of a QS-9000 tier one automotive metal stamping supplier.

Rudnicki earned a master of science degree in business administration from Madonna University, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Detroit College of Business and an associate's degree in science with a major in quality management from Henry Ford Community College.

PublishAmerica has announced that it will publish *The Weeping Pages*, a collection of poetry by Jerry D. Pickens of Westland. Titles include *The Tainted One*, *What Have I Done?*, *My Pain* and *The Last Poem*.

Publish America is traditional publishing company that encourages and promotes the work of new and previously undiscovered writers.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Literacy Corps is one of the service-learning programs ATHENA Award Lynn Malinoff has fostered during her years with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

ATHENA

FROM PAGE A1

Westland Community Schools for 27 years and is currently assigned to the Tinkham Alternative Center, where, among other things, she is a teacher consultant and special projects coordinator. But it is her work as the service-learning coordinator that has let her pay it forward what she has gotten from her mentors over the years.

"I've always looked for the magic bullet and never found one, but this (service-learning) is the closest thing to it," said Malinoff. "It's a wonderful strategy. Reading, writing and arithmetic are necessary, but students have souls and have feelings, they need to have relationships."

Malinoff has helped bring the Youth Mentor Program, a partnership with The Henry Ford, the Red Wagon Literacy Project which provides books to youngsters in the Norwayne community, and Rooting for the Rouge in which fourth-graders in the school district have combined science with becoming stewards of the Rouge River.

For Malinoff, her mentoring began in elementary school when she approached the principal about school being boring. When she expressed an idea that the school needed something like a talent show, she found herself organizing one.

In 11th-grade, she approached the school superintendent with the same message, but instead of listening to her solution, he rebuffed her, telling her "I don't like self-appointed leaders."

"I learned how to assert myself and how to be resilient," Malinoff recalled. "I just needed to find someone else to listen."

They were two educators, Jane Kuckel and Beverly Geltman. Kuckel taught her to be a leader, while Geltman encouraged her to get her doc-

toral degree "back in the day when women didn't get" such degrees.

She also recalls her father taking her to a civil rights march in Grand Rapids when she was a child, but her biggest influence was her mother. "A fabulous mentor and role model," her mother's philosophy was that each person had a gift, but they had to give it away, if they wanted to keep it, Malinoff said.

"My mom was a positive influence, she was civic-minded and civically engaged always," Malinoff said.

Both of her parents were at the dinner Saturday evening to watch as their daughter was honored for sharing her gift with others.

"There's a word in Yiddish - kvelling (burst of pride) - that's what they were doing," said Malinoff. "They were talking about how important it was for them to be there and how rewarding it was to be there. They were overwhelmed, that was most touching for me."

Malinoff's husband Herbert also was there, fielding cell phone messages "every two seconds" from family and friends who had received his text message that she had won the award.

"He's wonderful, he shares in everything I do," she said. "All of my family is very supportive."

Through her work in the schools, Malinoff has the opportunity to mentor many students, some who are now in their 20s and 30s whom she continues to mentor. One has become a successful businesswoman who is trying to pay it forward.

What she does, she said, reflects what schools were designed to do when set up in the early 1900s, to teach citizenship.

"We can't afford not to do that," she said. "Democracy can't last, if we don't create citizens. It's a big thing."

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BARACY

FROM PAGE A1

Community Service Commission's 2007 Administrator Award.

"It's quite an honor and I'm very humbled to be nominated," Baracy said during a presentation at Monday evening's school board meeting. "I accept it on behalf of the Board of Education that provides support and funds for service learning and on behalf of all of those who have made this such a successful program."

It was Malinoff, the district's service-learning coordinator, who nominated Baracy for the award.

"I have a great passion for this practice and I shared it with Greg Baracy; he has been a leader of service-learning in the district from the day he started," said Malinoff.

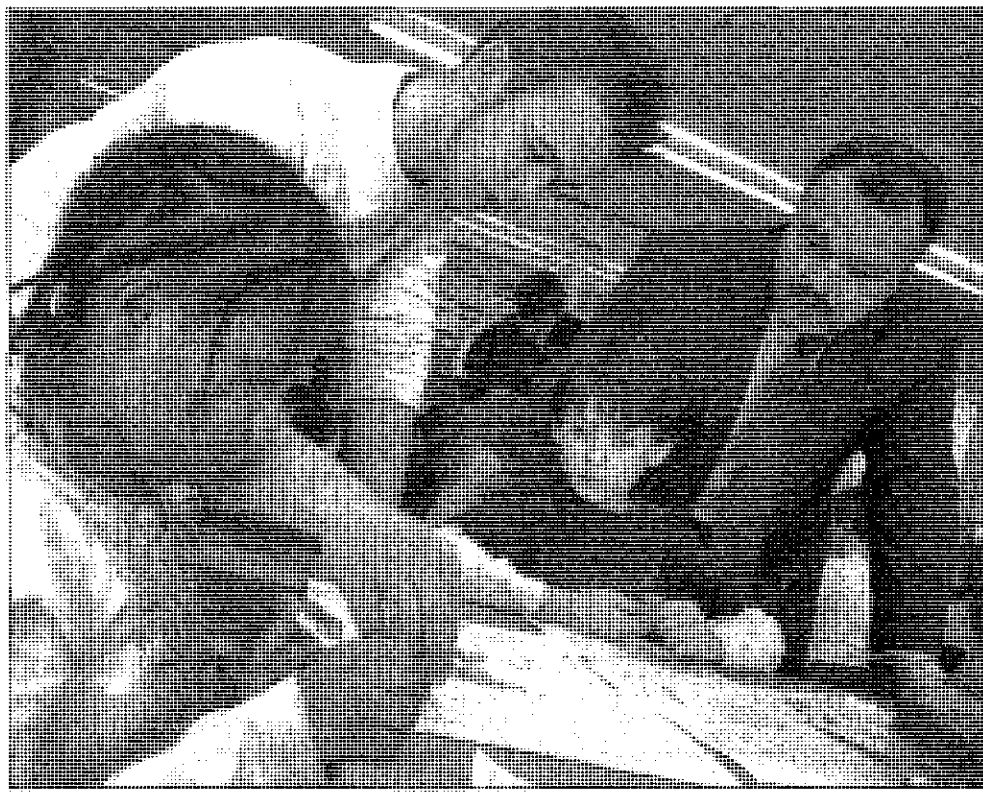
The award recognizes Baracy for serving as a model for service-learning leadership, for his demonstrated vision and direction toward expansion of service-learning at both the building and district levels through education and advocacy.

