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Opinion, Page A7

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SUNDAY
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City organizes cleanup day for Norwayne

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

It's billed as the largest neighborhood cleanup ever in Westland's Norwayne subdivision, where residents all too often have had to endure demeaning insults about the place they call home.

On the heels of some housing renovations that have made a tangible difference, Mayor William Wild has unveiled a massive cleanup 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, throughout Norwayne, bounded by Wildwood, Merriman, Palmer and Glenwood.

"We are starting to make tremendous progress in this neighborhood, and it is the result of a col-

laborative effort," Wild said in a prepared statement. "This day demonstrates what is possible when the city and the community work together."

The cleanup will give Norwayne residents a chance to get rid of trash and debris, furniture and even appliances.

Public Service Director Kevin Buford said 30 dumpsters will be placed around the neighborhood.

"They will be within a short walking distance of almost every home in Norwayne," he said.

The city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, also will be making rounds through the neighborhood with five trash-packing trucks from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Buford said.

"They will be continually running through the

neighborhood all day," he said.

As many as 20 city workers plan to be involved in the cleanup, and Buford said front-end and back-end loaders will be brought in for the effort.

The city will set up three staging areas where residents can go for help, whether they need assistance moving an appliance or merely want to pick up garbage bags, Buford said. The main staging area will be at the Dorsey Center, on Dorsey east of Venoy, with secondary staging areas at Jefferson-Barns Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School, he said.

The Norwayne neighborhood includes many low- to moderate-income households, including many duplexes and so-called quads, or four-residence buildings.

Some investors have renovated such homes and in some cases have replaced them with single-family residences.

The neighborhood was built by the government during World War II to house wartime workers employed in such places as the Willow Run Bomber Plant, said Westland historian Jo Johnson. After the war, she said, many returning soldiers bought the homes.

Residents who have additional questions about the cleanup are urged to call (734) 728-1770. Residents who would like their neighborhood considered for future cleanup projects also are encouraged to call.

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



Fallon Sanders of Romulus, an expectant mother of twins, looks through her bag of baby gifts during the baby shower for women who gathered at The Salvation Army.



Shauntae Lately of Highland Park picks out a bag of baby goodies during a baby shower sponsored by a local volunteer organization, Warm Hearts.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warm Hearts 'showers' mom with needed items

A group of thankful women — some with new babies and some still expecting — got some much-needed help with diapers, strollers, high chairs, playpens and other items they need as mothers.

The women attended a recent baby shower sponsored by a local volunteer

organization, Warm Hearts, which received help from The Salvation Army, the Westland Community Foundation and Wayne County, among other helpers and donors.

The event was held for a second year at the Westland-based Salvation Army.

"It was even better than last year," Warm Hearts Director Carol Sharp said.

In all, the shower helped 32 women. Sharp said many of the mothers or mothers-to-be wrote thank you notes in appreciation for the help they received.

Seniors test skills in spelling bee

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

To bee or not to bee. That is the Q-U-E-S-T-I-O-N. Decades after they attended school, Wayne County senior citizens are being urged to brush up on their vocabulary skills and prepare for a Westland-based spelling bee.

Seniors also will unscramble letters to form words during an event scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Westland will host the first in a series of senior word games.

"We want to keep the seniors active by getting them involved in more activities," said Jakleen Ochalek, assistant to Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Real judges will be brought in to oversee the spelling activities.

"A panel of judges will give them a word to spell and a definition, or they can choose to unscramble a word in a certain period of time," said Peggy Ellenwood, Friendship Center director.

There's no admission fee for the event, and spectators who don't want to spell or form words may attend just to watch or cheer on their friends.

One caveat: H-U-R-R-Y. The event will be open to the first 100 people who register. Stop by the Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7628 to sign up.

The word games will include a lunch, gifts, prizes and raffles, Ellenwood said.

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Wild: Administration is putting residents first

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Mayor William Wild has produced a long list of accomplishments his administration has made during his year as the city's appointed mayor.

He has been publicly open about efforts to address Central City Park's contamination, and he proposed a grass-cutting ordinance for vacant and foreclosed properties.

Wild maintained a \$2 million budget surplus while working to improve services, such as expanding the city's recycling drop-off center, proposing



Wild

an October crackdown on illegally parked semitrailers, and forcing his directors to respond quickly — and professionally — to citizen complaints.

His supporters note that he has appointed African-Americans

to some key positions, such as deputy mayor and public service director — an effort that has made his admin-

Please see **WILD, A3**



MAYOR

Voters will choose between appointed Mayor William Wild and challenger Charles Pickering, Westland City Council president. The winner will serve the remaining two years of the unexpired term of former mayor Sandra Cicirelli. The job pays \$95,974 a year.

Pickering: His experience is needed in tough times

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER



Pickering

Westland mayoral candidate Charles Pickering has unveiled a campaign platform to hire two new police officers and a blight-fighting ordinance officer, and he pledged to pay for the positions by reducing the number of city administrators.

Pickering also vowed to lead the charge for significant reductions in local property assessments by calling for a one-year analysis. He said the move could boost home sales and ease foreclosures by reining in property taxes that usually spike when houses are sold.

Pickering, former mayor in 1982-85 and a 16-year Westland City Council member, has made "experience is everything" his campaign slogan as he challenges appointed Mayor William Wild in the Nov. 6 election. The winner will serve two years and finish the unexpired term of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, now a district judge. The job pays \$95,974 a year.

Please see **PICKERING, A3**

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INDEX

APARTMENTS	E3
AUTOMOTIVE	F2
CLASSIFIED	D1-F4
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	E3
HEALTH	C8
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
JOBS	D2
NEW HOMES	E1
OBITUARIES	C4
OPINION	A9
REAL ESTATE	D4
SPORTS	B1

Coming Thursday
in **Filter**

This one's for The Birds and beyond. Read Thursday's Filter with a preview of the DSO Pops season. It kicks off with a musical, visual tribute to the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock.

WILD

FROM PAGE A1

istration more representative of the diverse city it serves.

Wild's philosophy has been simple. Work hard for the residents, and they will take notice.

His philosophy helped him garner 77.8 percent of vote totals compared to 18.4 percent for second-place finisher and mayoral challenger Charles Pickering in the August primary.

Wild, 39, hopes to score another victory as he and Pickering face off in the Nov. 6 general election. The winner will serve the remaining two years of the unexpired term of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, now a district judge. The job pays \$95,974 a year.

Wild, owner of a used vehicle parts business in Wayne, was appointed as mayor in January in a vote by his then-council colleagues. He has managed

to win political support from a broad spectrum of residents, many of them long considered at political odds.

"We've gone back to putting citizens first," Wild said during an interview.

He described himself as having a strong work ethic with a proactive approach. He already has talked with alternative trash haulers that could step in within 30 days, if the current company, Midwest Sanitation, fails to emerge from a reorganization in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. That said, he has been given assurances that Midwest expects to continue doing its job.

Wild strongly supports a curbside recycling program, but he said officials may need to give Midwest time to deal with its troubled finances before pushing such a plan, because "we want it to succeed." He also said the city might be able to combine recycling resources with other

communities.

In the meantime, his administration has pushed efforts to expand what is accepted at the recycling drop-off center on Marquette east of Newburgh.

Amid a state financial crisis, Wild said Westland likely could withstand another round of potential cuts in state-shared revenue, although any loss of funding could weaken the \$2 million budget surplus. The city is, however, expecting to realize savings in several areas, such as handling a rental-inspection ordinance in-house rather than using an outside contractor.

If deep funding losses force local budget cuts, Wild said he would fight diligently to protect police and fire services while looking for savings in non-essential programs. He also said he would look beyond city limits to determine if there are additional services — and costs — that Westland could share with communities like

Livonia, Canton and Dearborn.

Westland already shares some services with other cities, such as an emergency dispatch program with Inkster.

After he took office, Wild ordered his administrative staff to adhere to new professional rules and to get on board with what he called his Very Important Resident program. He told his departments to report complaints to his office.

He also has worked with the city's Downtown Development Authority and the Westland Chamber of Commerce in an effort to move forward with economic growth.

In his first major action as mayor, Wild ordered Central City Park fenced off until the contamination issue can be addressed with a cleanup plan. He hopes to have new information as early as October that could help move the project forward.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The one-acre parcel next to Walker-Winter Elementary, which the district bought for \$225,000, includes an old house and garage.

Land purchase lets school 'grow'

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Walker-Winter Elementary School will be getting more curb appeal with the purchase of a one-acre parcel on the southeast corner of the school property.

The Wayne-Westland school board has approved spending \$225,000 to buy the parcel which includes a house and garage.

"The location on Michigan Avenue will benefit the school," said board secretary Martha Pitsenbarger who pointed out that the board's facilities and sites committee had extensive discussion about the parcel. "It'll make the school more safe and give it more curb appeal."

Walker-Winter sits on more than 11 acres on the north side of Michigan Avenue west of Hannan in Canton Township. The land purchase would square up the school site and give it more frontage on the thoroughfare, according to Gary Martin, deputy superin-

tendent for business and administrative services.

Martin said the district will undertake an environmental assessment of the property as part of the conditions for buying it. The study will determine if the quality and condition of the land makes it suitable for use as an elementary school property.

"We don't expect any surprises," he said, adding that "our intent is to take down the house and garage and turn it into a green zone."

According to Martin, the district has talked about the purchase for a number of years and even set aside money in the building in site fund.

A fair market study of the property also was done as well as an investigation of tax assessment records, he said.

"I think it's a fair price," he added. "For a business standpoint, what's not to like about this site."

smason@hometownlife.com
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PICKERING

FROM PAGE A1

reduce his administrative staff, place two new community police officers on the street and hire a new ordinance officer to combat blight conditions that have fueled complaints by residents. He declined to say what positions he might cut.

In addition to ensuring fair property assessments, he vowed to fight spiraling foreclosures partly by organizing homeowner workshops led by nonprofit organizations, state officials and mortgage industry experts.

"We need to help these people," he said, referring to residents who face foreclosures because they can't sell their homes.

Touting 36 years of community involvement, Pickering said during an interview that he would avoid the political conflict that dogged his former term as mayor. He often clashed with then-council members, but he said his ser-

viced as an elected official has survived and strengthened.

"I have learned from the conflict and the differences of opinion we had at that time," he said.

Even during a sometimes-tumultuous mayoral term, Pickering said he managed to lead the city from deficit spending to a \$1.6 million budget surplus, and he said those skills are needed amid the financial crisis facing Michigan and its communities.

"We got through that crisis, and that's what we have to do now," he vowed, saying at another point that, "I believe in my community."

With the city's trash hauler, Midwest Sanitation, embroiled in a reorganization in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Pickering said he is hopeful for a solution. However, if the company folds, he said city officials would need to contact earlier-rejected, higher-bidding companies to try to negotiate a new contract, perhaps on an emergency basis.

Even so, Pickering stood by

his earlier claims that the city could have afforded to return a portion of the trash-disposal tax to residents — a proposal that placed him at odds with most of his council colleagues.

Pickering held out hope for a curbside recycling program, possibly by next spring or summer, and he said such a contract could potentially be separate from any trash-hauling agreement. He said such a plan would need to clearly define what services are expected, and he also suggested that Westland might be able to form a partnership with other communities.

When asked how the city could cope with any additional cuts in state-shared revenues, Pickering said he would start by calling for pay freezes in negotiations with fire and police unions. He said the city should try to protect its \$2 million budget surplus, which he has repeatedly called a "soft fund balance."

If financial problems force budget cuts, Pickering said as mayor he would support trim-

ming nonessential services while protecting three key departments — police, fire and public services. He also said the city could possibly save some money by combining services, such as curbside recycling and some parks/recreation programs, with other communities.

Pickering also suggested that the city should try to push for a quicker resolution to cleaning up the contaminated Central City Park, which contains lead and other materials. He said the county should pay the tab since it owns the park and leases it to the city.

"I think the county owes it to us," he said.

Pickering said he believes he can gain the ground he needs to defeat Wild, even though he trailed by a 4-to-1 vote margin in the August primary election. Pickering said the primary had a low voter turnout, and he said he has run a solid, hard-working campaign since then to reach voters.

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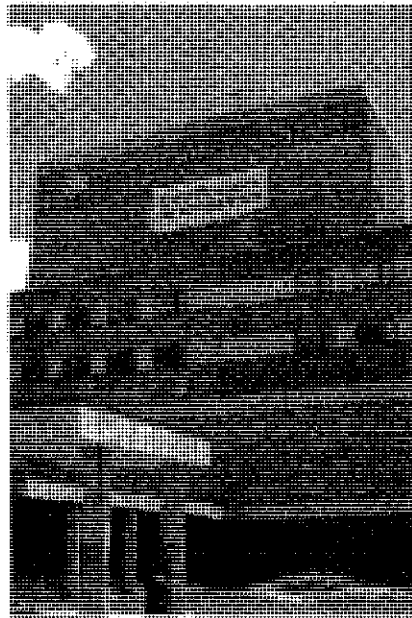
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Wish You Were Here

Kay Hahn of Garden City and grandsons Andrew and Tyler pose with her Garden City Observer while vacationing at San Carlos Beach in Monterey, Calif., in July. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Garden City Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Be sure to include your name and information about where your photograph was taken.

Senior Alliance hosts 4th annual Smile Day

On Saturday, Nov. 3, dozens of volunteers will be needed to help rake leaves and manicure yards for the fourth annual Make a Senior Smile Day.

The event launches the Wayne County-funded Chore Services Program. Both the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and The Senior Alliance act as program facilitators who partner together to organize this great event and the ongoing services throughout the year.

"Our mission serves to enable disabled adults and senior citizens to function as independently as possible within their home and community," said Bob Brown, The Senior Alliance director. "The Wayne County Chore Program assists in doing just that by providing home maintenance services for little or no costs to many seniors throughout our service area."