"Dr. Baracy's unwavering enthusiasm, advocacy and willingness to provide scarce financial and human resources are an inspiration to all," the MCSC said in announcing the award.

Under his tutelage, service-learning has expanded to include all 25 of the district's schools. Programs like the Literacy Corps and Red Wagon summer program that brings books to youngsters in the Norwayne community have received state and national awards, while the Youth Mentor Program partnership with The Henry Ford is in its 17th year.

The Rooting for the Rouge program which has given fourth-graders hands-on learning about improving the water quality of the Rouge River and dovetails with their science curriculum is now in all 17 of the district's elementary schools.

"Without the support of Greg and the administration, these programs would have died before they got going," Malinoff said. "Under Greg's superintendency, the district developed an academic service-learning program where the service is tied into the school and into what we teach."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy watches John Glenn High School junior Bryan Walden work with Vandenburg Elementary first-graders Cheyanne Brown (left) and Brandon Brozowski.

Service-learning garnered Baracy's support because of the positive impact it can have on large numbers of students, especially at-risk students "who need strong mentoring and strong purpose."

"To grow the program was one of my goals when I became superintendent," he said. "I had a strong feeling that what we had in place was a very viable program."

"I see students in the Literacy Corps out mentoring elementary children, reading to them and establishing a relationship. As a result of that, they feel a strong purpose in life, a strong sense of pride because they're serving as a role model."

Baracy believes service learning is a program the district cannot afford not to fund. He points to a student he met last week at Vandenburg Elementary who told him her work with the Literacy Corps has made her

feel successful and has given her the motivation to give back.

"When that happens you know everyone has done their job," he said. "These programs change the lives of many youths. These programs have saved many lives."

Malinoff credits Baracy with educating the board about service learning so that they are now engaged with their own Project 180 Can Do!

"He has dedicated his time, resources and I know his passion shines through," she said.

"We are blessed to have Greg Baracy as superintendent," added board President Fred Weaver. "Not only does he have the knowledge and the skills for the job, he has the passion for the job."

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MAIDA WOODS

FROM PAGE A1

neer to Monday's study session. The group also videotaped the session.

The wetlands report from last October found just over 1.5 acres of state-regulated wetlands on the 14-acre Maida Woods site, developers have said. The report prompted them to scale back the number of pro-

posed homes from 41 to 36.

"We think we've put together a plan that the DEQ is going to accept," Monroe said Monday.

However, David Lipski, an attorney representing the citizens group, said the state administrative judge's ruling hasn't happened.

"There is going to be a fresh and new determination made," he said.

Developers have portrayed Maida Woods as a subdivision that would comply with all legal

requirements. Critics have said that it could threaten wildlife and wetlands and that it could cause their property values to drop.

Graunstadt said Maida Woods critics have every right to help educate elected officials about issues surrounding the project.

"This is their home. This is their back yard. ... They have every right to point the way for their elected officials," she said.

But Pickering said that the

council has to comply with its own procedures for doing business and that its members can't suddenly legislate new rules.

Meanwhile, the citizens group's president, Jim Rubasky, appeared satisfied that elected officials listened to all concerns during Monday's two-hour session.

"I think we got a fair shake," he said, "and we'll see what happens."

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Glenn accepts alumni nominations

The Faculty Council at John Glenn High School is searching for a few good nominations.

The council is in charge of the school's Distinguished Alumnus award and is looking for a graduate who has gone on to achieve excellence in his or her life.

Presentation of the award is a part of the high school's graduation ceremony. The council believes the recipient can have a positive, motivational effect on the graduating seniors as well as

the school community and the faculty.

Residents can nominate a John Glenn graduate who has earned distinction in his or her field of endeavor following graduation by contacting Robyn Brennan at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185.

The Faculty Council will review all nominations and select the winner who will be honored at commencement ceremonies on June 2.

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Jane lay near death, stricken with double pneumonia, AIDS, total body septic strip infection, and major organ shutdown. Miraculously, she pulled through - thanks, she says, to three U-M M.D.s: Dr. Upchurch, who made her laugh despite her grave situation; her RN Kelly, who took care for the little things, like brushing her hair and holding her hand; and Kim in Rehab, who taught her to walk again. Just a few of the many who got Jane back to being the Mrs. Rose her medical records claim she is. It's why we say that long after you leave U-M, what stays with you are the people who were there for you along the way. That's the Michigan Difference.

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Pancake breakfast

The Westland Jaycees will be having a pancake breakfast at the Applebee's on Warren Road at Central City Parkway 8-10 a.m. to Saturday, Feb. 24.

Tickets are available for \$6 and this will include all-you-can-eat pancakes, meat and juice. To purchase tickets or for more information, call the Westland Jaycee hotline at (734) 226-0400.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Community Hospice of Westland.

Swearing in

The public is invited to a swearing in ceremony for new Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli at 6 p.m. this evening (Feb. 15), at the city of Westland's senior citizen Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

A reception also is scheduled. Judges are encouraged to bring robes.

Vehicle auction

The Department of Public Service will hold a surplus vehicle auction 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at its facility at 37137 Marquette, just south of Ford Road. A wide selection of items, including former city vehicles, automobiles from the street enforcement team for the Westland Police Department, clothing, computers and other electronics will be auctioned off. Viewing starts at 8 a.m.

Mentoring program

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Westland is sponsoring "Educating Youth Through Mentoring" as part of its African American History Month in February.

The featured speakers will be Christopher Lindsey, principal of the Academy of Westland, at 7 p.m. Feb. 15, and Kay Williams-Hales, principal of Winship Elementary School in Detroit, at 7 p.m.

Feb. 22.

The public is invited to attend. The Lutheran Church of Our Savior is at 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 and includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Feb. 16. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Baseball registrations

The Wayne Ford Civic League, at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland, is registering children ages 4-10 years old for its co-ed baseball league 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, Feb. 10 through

April 14, 2007 or until all the teams are filled, which ever comes first.

T-Ball players (ages 4-6) and Coach Pitch players (ages 7-8) cost \$65 per player, Mustang players (ages 9-10) cost \$80 per player. There is no residency fee charged for children living outside Westland and no fund-raising requirements associated with this year's program.

Managers, coaches and umpires are always needed. Online registration forms can be obtained at www.wayne-ford.org/youth/youth.html.

Churches meet

Churches United Against Hunger will meet at noon Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the Lighthouse Home Mission on Palmer west of Venoy.