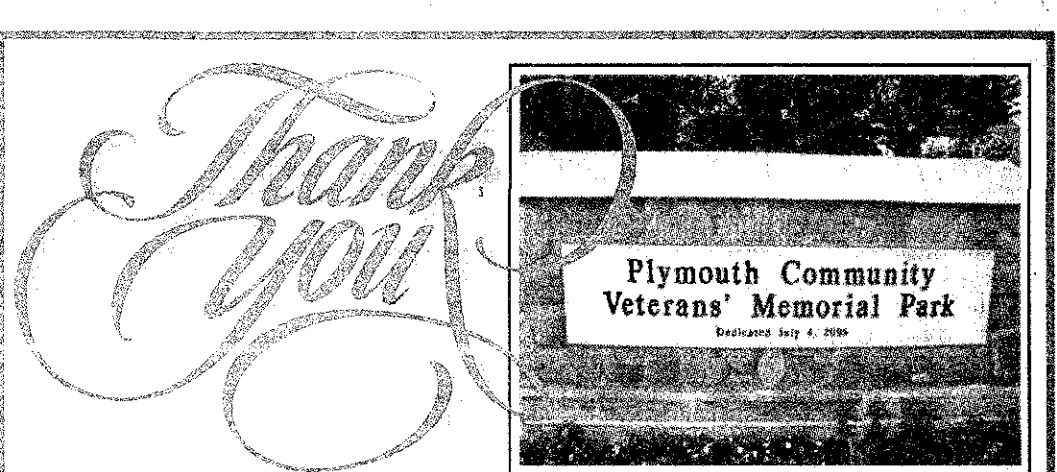
"Make a Senior Smile Day is just another wonderful way to serve the community and help launch this fantastic program."

Make a Senior Smile Day volunteers will assist in leaf raking, and general yard cleanup services between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

All volunteers will receive breakfast, lunch, and smiles from appreciative seniors throughout the community.

For more information, or to volunteer with TSA for the Make a Senior Smile Day, call Jaclyn Kochis at The Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2060.

The Senior Alliance is a private non-profit agency that was established in the 1980, and designated by the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging to operate as the Area Agency on Aging for the 34 suburban communities in southern and western Wayne County. Its mission to coordinate a comprehensive network of services to enable older persons to function as independently as possible in the community environment which best suits their needs.



The Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park Committee wishes to thank the Plymouth community for your support of the Veterans Park. We especially want to thank each and every one of you who purchased either an engraved gray Veterans paver or an engraved red commemorative paver. Pavers are now being installed twice yearly; in the Spring before Memorial Day (end of May) and in the Fall before Veterans Day (November 11). It takes about 45 days to process and produce engraved pavers. To guarantee that your paver will be installed at one of those times, it is necessary that your order for a paver be received at least 60 days prior to an installation date.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The city provided the park land but the establishment of the park was done solely with private contributions. Ordinary park maintenance is done by the city as is done for all other city parks. Your help is still needed to sustain and maintain the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park. Through the engraved paver program we hope to raise additional funds to make additional improvements in the park such as replacing the badly deteriorating stone wall in the rear of the park and other future needs as they arise. To do this we want to establish a perpetual maintenance fund that will guarantee a pristine park into the future. Order forms may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.plymouthlibrary.org/pcvmpc> or you can pick up an order form at Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth Historical Museum and many businesses around town or in the park itself. This is a wonderful holiday gift for your beloved veteran. Remember, your purchase is tax deductible.

Our hope is that you see this park as a focus of community pride.

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"In teaching others, you learn a lot about yourself."

As a retired science teacher, I was drawn to the wetlands and beautiful nature trails that surround Oakwood Common. Little did I know how much I would come to love other aspects of living here, particularly the many volunteer programs they offer. Recently, I was able to use my skills and teach local 4th and 5th graders about the wetlands. Turns out, they taught me a few things, like the fact that you don't stop learning when you grow old, you grow old when you stop learning.

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Investors should keep an eye to long-term goals in volatile market

I was just about ready to jump back into the market and then all of a sudden the market shot up. Should I wait?

I wish I knew what was going to happen with the market over the short run, but I don't. The market is volatile and irrational in the short run. My general view is if your goals are long term then it makes sense to jump in. After all, there is just as good a chance it goes up over the next few months as it goes down. Investors should never attempt to time the market. They should make decisions based on goals and objectives.

We live in a world where everything changes constantly. Two months ago, the Dow broke through the 14,000 mark for the first time in history. Everyone was excited about the market and the economy. In fact, many pundits were discussing when the market would hit 15,000. A month later, the Dow fell below 13,000. At that point in

time, TV commentators were talking doom and gloom and the conversation was not how high the Dow would go but how low it would go.

The results unfortunately were that many investors bailed out of the market. Now, here we are a month later and the Dow has gained nearly 1,000 points and once again near all-time highs.

Investors will drive themselves crazy by trying to time when to buy and sell. It's better to spend time making the proper allocation in your portfolio.

I've been to a couple of your library speeches and enjoy your straightforward approach to investing. I was at a talk by another financial adviser and when your name came up he was not happy. He said that you must get paid by no-load mutual fund companies to promote their funds. Do you?

No. I have never received any sort of compensation for any investment that I recommend whether it is on my radio show, column or in my office.

A lot of financial advisers, or as I prefer to call them financial salespeople, don't like me because I tell investors to be aware of fees and costs.

For as long as I have had the privilege of doing my radio show and writing my columns, I have had to put up with people who are not happy with my message.

As I have stated many times in the past and I'll confirm it once again here, I receive no compensation whatsoever from any mutual fund family or mutual fund association.

There are three types of financial advisers — commission-only, fee-only and those that charge both commissions and fees. I am a fee-only financial adviser which means my sole compensation comes directly from my clients. Whether my firm consults on investments, or actually manages the client's portfolio, we receive no compensation whatsoever other than directly from our clients.

I have chosen this path because I believe it does not create a conflict of interest.

A financial adviser who charges commissions makes his/her compensation from buying and selling securities and in many cases also receives what is known as trailers.

Trailers are typically paid by mutual fund companies or variable annuities to

the adviser for as long as an investor maintains that investment. So, if you buy a variable annuity, year after year money from your account in the form of higher fees is paid to the salesperson.

I believe commissions create a conflict of interest because you don't know if the salesperson is working for your interest or for their own. In addition, when the company offers sales incentives such as free trips to sell certain products it creates additional conflicts.

That said, the best commission salespeople I know never worry about commission, they worry about taking care of their clients. Unfortunately, too many commission-based salespeople only look at what ends up in their pocket.

I always have and always will work only on a fee-only basis. I want it clear that my loyalty is not to the underlying investment but to the client.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

it makes sense to jump in. After all, there is just as good a chance it goes up over the next few months as it goes down. Investors should never attempt to time the market. They should make decisions based on goals and objectives.

Lawyer Fieger the latest 'Dining With Stars' guest

The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Southfield attorney Geoffrey Fieger.

Fieger is one of the most successful and controversial trial attorneys in the country.

According to his Web site, Fieger has won more multi-million-dollar awards than any other attorney in the country. A few of his most well-known trials include the defense of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the Jenny Jones Show trial, and the defense of Nathaniel Abraham, the youngest person ever tried for murder as an adult in the state of Michigan.



Fieger

Fieger has won record awards in Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and Indiana, and many of his trials have generated national attention and set legal precedents.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you'd like to have lunch or dinner with Geoffrey Fieger at Buddy's Pizza. Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15.

A photograph of you and Fieger will be published in the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers and online at www.hometownlife.com.