CUAH is a coalition of 20 Westland churches whose aim is to provide for the needy in the Westland community. For more information, call (734) 326-3885.

Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven and Towne & Country Lanes will hold a Bowling for Homeless Veterans benefit 12:30-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the bowling alley at 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost will be \$20 per person which includes three games of bowling, shoe rental and raffle ticket for drawings going on throughout the event.

For more information on how to help or about Veteran's Haven, visit the Web site at www.vetshaveninfo.org or call (734) 728-0527.

Cigar party

Firing Line Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop in Westland will sponsor its annual fund-raiser to benefit the Westland Police Department's Tactical Response Unit.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the Hellenic Cultural Center for the fifth annual cigar party fund-raiser. The center is located on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

The evening will include food, drinks, a silent auction, Vegas-style games, prizes and mock video horse racing, dubbed *A Night at the Races*.

Tickets are \$50 until Feb. 16 and \$60 after that. They may be purchased by calling The Firing Line at (734) 326-7320, the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222 or Westland police Officer Jeffery Kavanaugh at (734) 722-9600.

Bowling event

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2007 Winterfest Charity Bowling Event 1-5 p.m. Saturday,

March 4, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Four-person teams will bowl alternating every fourth frame. There will be contests and prizes and a buffet dinner at Marvaso's Italian Grille.

Tickets cost \$120 per team or \$30 per person. The price includes bowling two drinks and dinner. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. with the tournament starting at 1 p.m. For more information, call the Chamber office at (734) 326-7222.

Bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harris Kehler VFW Post 3323 will hold a marathon bingo noon-5 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the post, 1055 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Money raised will go to support the Youth Activities Adopt A Troop project for overseas veterans.

Poker tournament

The Westland Jaycees will hold a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and Vegas Night on Saturday, March 10, at the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford Road.

The tournament will begin at 6 p.m. for a shot at a top prize up to \$1,000.

Spots are available at the door and through pre-registration.

The pre-registration price is \$50 until March 1. After that date, there will be a \$10 late registration fee.

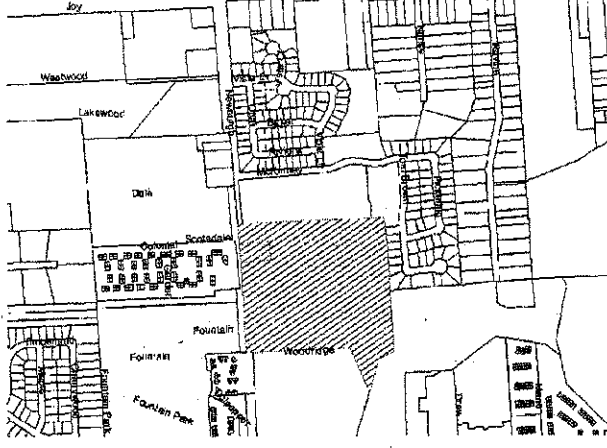
The games in the Vegas Room will include Big Wheel, Blackjack, 7 Card and Let it Ride. Food and beverages also will be available.

For more information, call (734) 226-0400 or visit the Jaycees' Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #2159 - Public Hearing for Proposed Rezoning from CB-3, General Commercial Business and R-1, Single Family Residential to PUD, Planned Unit Development, Parcels #018-99-0014-000 and #015-703, East Side of Newburgh, South of Joy, Paul A. D'Orazio



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

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

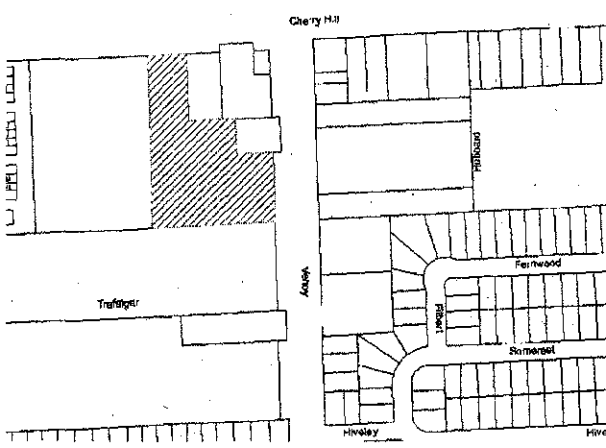
Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: February 15, 2007

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Case #1453E - Public Hearing for Proposed Adult Day Care Center, 400 Venoy, Cherry Hill Venoy Shopping Center, West Side of Venoy Road, South of Cherry Hill Road, Parcel #066-01-0543-301, Renee Peeples (Harry Attisha)



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: February 15, 2007

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 2/28/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:
3004 - Tammarra Johnson - clothing, lawn equipment, 20 bags
3122 - Mike Matthews - 2 Bicycles, 3 boxes, misc items
4168 - Latrice Graves - Big Screen TV, 5 bags, misc items
5034 - Timmy Cokley - Microwave, vacuum, portable TV

Publish: February 8 & 15, 2007

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OUR VIEWS

Service learning shines in awards

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools had two of its employees showered with honors last week - Supt. Greg Baracy and Lynn Malinoff.

Baracy received the 2007 Administrator Award from the Michigan Community Service Commission for being a model of service-learning leadership, while Malinoff - who, among other things, coordinates service-learning in the district - was the recipient of the 2007 Westland ATHENA Award.

Baracy was honored for his "unwavering enthusiasm, advocacy and willingness to provide scarce financial and human resources" to service-learning which can be found in 25 schools in the district.

Described by the MCSC as "an inspiration to all," he is credited with creating partnerships that have lead to sustainable service-learning in the district.

The ATHENA Award honors individuals who actively assist women in realizing their full leadership potential and recognizes excellence, creativity and initiative in their business and profession. Malinoff has shown all that in her career and private life. She works with women who have an alcoholic in their family, mentors young educators through her work at Eastern Michigan University and has conducted parenting classes and training for mothers in John Glenn High School's parenting program. According to Ronaele Bowman, who nominated Malinoff for the award, "her goal in life is to promote, support and educate strong, independent females in the school district and the community."

These two awards exemplify the quality of leadership and commitment to students and staff by both Baracy and Malinoff. They are tremendous achievements that reflect the good things that are happening in the Wayne-Westland school district. We congratulate Greg Baracy and Lynn Malinoff on the receipt of these awards. We can think of no other individuals more deserving of these awards. What they have done for Wayne-Westland is a reflection of the motto: Great futures start right here.

Tax proposals start debate over budget

Whatever direction Gov. Jennifer Granholm took toward balancing Michigan's budget, she would have created controversy and dissent. That's how the political process works - the executive proposes and the Legislature disposes.

Last week, Granholm followed her State of the State address with a budget that included cuts in state spending, some actuarial sleight of hand and proposals for replacement and new taxes. But even members of her own Democratic Party were cautious about her tax proposals.

Granholm and the Legislature face a delicate balancing act. On the one hand, it is important to maintain essential state services as well as create new state services to meet emerging needs, such as health care. On the other hand, the state must remain competitive with other states in the tax burden it levies on its businesses and residents.

A new Michigan Business Tax to replace the Single Business Tax, which expires at the end of this year, has been respectfully received. The proposal creates a broader based tax that eliminates the taxes on payroll and health care benefits that were so onerous in the SBT. The tax spreads across more businesses and is actually a tax cut from the SBT, to be made up by other taxes.

Granholm also proposes increased tobacco and liquor taxes, elimination of tax loopholes, an estate tax and targeted taxes. But the most controversial suggestion is the implementation of an excise tax on services. Many small service businesses are skeptical of a tax they claim would be complicated to impose and report. But many states do impose a tax on services, especially as the economy has shifted more and more toward services.

The governor has told public schools that she will not cut this year's foundation grant, as had been anticipated, and proposes increasing the grant by \$178 per pupil for the 2007-08 school year. She also proposes increases for state colleges, for early childhood education, for tourism, for a nursing education program, for alternative energy, child welfare and removing urban blight.

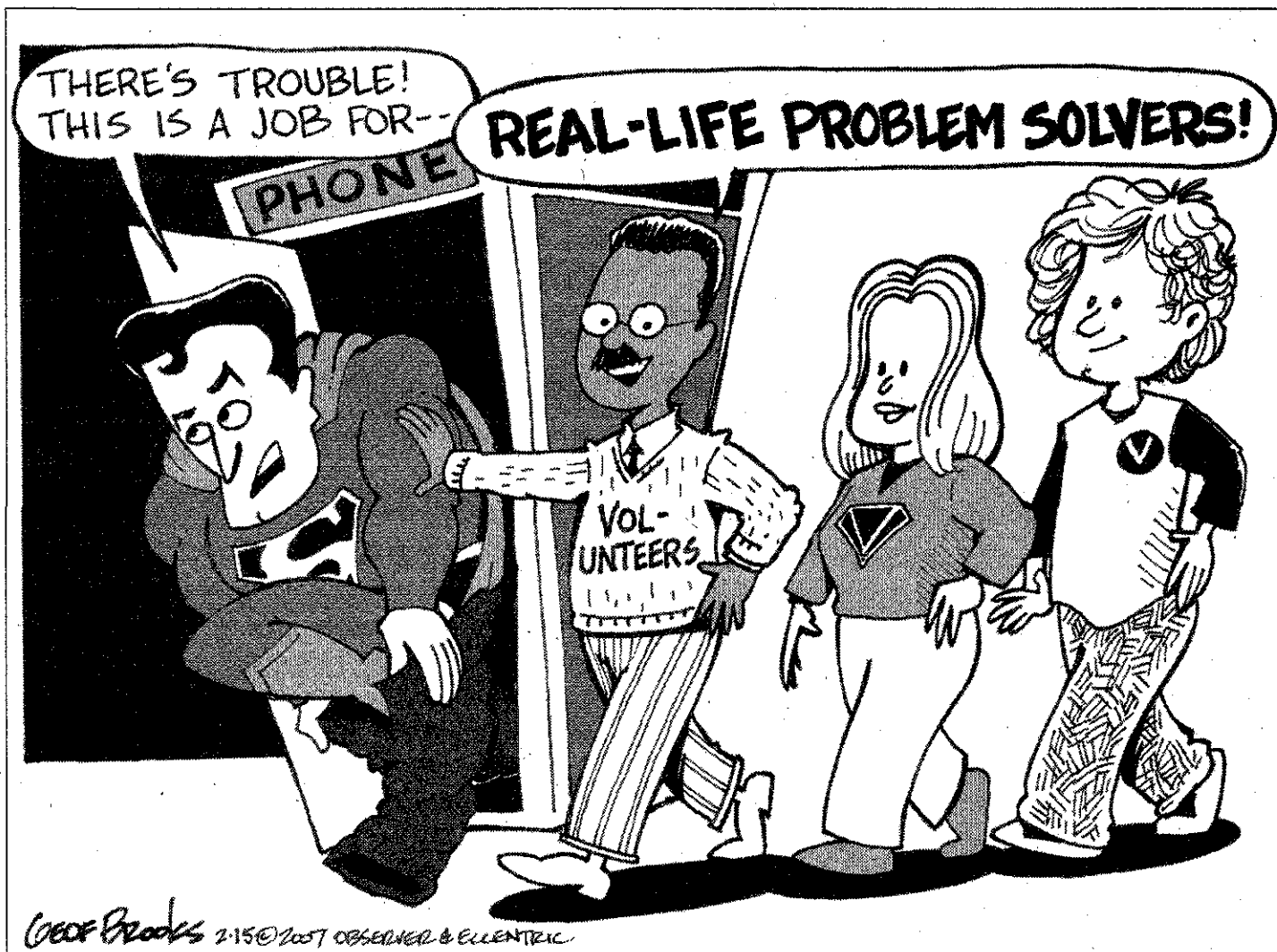
She is also proposing \$310 million in spending cuts. Leading the way in cuts would be major reforms in the state's criminal justice system to reduce the state's large correction's population. Her budget calls for some major cuts in state grants, including a 50-percent cut to local libraries. And the governor has put local governments and school districts on notice that they need to consolidate services, or risk losing some state block grants.

We support the governor's view that state spending is investing, especially in such key areas as public education, health care, security, conservation and transportation.

But we believe the governor must do a better job of defining areas where the state can make more cuts (and it can) and in defending those parts of the budget that absolutely must not be cut.

As she said, this needs to be done quickly as a crisis is looming, and she needs to make her case aggressively.

As always, we welcome reader comment.



LETTERS

Let's just get along

Our new black councilman did not take much time to remind people that this is Black History Month and that "you need to get to know us as we had to get to know you." I haven't heard the race card played in a long time in our great city, but I sure was reminded that it is still there.

I was hoping that that type of business was gone from our community but I was wrong. So let's take a step backward and start over again and try to just get along.