"We want our winners to dine with their favorite stars and feel like a star, too," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of All Class Transportation & Limousine Services; a makeover from Beauty Salon by J.Lyle Ltd. featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick; a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver

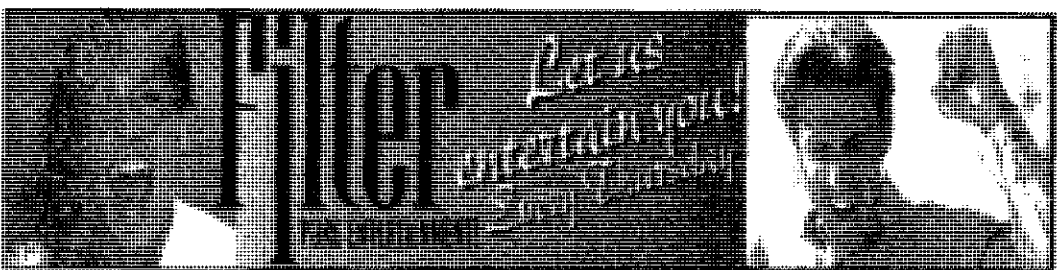
Diamond Co. in Southfield; and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming "Dining With the Stars" will feature Florine Mark of Weight Watchers, health and fitness guru and O&E columnist Peter Nielsen, Ruth Spencer of WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" and Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters.

The stars featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

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Career path takes local volunteer to Peace Corps

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

When Dave Hannon graduated last spring from Michigan State University's James Madison College with a degree in international relations, he didn't know where his career path would lead him.

However, the Salem High School graduate did know one thing. "I was not ready to get a job and work 9-5," said Hannon, 21.

The other option — which he chose — was the Peace Corps, where he's currently training as a community development volunteer in Kazakhstan, the second-largest republic in the former Soviet Union.

"I dig the Peace Corps, it's a good thing to do," said Hannon before leaving Aug. 19 for his 27-month tour of duty. "It seemed like a good thing to do, go abroad while I'm young and give back by helping out."

Kazakhstan might not be the first choice of many volunteers, and it certainly wasn't Hannon's.

"My first option was the Pacific Islands," said Hannon. "I figured I'd spend two years in Fiji, but that didn't happen."

"They came back and offered me six options, so I chose Eastern Europe," he said.

Armed with information that most of the Peace Corps volunteers in Eastern Europe went to Romania, Hannon wrote his senior project on Romania "to get me prepared."

Apparently the Peace Corps had a different idea of what constitutes Eastern Europe.

"I found out the Peace Corps kind of puts together Eastern Europe and Central Asia," Hannon said.

"Kazakhstan is loosely Eastern Europe."

"I called back to ask if Fiji was an option," he said.

"I would have had to wait another full year, and I didn't have any job prospects, so I'm shipping out."

Hannon is living with a host family in a two-bedroom apartment for the first three months of his stay, learning the country's language and culture, and living in a manner similar to people in Kazakhstan. In his blog, Hannon described the first few days with his new family.

"The first day all I heard was 'jea' = EAT and 'ish' = DRINK! And all day long that's all I did," wrote Hannon. "The rest of the time I spent using the few words I knew which were awesome, 'yes' and 'thanks' which might have been part of the reason I was roped into drinking distilled goat milk. Other than that, I have no complaints as far as food goes. It is abundant and delicious."

Hannon's mother, Jean, said the Peace Corps is a great opportunity for her son.

"I think he'll learn to understand different cultures, and help in ways that are needed and useful," Jean Hannon said. "He's off to do good things in the world, and I'm extremely proud of him."

After three months with his host family, Dave Hannon will once again be on the move, and no closer to Fiji.

"I could get placed to the north in Siberia, or to the south, which is like a desert," he said.

Dave Hannon's blog can be accessed at www.davehannon.blogspot.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Hannon

NOTES FROM KAZAKHSTAN

Some excerpts from the blog of Dave Hannon, who is staying with a host family in Kazakhstan:

- "My mama is pretty much the archetypal little old grandmother. Our relationship consists of her trying to fatten me up, be more careful when I go out at night, cut my hair, practice my language skills and me playing cards with her and learning flattering phrases in Kazakh for her."
- (Talgar) is a city of about 30,000 set in the southern mountains outside the old soviet capital Almaty. It is a beautiful and interesting place. The people are very very friendly and all pretty much know who we are now and say hello and ask us questions in the street, for both their curiosity and the amusement of us saying the same things over and over."
- "We went down to shoot (basketball) around and there were a bunch of kids messing around so we joined them and were having fun and decided to start a game - this was when the old man with the whistle came out and started yelling at us in Russian (which no one understands so he yells louder and faster)."

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OUR VIEWS

Weak leadership creates crisis

German chancellor Otto von Bismarck famously observed, "The less people know about how sausages and laws are made, the better they will sleep at night."

The spectacle we've been watching in Lansing has been especially ugly and no one has been sleeping very well.

By the time you read this editorial, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and House Speaker Andy Dillon may have reached a compromise or they may still be bickering on their way toward tonight's midnight budget deadline and a possible partial shutdown of state government operations.

No matter what happens, we have been witness to a display of dangerously partisan, weak and misguided leadership on both sides of the aisle. Just as last year's budget became a political football in the gubernatorial election, this year's budget discussions have been mired in rigid political ideology, special interests and political games playing.

While no one welcomes a tax increase, it has been clear from the beginning that the state could not meet its constitutional mandate to balance the budget without some kind of tax increase. It has also been clear that the state is not prepared to operate at past levels and that programs need to be severely cut. More important, state operations need to be reformed to avoid this annual crisis.

No matter what happens, we have been witness to a display of dangerously partisan, weak and misguided leadership on both sides of the aisle.

Republicans vowed that they could balance the budget on cuts alone and prepared a budget that penalized the most vulnerable residents of the state, provided no increase in school funding and weakened state programs designed to bring business to the state.

The governor and Democrats haven't been willing to alienate some of their base to make the hard choices on cuts, on effectively dealing with escalating health care and pension costs and on reining in cost overruns on state projects.

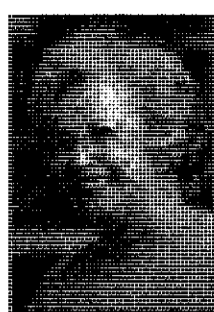
When the House had an opportunity to move forward on a tax bill, the speaker allowed members in vulnerable districts to take a pass. This only stalled the process from moving forward to a joint conference with the Republican-controlled Senate and weakened the party's position on taxes.

The governor makes passionate public statements, but seems unable to work behind the scenes to effect the kind of win-win compromise that separates great leaders from time servers.

Dillon and Bishop seemed to offer promise of being bright, young leaders who could work together for the good of the state.

All three have failed us.

What is your favorite aspect of fall?



'The color. I'm an artist, why wouldn't it be?'

Sylvia Clark Redford



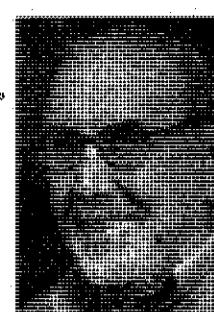
'Taking the grandchildren and my daughter to an apple orchard and picking the apples.'

John Mrozik Flushing



'The colors. (To enjoy them) we go for rides and go to cider mills.'

Sharon Rosenberg Brighton



'The brisk air is my favorite part.'

Bob Rosenberg Brighton

COMMUNITY CORNER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State shutdown

Any time we can get government out of our lives for a few minutes should be cause for celebration.

All I hear is wailing and moaning, "Woe is us, the State Government is abandoning us and closing for awhile so I can't buy lottery tickets or go to the casino."

Any big government tax-and-spend governor will close the most visible, popular necessary services to force a tax increase as a punitive whip. We can roll with it and instead enjoy the time from a State Government that can do us no harm because it is closed!