Robert Williamson
Westland

Proud to be American

Well, I am not just sure where I should start this letter, but here goes. Last night, Feb. 7, 2007, when I went to sleep, I was a fairly happy retiree from UAW/Fords, I was happily married, I was a veteran from a long line of veterans which included the following:

My grandfather served in the Army in World War I ... Deceased.

My uncle served in the Army in World War II ... Deceased.

My father-in-law served in the Navy in World War II ... Deceased.

My oldest brother Johnny served in the Army and was in Berlin when they built the wall ... Deceased.

I served in the Dominican Republic and in Vietnam where Agent Orange blessed me with a little cancer.

My brother Jack served in the Army in Korea ... Deceased.

My brother Curt served in the Navy during Vietnam ... Deceased.

My brother Dennis was in the Marines off the coast of Iran during the rescue attempt of the hostages.

My brother-in-law served in the Coast Guard.

My step-brother served in the National Guard.

I was about 80 percent Democrat, I was somewhat active in my city. But when I got up Sunday morning, Feb. 8, 2007, and read the letter from Frances Meese, I found out that not only was I not an American, but I was also a Republican.

Now I don't overly take offense at being called a Republican, but I do take offense at being told that I am not an American, and especially for the reasons stated by Meese, and that reason is that I have an opinion that disagrees with Meese.

I don't believe in or support affirmative action. Now I never did fully believe in affirmative action but it took an African American from California to make me totally understand why I don't support it.

Now, based on the results of the vote that did away with affirmative action, I would say that a whole lot of Democrats agree with a whole lot of Republicans that the time for affirmative action has passed.

In closing, I say to Frances Meese, thank you for waking me up a little, about how narrow-minded some Democrats are and giving me one more reason to take a better look at the Republican Party.

I also hope you and yours slept well while me and mine made it possible for you to voice your opinions without any fear of reprisals.

Roger Caldwell
Westland citizen and an American

Support the governor

As many of us are already aware, our state is in a pretty bad spot. On Tuesday evening, Gov. Jennifer Granholm laid out a choice for all of us: We can either invest in our people so they can succeed and our economy grow, or we can fail them and let our state fall further behind. We can't afford the latter.

As the governor explained, these are tough times and they require tough leadership. The governor has cut more out of state government than her predecessors, but she believes government should be lean and not mean. We can't just keep cutting.

We must support our governor in these tough times. I'm standing with her and invite you to do the same. We have to believe in Gov. Jennifer Granholm because the fact of the matter is she believes in us! She made that clear in the State of the State address as she said every citizen should be given the opportunity to build a great life in Michigan.

Times may be tough but our governor is not just sitting back letting the state unfold. She is aggressive and is doing everything in her power to diversify our economy. As citizens of Michigan, we must believe in our governor and help her fight through this crisis.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and it's to a brighter Michigan. I can honestly say without any reservations, the people of this great state are in the extremely capable hands of Gov. Jennifer Granholm!

God bless us all, and God bless our Michigan.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

A good government is ...

I'd like to let our governor and her associates know that it's a good thing to use coercion against the bad gals and guys who violate our unalienable rights. But it is not a good thing for government to violate the unalienable rights of the good gals and guys. Because that is exactly what is causing most of the political problems in our country.

A good government understands its own nature. A good government does not violate its citizens' unalienable rights. A good government understands it cannot protect citizens from themselves and tells them so. A good government's services consist only of police services, military services and court services. Everything else government does now has to be cut immediately or phased out over the shortest period possible in order to have a good government.

No one group or business gets handouts from a good government. All property is privately owned in a free country and there is no government licensing of jobs, everyone lives on their own reputation. If you need a good doctor, call your friends, your relatives, *Consumers Reports*, plan ahead, buy good health care insurance, etc. A good government has health care but only for its employees and to varying degrees, depending on your type of government employment and length of your service.

A good government understands it is not a business and its place in society, and

it stays there, doing its job. A good government has open immigration as long as you are not a criminal or have a contagious disease. A good government tells immigrants what their unalienable rights are, that one's unalienable rights don't supersede another's unalienable rights, that when you come here have money and a job to support yourself or someone who supports you, otherwise forget it.

A good government does not own, operate, control any business. A good government knows it cannot do its citizens' thinking, so do your own and learn how to understand, speak and write English. In fact, it might even get you a job.

I'm betting that our government will continue going backwards because although the fix might be in, it's not going to work. And in the long run, our government will have to change into what the Founders started but couldn't finish because they didn't have enough information and couldn't live long enough. Let's all learn to use reason to learn what has to be done.

Paul Gruchala
Westland

Let's warm up

Don't be hasty in reducing global warming. Ten degrees would improve comfort levels, save energy and keep our schools open. Temperatures increased one degree in the past century. If we keep doing what we have been doing for the next 1,000 years our descendants can adjust their whims. Perhaps we can even hurry it a little.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Sure losers

The State of Michigan is losing money on the lottery and wishes to sell it. That figures. And the state wishes to tax us more so that it can misuse more of our money.

Since the dawn of recorded history a lottery bank, any gambling bank has never been known to lose money. Only sheer ineptness would make it possible. History is being made.

George Haddad
Franklin

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
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E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"Times are hard enough. We've already had so many clients leave Michigan, it's not even funny. Families are uprooting and leaving to find jobs. I just hope this doesn't affect our clients and our business."

Stylist Jeannie Asimakis about the Governor's proposed 2-cent service tax.

WESTLAND
Observer

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

Leaders need to communicate better on state's money crisis

Gov. Jennifer Granholm summed up our situation perfectly in the first few lines of her State of the State speech: "Tonight we are at a turning point — a decisive moment in Michigan's journey. The decisions we make in the years ahead will shape Michigan's future for decades to come."

Nobody can quarrel with that. Though the governor was largely upbeat in her Feb. 6 speech, the facts on the ground are nothing short of scary.

The clearest and best outline of the real situation is sketched clearly in the authoritative report of her Emergency Financial Advisory Panel — a group that included two governors, two university presidents and some of the state's best leaders.

They produced a report that was inexplicably and scandalously downplayed by the major news media. Some of the findings:

■ **Fiscal crisis:** The school funding shortfall that must be resolved this month comes to \$377 million, \$224 per pupil.

By September, the state must plug a \$500 million deficit in the general fund. The state faces a potential shortfall of another \$2.6 billion for the 2007-08 fiscal year, assuming the Legislature does not find a way to replace tax revenue from the now repealed Single Business Tax. All that adds up to \$3.5 billion in state services and programs promised, but without money to pay for them.

■ **Economy:** Michigan has experienced six straight years of job losses, the longest since the Great Depression. We've lost 246,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000. That's one out of every four jobs that existed as recently as when Bill Clinton was president.

The state's per-capita income is now 5 percent below the national average, the lowest point since 1933. And in the latest index of economic momentum, Michigan is dead last among all the states.

■ **State revenues:** General fund revenue is today lower in absolute dollars than in 1996 and down 15.8 percent since the start of the economic downturn in 2000. During that same period, Michigan ran up cumulative budget shortfalls of nearly \$10 billion.

Since deficits are illegal, it avoided them by using up reserves (including \$1.4 billion in rainy day funds), tapping one-time resources (\$5.4 billion) and cutting more than \$3 billion in spending.

■ **Tax cuts:** Since the passage of Proposal A in 1994, Michigan has enacted tax cuts that have reduced current state revenue by \$3.2 billion per year, while local property taxes have been cut by \$5.4 billion. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan ranked 25th in the nation in state and local tax revenue in 2004 as a share of personal income. We've cut taxes since then, too.

We're facing a financial train wreck. So — what do we do? Ideologues and those in a

state of advanced denial claim cutting spending alone will do it.

That's pure nonsense. A \$3.5 billion deficit represents one in seven dollars in the general fund and the School Aid Fund combined. Cutting this much would eliminate funding for all our universities and community colleges and all mental health services. That, or it would take \$2,000 from per-pupil aid to public schools.

I've argued in the past that the state needs first to face the music and make serious, structural cuts in the way our government works and spends. We could cut the costs of our prisons by \$500 million to get in step with our neighboring states.

We could encourage, or even require, consolidation of some of the myriad expensive local government units. We could push, or even require, school districts to consolidate business office functions.

We could cut back on top-heavy health care and pension programs for public employees. We could repeal Public Act 312, which requires expensive binding arbitration in labor disputes for police and fire.

Then and only then does the state have legitimacy for changing our tax system, whether by extending the sales tax to services or making the income tax more graduated so the rich pay more.

Trouble is, not many people understand or care about how bad a fix we're in. Pollster Ed Sarpolus of EPIC/MRA says his surveys show most people have heard the state is financial trouble, but 38 percent said they have not felt any effect from the budget cuts already enacted, with another 22 percent saying they felt "only a little."

Sarpolus told Gongwer News Service, "Unless you tell how bad things are, how will people know things are so bad?"

Quite right. Our new legislative leaders, House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester Hills, are smart, interested in doing the right thing, aware of the depth of the problem. They should get together and take part in town hall meetings around the state to put the depth of our crisis in terms that Joe Six Pack can easily understand.

They should urge the governor to join them, as well. After all, who truly understands what the abstract number \$3.5 billion really means? Every Michigan citizen should have a chance to find out. For only if our citizens understand the facts will there be public pressure to find common ground to resolve our financial train wreck and lay the foundation for a better Michigan.

(The text of the Emergency Financial Advisory Panel's report is available at www.publicsectorconsultants.com.)

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed in his columns are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

LETTERS

Need to protect identity

You recently had a front page article ("Garden City police unravel national identity theft case") regarding 80 identity theft victims with a financial loss of approximately \$400,000 in fraudulent charges.

The February 2007 issue of *Consumer Reports* states that more than 97 million sensitive consumer records were subject to security breaches in the past two years and the consumers are in danger of becoming identity theft victims — am I, or you, one of them?

Twenty-one states now allow residents to block access to reports from the nation's credit bureaus — and Michigan is not one of them. A freeze on your credit reports would prevent anyone from using your Social Security number and other vital information to open accounts without your knowledge. They could not get new lines of credit or get new loans, or pose as you at hospitals, get driver's licenses.

The banking industries (credit card companies, etc.) argue that you could not get an immediate loan or credit card and that it would be a great inconvenience. That is not true — you can unfreeze your credit reports within minutes once you contact the credit bureaus (Equifax, TransUnion, Experian).

I wrote to my representative, John Pastor, in Lansing and he replied that there are two pieces of legislation — House Bill 5911 referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services and SB 833 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions. This correspondence was in September before the election and Mr. Pastor responded within a few days. I wrote to him again in November and have not yet received any response. These bills probably died in committee after the election, and I have no word whether they were reintroduced.

Please join me in insisting that we get the opportunity to freeze our credit before any identity theft occurs. Just being "careful" with your credit cards and Social Security card is no longer enough. Vital information on you is in many data banks and these are subject to theft and you will not be aware that your credit is being ruined and may take years to correct.

Ann Peterson
Livonia

Stem cell research needed

How unfortunate that Rep. McCotter voted against stem cell research. This research could help those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. It could also help many young soldiers returning home damaged in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Nancy Lightbody
Livonia

Column deceptive

Reading Mr. Rosenbaum's rather "rosy" and cleverly deceptive article (in the Feb. 4 *Observer*), which is more suitable as Israeli propaganda, I was left shaking my head in total shock and incredulity!

Unlike Mr. Rosenbaum, I travel to the Holy Land along with my children every summer to visit family in our ancestral village of Beit Hanina, which is located near Jerusalem. In fact, I happen to have been born in the Holy City of Jerusalem, which the vast majority of Palestinian Muslims and Christians are forbidden from entering.

The memories and experiences of our annual pilgrimage to Palestine that my children and I come away with, contrast rather starkly with the "warm and fuzzy" description that is painted by Mr. Rosenbaum.

While Mr. Rosenbaum was able to freely travel to Jerusalem and drive "straight through" the occupied, not "disputed" West Bank, he fails to mention that he was traveling on Jewish-only highways, which are forbidden to the Palestinians whose lands these apartheid thoroughfares cut through.

Also, the realities of the "Jewish villages" that he refers to are nothing more than illegally built Jewish-only colonies which were built on stolen Palestinian lands, serviced by an extensive highway system that is off-limits to the Palestinians, which is also the reason that Mr. Rosenbaum never encountered any of the more than 700 documented checkpoints and roadblocks that strangle the fabric of Palestinian society, whereby common everyday tasks that we take for granted here in America, such as going to school, seeing a doctor, or visiting loved ones, becomes an impossibly arduous task.