C'mon, let's be POSITIVE about this and have a State Government Closed Celebration! Maybe then people will realize how little Granholm is actually doing.

Joe Wrobel Westland

We live in a republic

After reading a doctor's opinion in last Sunday's paper, I am writing to clarify that we live in a Constitutionally Limited Republic, not a democracy.

During this election cycle, several other people have erroneously made this statement. Please take time to study our form of government. The idea that we are a democracy was rooted during the Wilson Administration, when he sent Americans into a bloody war in Europe "to make the world safe for democracy." He also hoodwinked Americans into involuntary servitude by creating the draft.

Mike Marihugh Livonia

Can we think for ourselves?

Having read the political-

ly themed letters that have graced this page in recent weeks, it appears to me that many of the writers are utterly incapable of thinking for themselves. In place of logic and reason, they parrot what they see and hear from biased political "documentaries" (I use that term loosely), partisan hack Web sites, and crackpot conspiracy theories about 9/11. Which, by the way, have been repeatedly and thoroughly debunked - by competent and reputable sources.

I know there are many liberals who are intelligent and reasonable people, but after reading these letters I can see how someone might conclude otherwise. Is that really the best they have to offer? Haven't they learned not to believe everything they hear?

In all seriousness, I fear that a great many people on both sides of the political divide have lost the

ability and desire to think for themselves. They have abdicated their responsibility as citizens and allowed political discourse in this country to become poisoned beyond redemption. As a result, all of us have become easy prey for the craven and corrupt politicians who have siphoned our liberty, plundered our wealth, and may yet bring this nation to ruin. Heaven help us all.

Eric Syverson Redford

One smart vote

This is an open letter to ALL politicians: I want to send accolades to the lone Republican to vote with the Democrats on the state budget. It shows his commitment to the people of Michigan.

Let's get the budget passed!

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SPORTS

B (LW)

Sunday, September 30, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemons@hometownlife.com

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Spartans take rival Churchill to school, 37-3

Overflow crowd watches Stevenson romp

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Stevenson's highly acclaimed offense was good again as advertised.

But it was the defense that set the tone Friday night as the Spartans rolled to a 37-3 win over host Churchill in a battle of unbeaten before arguably the largest crowd ever to witness a high school football game in Livonia.

Stevenson's performance was dominant on both sides of the ball. The Spartans held Churchill to 106 total yards and picked off four passes, a pair each by defensive backs Mark Grisa and Pat York.

"Mark Grisa had a phenomenal game," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "He's been a pleasant surprise for us this year, and he's a very confident kid."

"Pat York is our free safety, a captain who calls all our signals. He hosts the defense at his house every week for the (video) tape, and he always seems to know where the ball is going ... I think."

Stevenson senior quarterback Mitchell White threw only a total of seven passes, but completed five for 128 yards and two touchdowns. The Spartans, who clinched the outright Lakes Division title, added 230 yards on the ground in 45 attempts against a respectable Churchill defense.

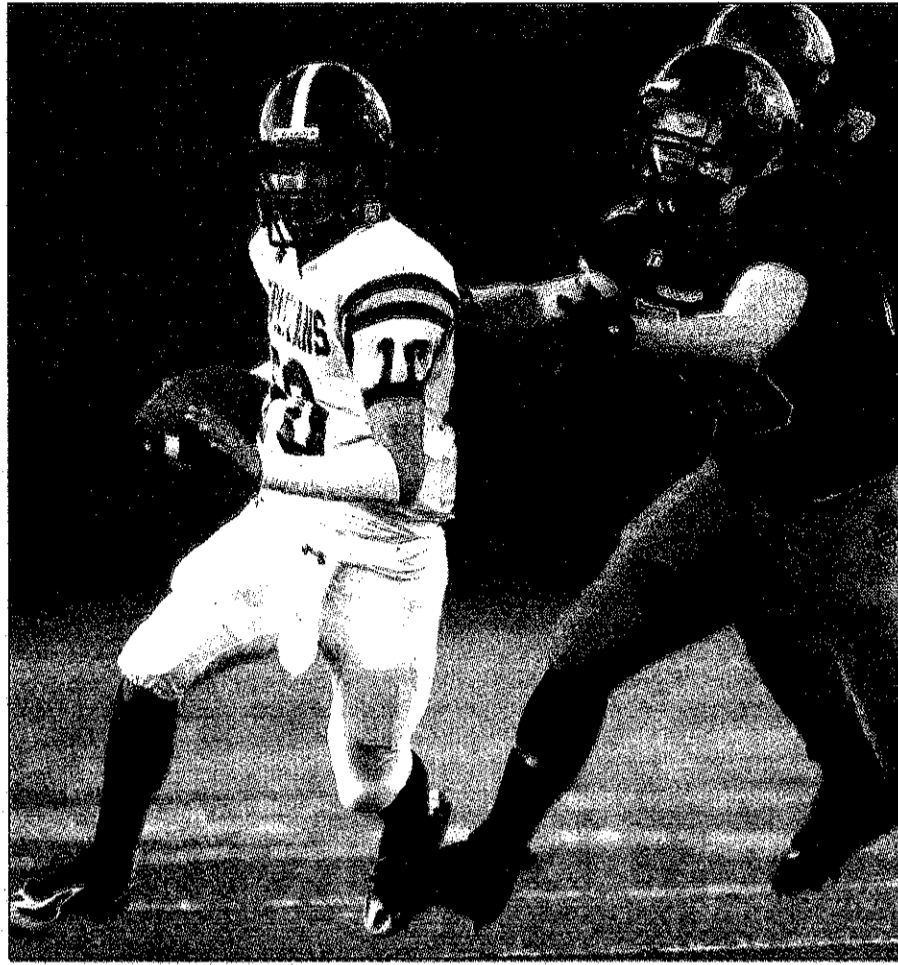
"They were blitzing hard off the edge and the flats were open, it was hard for them to adapt because they were also concerned about the deep ball," said White, who hurled a 31-yard TD pass to wide receiver Derek Buskey to open the scoring in the first quarter and added an 18-yard scoring toss to twin brother Myles with 2:32 remaining in the half to give the Spartans a commanding 23-0 halftime lead. "Even though we scored on the first drive, it was kind of hazy out there. But once we started the rollouts, ran some posts and some outs, it was hard for them to adjust."

Churchill loaded up its defense, putting nine men in the box, but had no answers despite holding the Spartans to a Jonny Myshock field goal to make it 9-0 with 2:16 left in the first quarter (after Grisa returned an interception 43 yards to the Chargers' 1-yard line).

"Once we made that big play (by Grisa), we got some momentum, and offensively we stepped up," said two-way senior tackle Matt Broome. "Our offensive line after that just rolled. At first they (Churchill) jammed up the middle, so we went outside a few times and it opened up the offense."

Stevenson's other TD in the first half was set up by York's interception return to the Churchill 40. Eight plays later,

Please see STEVENSON, B2



Stevenson quarterback Mitchell White scrambles away from Churchill defenders Devin Moynihan (left) and Darius Miller-Wells during Friday night's Lakes Division showdown.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sidelines

Brown to Kent St.

Former Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Mike Brown has accepted a job as Director of Men's Basketball Operations for Kent State University.

Brown, who guided the Ocelots to a 23-10 record and the Michigan Community College Athletic Association tourney title in his only season, will be reunited with former Schoolcraft 7-foot center Gabe Garcia.