Next time Mr. Rosenbaum decides to visit the Holy Land, I hope he can break away from his Israeli handlers and see the cruel realities of Israel's nefarious occupation and oppression of the Palestinians. A simple visit to the village of my birth, Beit Hanina, which is bisected by a Jewish-only highway, a 30-foot-high Israeli-constructed concrete wall imprisoning its inhabitants, and three Jewish-only colonies built on lands which were stolen from my family and the rest of its inhabitants, would be a more accurate portrayal, even though there are many Palestinian villages that are in worse shape.

I find Mr. Rosenbaum's article to be nothing more than yet another attempt to shore up Israel's image by the pro-Israeli supporters designed to counter the damning indictment of Israel and her policies by former President Jimmy Carter in his latest book, *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid*.

Mike Odettala
Canton

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The Salvation Army exceeds \$7 million Red Kettle Campaign goal

The Salvation Army reported that its 2006 Red Kettle Christmas Campaign raised a record-breaking total of \$7,134,896, the highest amount ever raised in the annual Eastern Michigan Division drive. The 2006 Red Kettle Campaign ran from Nov. 17, 2006, to Jan. 31, 2007.

"We are immensely appreciative of the outpouring of support we received from metro Detroit this Red Kettle season," said Maj. Norman Marshall, divisional commander for The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan. "The astounding amount we were able to raise to assist those in need throughout our community is awe-inspiring. Metro Detroit has faced troubling times over the last few years - to see metro Detroiters step up to help those less fortunate is truly amazing. The Salvation Army

will be able to continue the programs that help those less fortunate and for that we would like to sincerely thank the community."

With Detroit ranked as the most impoverished major city in the nation, demand for The Salvation Army's services have risen more than 70 percent over the last three years, and even spread to suburban areas - where it was not as common in previous years.

Salvation Army officials are crediting the successful fundraising campaign to the Detroit community's superior generosity in times of great need and to initiatives developed by The Salvation Army to streamline operation costs and make donating simple including the online volunteer drive, online Red Kettles and Red Kettle Day.

"The Salvation Army does extraordinary work 365 days of

the year," said Ken Holland, Detroit Red Wings vice president/general manager and the honorary 2006 Red Kettle Campaign chairman. "Prior to serving as this year's honorary chairman I had no idea the scope of services they provide our community - feeding and sheltering the homeless, assisting teen mothers in parenting and continuing their education, rehabilitation services, utility and rent assistance. It is staggering to think of where we would be without the help of The Salvation Army. I am so proud the Detroit Red Wings were able to participate in this year's record-breaking campaign. We look forward to the opportunity to work with The Salvation Army in the future."

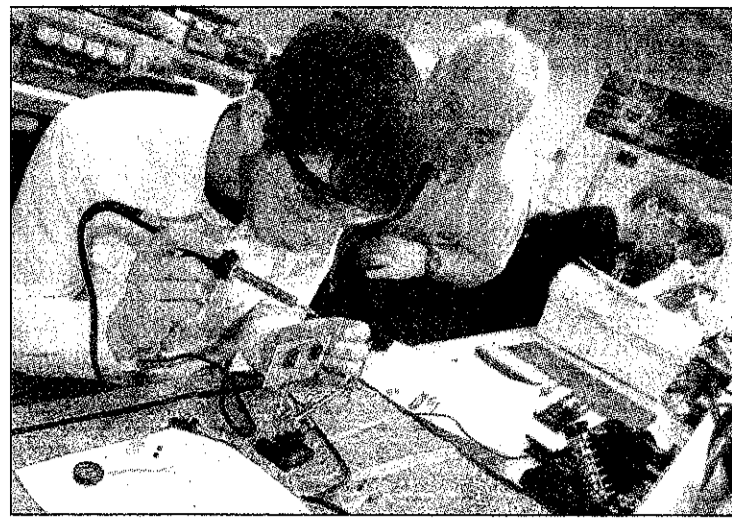
The 2005 Red Kettle Campaign raised \$6,767,905 and in 2004 brought in \$6,098,000.

The Salvation Army uses

\$.88 of every dollar raised during the Red Kettle season to provide an average of 12,800 direct services to people in need each day in metro Detroit.

Some of that outreach includes nightly shelter to 1,700 homeless men, women and children and the distribution of more than 7,000 meals daily. The Salvation Army also offers emergency homeless shelter and transitional housing; substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation; utility assistance; feeding programs; foster-care for abused children, runaways and wards of the court; residential programs for teen mothers and pregnant teens; athletic and academic programs; and dozens of other services and programs.

For more information about The Salvation Army's scope of services, call (877) SAL-MICH, or visit www.salmich.org.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

William D. Ford senior Tyler Hilyard works on his circuit board as William Schlick, chair of the Bio-Medical and General Electronics department at Schoolcraft College, during the Skills USA testing Friday morning.

Electronic students test skills for place in state competition

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland and the Breithaupt Career and Technical Center in Detroit competed Friday to advance in the Skills USA national contest in electronics.

The students took three separate tests, a one-hour written test, an hour test on assembling a circuit kit using soldering skills and an hour test designing and building an electric circuit.

Four top finishers in the electronics technology category and three top finishers in the electronic applications category advanced to compete in the state finals April 27-29 in Lansing. The winners in that contest will advance to the nationals in Kansas City, Mo., in June.

Top finishers in electronic technology were: first place, Arion Ketcherside of Ford; second place, Arthur Dillegas

of Ford; third place, Munhage Nyang of Breithaupt; and, fourth place, Tyler Hilyard of Ford.

In the electronics applications category, all finalists were from the Ford Career Technical Center. Winners were, first place, Stephen Howell; second place, Brian Cumming; and, third place, Richard Brown.

"What we're trying to do is take students from throughout metro Detroit and have them focus on high-tech jobs," said William Schlick, chairman of biotech electronics and general electronics at Schoolcraft College, and one of the judges for the contest.

He said holding the contest at Schoolcraft was not intended to recruit students, but to help them focus on careers in electronics, especially as they relate to biotechnology.

Schoolcraft is currently in the middle of building a new state-of-the-art biotechnology center adjacent to its applied science building, where the competition was held.

Biotechnology classes prepare students to work on the high-tech equipment used in modern hospitals and clinics.

Schlick said next year Schoolcraft will also participate in a Skills USA program for community colleges, competing against other regional community colleges.

Zacahary MacLean, who teaches electronics technology at the Ford Center, said he was thankful to Schoolcraft for providing its electronics lab as a neutral site for the competition.

MacLean said the national Skills USA competition, which features numerous competitions in many skilled areas, attracts 4,000 to 6,000 competitors a year from all 50 states.