MU golfers 2nd

Caitlin Steele fired a 14-over 88 as the Madonna University women's golf team finished runner-up in Wednesday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree (No. 4) at Scott Lake Country Club in Comstock Park.

Aquinas won the team title with 362 followed by MU (376), Siena Heights (380), Davenport (384), Cornerstone (405) and Indiana Tech (432).

Liz Clement (Aquinas), Tara Hanna (Indiana Tech) and Kelly Sawyer (Siena Heights) tied for medalist honors with 86 each.

Other finishers for MU included Mariel Meyers (Livonia Franklin), tied for 10th (93); Danielle Elswick (Wayne Memorial), 13th (95); Jillian Kloc, tied for 17th (100); and Allison Sanborn (Franklin), 23rd (115).

Piston Youth clinic

The third annual Pistons Youth Camp and Clinic at Redford Union, hosted by Pistons youth training camp coach Steve Moreland, will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the RU gymnasium.

Boys and girls in grades 1-8 are welcome to sign up before Saturday, by calling (248) 377-8653. They will then be required to pay \$25 at the door. Each participant will receive a Pistons T-shirt and trophy for the basketball shooting contest.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Joe Varilone sprints to the finish just ahead of Salem's Rob Curtis in Thursday's WLAA-Lakes Division jamboree at Westland John Glenn.

Early pacesetters
Salem boys, Charger girls get jump in Lakes

See Jamboree results, Page B3.

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Salem boys and Churchill girls have the early leg up following Thursday's Lakes Division cross country jamboree, which counts 33 percent towards the overall Western Lakes Activities Association title.

Salem's boys, placing three in the top ten, took first with 40 points followed by Livonia Churchill (50), Walled Lake Central (62), Livonia Stevenson (80), Walled Lake Northern (141) and host Westland John Glenn (144).

Central's Kyle Roche won the 5,000-meter race in 16 minutes, 22 seconds, while Salem senior Kevin deBear was runner-up in 16:32.

Other Salem finishers included junior Rob Curtis, fourth (16:35); senior Craig Cowing, seventh (17:05); junior Jason

'We wanted to use this as a barometer with a good team like Churchill here.'

GEOFF BAKER, Salem coach

Smith, 11th (17:14); and junior Matt Devey, 16th (17:36).

"We wanted to use this as a barometer with a good team like Churchill here," said Salem coach Geoff Baker, who in recent years has opted run his reserve squad in the first WLAA jamboree. "Northville is another team on the other side (Western Division) that we'll use to see where we're at in a couple of weeks at the Wayne County meet (Oct. 6)."

"The pressure is high and hopefully on the other teams, too. But we've got to win another jamboree (Oct. 11). Our saying right now is the same as we had with our 1991 team, which is: 'We might as well win.'"

Churchill's top finisher was Joe Varilone, who took third in 16:34. Mark Waterbury (sixth)

and Paul Folk (ninth) also made the top 10.

And as expected, the Churchill girls, the 2006 Division 1 state runner-up and defending WLAA champions, won convincingly with 28 points by placing five in the top ten and all seven runners in the top 12.

Stevenson, led by individual winner Courtney Calka's blistering time of 18:32, was runner-up with 52 points followed by Northern (62), Central (121), John Glenn (133) and Salem (144).

Senior Rachel McFarlane paced Churchill with a time of 19:04.

Teammates Sara Kroll and Alyssa Mira in fourth and fifth place with times of 19:39 and 19:56, respectively. Amanda Southwell added a seventh (20:15) and Hannah Otto was 10th (20:28).

Rachel Quaintance of Northern took third in 19:23.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

C'ville can't cool off red-hot Lutheran Westland

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Lutheran High Westland girls volleyball team is receiving rave reviews reminiscent of a successful Broadway musical.

Call the Warriors, ranked No. 4 in the latest Class D statewide coaches poll, the Fantastiks or the Producers following a precision-like 25-13, 25-17, 25-10 triumph Thursday night at Livonia Clarenceville.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Several Warriors deserved curtain calls including 6-foot-2 junior middle hitter Becca Refenes, who finished the night 14 kills, 10 digs and two ace serves.

Also taking a bow was junior setter Lauren Gieschen (15 assist-to-kills, seven aces); junior Katey Ramthun (eight kills, 10 digs, three aces); junior Allyson Yankee (eight kills), and senior Myrian Storck (10 digs).

"Overall we played well," said Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose team improved to 11-1-3 overall and 2-0 in the Metro Conference. "Against University-Liggett on Tuesday night we came out a little flat. Clarenceville is better than Liggett and it was a close Game 2, then we made a run. It was a matter of executing better and when you don't serve receive, you have problems."

The Warriors, whose only loss

this season is to Class A-ranked and defending state champion Livonia Churchill, trailed early in both the second and third games, but quickly made up the difference with their court coverage.

"Defensively you have to make a good play to make the pass," Wade said. "The thing we've been working on all year is to be a better defensive team. If we can do that,

Please see VOLLEYBALL, B2

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Fearful mom must deal with past

I was sexually abused as a child but never told anyone. Now I am the married mother of a daughter that is afraid to leave her with her father because I will not let what happened to me happen to her. When I was her age a family member would get me alone and I cannot stand the thought of that happening to my daughter. We have no contact with this person but I am still afraid of everyone, including my husband. I know that my husband would never do that to her — he's not like that. He's a kind and loving man but I can't get the fear out of my head. He thinks that I think that he's a bad father and it hurts him that he can't take her anywhere without me. I never let him change diapers or give her a bath and I know that he feels hurt but I can't help it. I want to trust him but I'm afraid of what might happen if I'm wrong. I won't let my daughter get hurt like I

did. I feel guilty and worried all of the time and I wonder how long it will be until my husband leaves me over this. Please help me.

This letter is not really about your husband or your daughter so much as it is about you and the negative impact that the abuse that you suffered has had on your sense of security, control, and trust. Because of the vile betrayal that you endured in your past you feel unable to let your guard down in the present. If you do, you're afraid that your daughter will face the consequences.

The stress and anxiety that you are living with must be unbearable. This stress must also be having a significant impact on your husband and daughter's daily functioning and interactions. In essence, this pain that you are carrying around is also hurting those that you love.

I can't even begin to address the fears that you have regarding your husband and daughter because it is clear that you have never had the opportunity to deal with this abuse. I commend you for the courage that you have shown by contacting me with the intention of addressing these horrible experiences. It is this kind of strength and effort that is required if you are to truly deal with your past and move into the present. I strongly encourage you to contact a therapist so that you can begin the healing process, not just for yourself, but for your husband and daughter as well.

It is not uncommon for victims of abuse to keep these experiences to themselves. Sometimes this is out of fear of the abuser and other times it is fear that they themselves would be blamed or seen in a negative light if the abuse were ever revealed. The truth is that there is no shame in being the victim of abuse, that dishonor is reserved for the victimizer. And when these experiences and the negative beliefs that accompany them are allowed to fester, the emotional and behavioral difficulties that result are increased dramatically.

So again, I strongly encourage you, and every other victim of abuse, past or present, to contact a qualified mental health professional. As difficult as this may seem, it is a far better alternative to the price that is paid for silence. And only through the therapeutic processing of these events can a person begin to re-establish their sense of self, security and trust.