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Biomed building will give Schoolcraft a high-tech edge

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Community college is "the place you want to be" if you're just starting a career in education, according to Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress.

"If you had to pick and choose, and were just walking into a career, you couldn't pick a better one than the community college side of the business to be in," Jeffress said in an interview Tuesday. "It has the most potential growth in education and the largest potential for social impact."

It is community colleges that will be providing a lion's share of the new, technologically savvy workforce in the years to come.

Schoolcraft is currently in the midst of constructing a major new facility to address those technological needs. A new Biomedical Technology Center is rising on the campus on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia.

STEM AND GRIN

When the building opens in fall 2008, it will provide a state of art facility for STEM and GRIN, acronyms for the science center curricula that will be offered. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. GRIN stands for genetics, robotics, information and nanotechnology.

Jeffress said the new facility is being designed to meet two needs. One is a burgeoning enrollment, about 33,616 this year, with 17,832 credit students. The other is a new emphasis on career education that emerged from the Cherry Commission, a state commission on higher education chaired by Lt. Gov. John Cherry. Jeffress served on the commission.



Jeffress

"They were pushing the notion of aligning the colleges and universities of the state with those areas of high employment and they are all in this STEM and GRIN area," Jeffress said.

The 48,000-square-foot facility was designed by DSA Architects of Berkley. At a cost of \$12.5 million, the center will have 16 classrooms, four laboratories, small group gathering spaces and faculty offices. It will have labs for biomedical technology, physics/engineering and cellular and molecular biology. The center will also feature the latest in energy conservation.

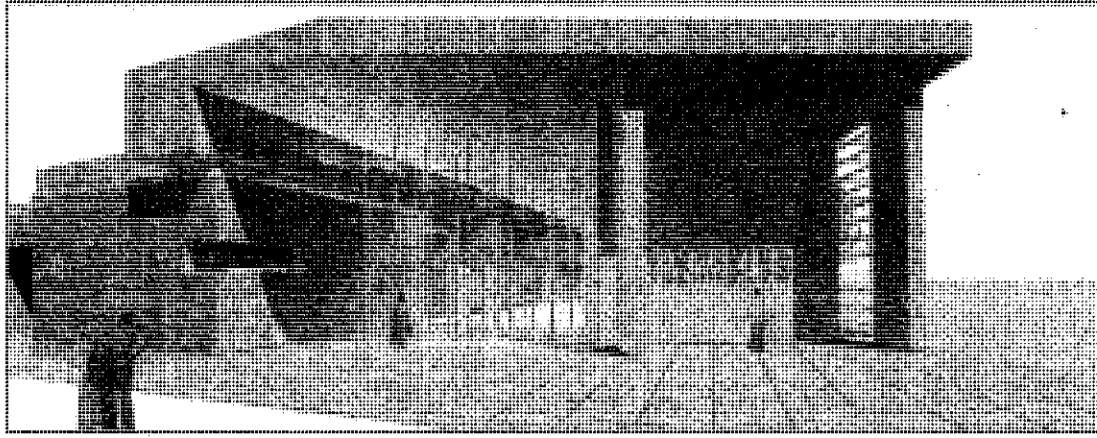
The building's name suggests the importance being placed on medical education. The new building is adjacent to the applied sciences building which recently installed a new nursing laboratory.

"In the state there are major shortages in nursing, major shortages in a lot of the health care areas, and this is where the community colleges have a major advantage," Jeffress said.

Enlarging the school's nursing program is another part of this emphasis on biomedical technology. The school currently has 180 students in the associate nursing program and 30 students in the one-year practical nursing program.

Last year, Jeffress proposed asking the Legislature for approval to offer a bachelor of science in nursing degree at Schoolcraft. He said the Michigan Community College Association has gone on record supporting the idea that community colleges could offer a B.S.N.

"It's not a full baccalaureate program, as you would see at



The Biomedical Technology building, designed by DSA Architects, will provide classroom space for math, science and health classes.



Work began last fall on Schoolcraft's new Biomedical Technology Center. Construction crews are now putting walls in place. The \$12.5 million building is scheduled to open in fall 2008.

four-year institution, just the B.S.N., because that's where we see ourselves able to move to that area," he said. "We don't have a whole lot of work to do to make that possible."

The biomedical building will ease some of the pressures caused by the boom in enrollment, but Jeffress said it has another important purpose.

SERIOUS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

"It tells the rest of the world that you're now in this business and you're in it in a serious way," he said. "You've got bricks and mortar in place, you've done the kind of things that change not just the curriculum but how you teach the curriculum. It's not just the square footage but the particular kind of square footage you have."

He said the building will allow Schoolcraft to offer new programs in nursing and medical technology as more and more duties formerly done by technicians and high-tech machines.

Schoolcraft's last major building project was the expansion of the Waterman Center into the VisTaTech center, which includes a computer

center and meeting space for businesses and the school's acclaimed culinary arts program.

Jeffress said VisTaTech has been a good source of revenue though it hasn't fully realized in potential, partly because of the area's weak economy.

"One of the things we had in mind was much greater use of that facility by companies and corporations, where we were going to be involved in the training of their employees or helping them develop some new training capacity," he said. "With the slowdown of the economy, that aspect of the business has slowed down. You still have a lot of companies coming to use the facility, but they are treating it more as a nice place to meet."

He said the building has become a "nice icon" for the campus.

GOVERNOR'S PUSH

Community colleges continue to be a major part of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's economic recovery plan. In her State of the State address, she proposed a No Worker Left Behind program that would provide a community college education for displaced workers for a limited three-year period.

"It's a good, bold move in two respects," Jeffress said. "One, it has a time limit. It tells everyone up front this will be over at some time. Two, it puts a carrot out for those still young enough to consider another career."

The governor's budget proposal calls for a 2.5 percent increase in funding for community colleges. It would allot \$11,678,200 to Schoolcraft. The budget also includes a plan to decrease the escalating cost of retirement for community colleges, in exchange for reduced appropriations.

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WORKPLACE SURVIVAL: A COMPLETE GUIDE

WORKPLACE SLOTH

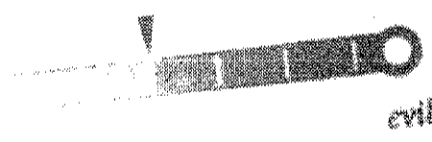


How to identify: Moving with glacial slowness. The Workplace Sloth can be found resting among mounds of unfinished work, chewing on deadlines. However, when the clock strikes five o'clock, The Workplace Sloth moves with blinding speed toward the exit.

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