Is it permissible to discipline a child that is playing at your house but is not yours? There is a neighbor girl that comes to my home and lies, cheats and steals. She talks back to me and does not respond when I speak to her. I don't know what to do. I've tried speaking to her mother about these issues with little response. My daughter wants to play with her, but I am not willing to tolerate such behavior in my home. What can I do?

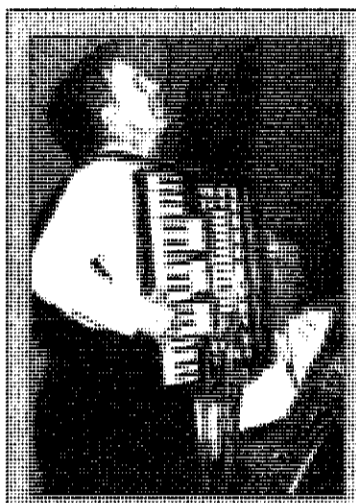
In the first place, I would not discipline a child that was not mine unless I had discussed the matter with the other parent and had come to some sort of an agreement. There are far too many concerns that are raised by this approach. To be safe, I am not recommending this as the best course of action.

I believe that the most effective plan is to establish a policy that whenever these behaviors are demonstrated and she does not respond to your intervention with the appropriate level of respect, she will be asked to leave and will not be invited back for a specified period of time. I would discuss this rule with her and each time she comes over and I would enforce it with firm consistency (which means each and every time without exception).

Terry Wilamowski is a therapist specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents and their families at Heron Ridge Associates in Plymouth. Send questions or comments to terry-wilamowski@yahoo.com.



Stas' Wisniach and his Club Polka Reunited Orchestra in April 2003 on the site of the former Tip-Top Inn on Detroit's west side. Members include Bob Lymeris (left), Wally Gomulka, Paul Onachuk, Art Buczkowski, Stas' Wisniach, and Harry Walker.



Star Wars at age 11
1958 Star Wars (reunited) in the background.

NEW POLSKA
What: Showing of film *From Polish Dance Hall Days of Detroit's Polonia. The Hot Club of Detroit* opens.
When: 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6
Where: Cine Theater, 3332 Grand River, east of Hamtramck Blvd., Hamtramck, MI 48208-4768
Tickets: \$5. Advance tickets may be purchased at the office. For information on other area events, visit www.hometownlife.com.

Dance hall days

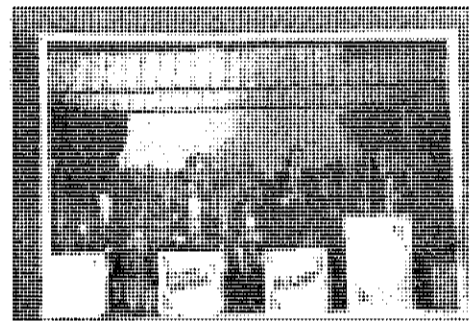
Film focuses on Polish music, culture

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Laurie Palazzolo never dreamed the short documentary she wanted to produce about Polish-American dance hall musicians would turn into a feature-length film focusing on the culture in Detroit in the 1900s.

As a young girl, Palazzolo remembers her father, Ted Gomulka, leaving the house to play trumpet three to four nights a week with his brother Wally, friend Stanley (Stas') Wisniach, and musicians whose names would become well-known not only in halls, beer gardens and clubs, but throughout the Detroit area.

Palazzolo and chief editorial adviser and researcher Susan Tyszka sorted through some 3,000 photographs from the era, eventually selecting the 1,700 used in the film along with interviews of musicians and footage of the assembly



Frank (Kowal) Smith & his Orchestra, a popular east side band in the 1930s and 1940s.

lines where the immigrants worked after coming to this country. The documentary covers the east side community which settled on Chene then migrated north to Hamtramck, and the west side in the Michigan Avenue and Buchanan area.

Please see **DANCE HALL, C2**

Italians celebrate 30 years together

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Tony Greco (left), Mary Galasso and Alex Fedrigo are longtime members of the Italian American Club of Livonia.

Mary Galasso cried as she watched the DVD on the history of the Italian American Club of Livonia. Over the last 30 years Italian American families in the area have celebrated together, socialized and built the impressive facility on Five Mile with hundreds of hours of donated labor.

On Columbus Day, Galasso, the club president, and the members share their heritage with the community at the 30th annual dinner dance at which the DVD will be shown. As part of the celebration, the club's Charitable Foundation will award 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each to high school students in southeast Michigan.

"We were raising families. Both of us were in business," said Alex

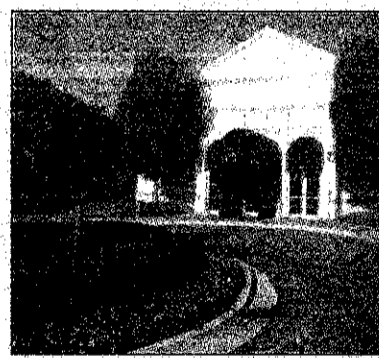
COLUMBUS DAY DINNER DANCE

What: Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, elegant family-style dinner, entertainment and dancing to Intrigue. Black tie preferred.

When: 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7

Where: Italian American Club of Livonia Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile, east of I-275, Livonia

Tickets: \$60. For reservations, call (734) 953-1137, press 2 and then 2 again



The Italian American Club of Livonia.

Fedrigo referring to himself and Tony Greco. "That's when we were approached to serve on a committee to plan a fund-raiser for (Livonia Mayor) Ed McNamara. We met each other and liked each other and founded the Italian club."

Greco and Fedrigo weren't

alone in founding the club. Ben Celani and Ann and Patrick Tivolacci were among the officers who met at Nicky's then Celani's Action Distributors then Corsi's before the organization bought the old Rosedale Gardens club

Please see **ITALIANS, C3**

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People who care

Benefit supports Angela Hospice programs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Dorothy Scannell believes when one person gives it inspires others so she's hoping Ethel Standley's story motivates Angela Hospice supporters to revisit the 60s at the Light Up a Life benefit Saturday, Oct. 13, at Rock Financial Showplace.

The 93-year-old Standley is receiving end-of-life care from Angela Hospice, but during World War II she served the country as a Navy Wave and most recently donated a bus to the Lutheran Home-Livonia where she lives. Another woman read about it and donated a bus to her home.

"When people hear what other people do it transforms their lives," said Scannell. "Ethel glows when she hears how many people enjoy going out on the bus."

Angela Hospice is not only caring for Standley as she battles congestive heart failure, but takes some of the burden off Scannell who is her caretaker. The two were in the service together and stayed friends through the years.

"When my husband had to go into hospice, I had heard so much about Angela I asked the hospital if I could switch the provider to Angela," said Scannell, 88. "They try to make people comfortable and take the stress out of it. When I had a problem with a bill last week they told me they would take care of it. The volunteers are very helpful. Ethel's legally blind so she's not sure who is the person caring for her when they walk into the room. The nurse from Angela Hospice comes in and checks on her and leaves notes for me."

Pat Bracken brought Angela Hospice in for her father Paul Garanich in 2002 and her mother in July. Bracken's father suffered from lung cancer he developed from black lung exposure in Pennsylvania. Her mother was diagnosed with colon and pancreatic cancer April 1. She died July 24. Thanks to Angela Hospice Bracken, her sister Cyndi Garanich and brother Andrew



Volunteers Debby Kearns of Dearborn Heights and Ramona Keatta of Plymouth discuss the 1960's-theme decorations for the Oct. 13 Light Up a Life Benefit to raise money for Angela Hospice in Livonia.

Garanich were able to find comfort in the days before and after their deaths.

"Dad was under mom's care. Angela was great," said Pat Bracken of Redford. Bracken is business coordinator at Henry Ford Medical Center in Plymouth. "They gave mom all the support and knowledge she needed to take care of dad. They came in and gave her a break when needed. The support helped her through that. You pick up the phone and they're there. That helped the family greatly. With mom we took care of her. We all work. We rotated shifts and were able to do that because of Angela. Anytime I called them with a question at night I got an answer immediately. Towards the end they were there not just for mom, but for the family. Afterwards they called immediately to check on us. You really can't say enough about them. It take special people to do a special job."

All proceeds from the Light Up a Life benefit the many caring programs of Angela Hospice. Development manager Alice Barringer and a committee are making sure guests have fun

while supporting the nondenominational nonprofit. She's planning to wear a blue and white checked jumper that looks like a 1960 Catholic school girl's uniform. She hopes guests dress in 1960s attire as well. Limbo and best dressed look of the 60s contests are just part of the festivities. Silent auction items include a trip to the top of the Mackinac Bridge, cocktail party for 50, a wine tasting in your home, Pistons and Red Wings suites, and spending a morning with Dick Purtan and his crew on WOMC.

"There will be bands and dancing, raffles and auction items. The theme is Groovin' and Cruisin' through the 60s so the decorations focus on flower power. There will be flowers hanging from the ceiling. The band is The Reflections who wrote the song just like Romeo and Juliet, and during the auction The Stubbs Girls do kind of a Supreme's type act," said Alice Barringer. "We're raffling off a 1969 Buick Electra convertible donated by Classic Auto Rentals of Birmingham, and a trip to Mexico."

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DANCE HALL

FROM PAGE C1

The Dom Polski (Polish home) halls served as gathering places for Polish Americans.

"I could visualize the entire film," said Palazzolo of Farmington. "I jokingly say we're like the reality show of filmmakers. We had nothing to work with. We were recycling index cards. It was a long process."

The film follows the publishing of her book, *Horn Man*, distributed by Wayne State University Press. Palazzolo began writing about the musicians when her father became ill in 1998. Five years and more than 100 interviews later the book was published.

Ted Gomulka, who had recorded on the Decca label, wrote the music for songs like *There's a City Called Hamtramck* on the back of his pay stubs. Her mother Ruth would then write lyrics.

Tyszka's mother and sister frequented the halls where the musicians played. She has a box full of dance programs from St. Cyril, St. Bartholomew's and Veteran's Hall along with the Grande, Graystone and Arcadia ballrooms.

"On weekends there were at least 100 dances going on in halls, empty stores. They would take the streetcar from Hamtramck," said Tyszka. "People went every weekend."

KEEPING STORIES ALIVE

Palazzolo didn't want the story of the dance hall days to die. She believes there is a large audience for the film. According to the 2000 U.S. Census; Michigan was second in the country with some 855,000 people of Polish descent.

On Oct. 6, she presents the film at the Civic Center in Farmington. The Hot Club of Detroit opens the program.

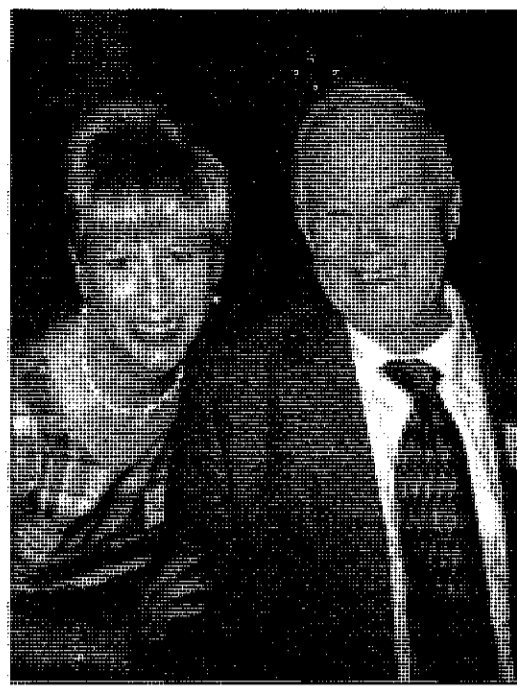
"The musicians and widows were so helpful. They pulled out photos and posters," said Palazzolo. "I really wanted to bring that to light, the west side settlement. It was as significant culturally as Hamtramck. I wanted it preserved."

"A unique phenomenon of the west side were the Polish and Ukrainian musicians who played together. In my book I say the Polish was the heart of the music, the Ukrainians the soul."

Once the book was published in 2003, Palazzolo realized that someone needed to tell their story on film. At the time she was taking care of Wisniach. The accordionist had quit playing his instrument two years before. Palazzolo flew out to California where Wisniach had been living and brought him back to Michigan. Wisniach resumed his love affair with music, playing three nights a week at Luigi's in Farmington and then four nights a week at Fonte D'Amore in Livonia.

During this time, Palazzolo reunited Wisniach with the Club Polka band he led for many years on the Channel 7 television show of the same name. The film revisits the era and the spirited dance music sprung from Polish heritage.

"It was the second generation who created the American art form, the polka culture," said Palazzolo. "They became musicians playing



Leanne (Wisniach) Palazzolo and Ted Wisniach

jazz, swing, Big Band, and the polka sound. The film talks about the horn which is not used in Poland in folk music, neither was the accordion. They developed their own sound.

"Stas" was one of the greatest musicians to have come out of Detroit. He was the only musician to have his own show with my uncle Wally Gomulka. They brought polka music to a larger audience. It was quite a phenomenon, people dancing to the polka, a variety show with popular singers, comedians, classical dancers and musicians, jazz musicians like Dizzy Gillespie with polkas interspersed throughout the show."

PROCESS TOOK TIME

The Dom Polski film was four years in the making although for two years on hold when the money ran out. Palazzolo did receive a couple of small grants through a private trust fund for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and a mini grant from the City of Detroit.

"The music licensing costs are very high, several hundred dollars per song," said Palazzolo. "If it were on TV it would cost thousands of dollars, a major theater even more. I negotiated it in a licensing agreement."

Wisniach served as Palazzolo's inspiration. He lost the use of his legs after spine surgery in 2001 which left him in a wheelchair.

"He told me I could do it and never to give up believing in myself," said Palazzolo. "The film premiered in April at the Village Theater in Canton and we're bringing it back by popular demand. We had the east side premiere May 11 at the American-Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights. It was a complete sell-out. The third showing was there in June, the fourth in July. People are still calling and asking where it will be shown. We wanted to have it in Farmington at the Civic Theater because it's an art deco style theater and fits with the time period depicted in the film."

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ITALIANS

FROM PAGE C1

house for \$33,000 and renovated it in the 1980s.

"Social night was Wednesday night. There were Palm Sunday brunches, spaghetti dinners catered in, and bocce courts," said Greco. "We outgrew it quickly."

When Greco assumed the presidency in 1990, he had a dream.

The club bought the land east of I-275 in 1991. The new 26,000-square-foot club house and banquet facility was opened in 1994.

"People kept saying the club's going to die. I said, No, the club's not going to die. It took a lot of working together, excavators, construction people.

"We didn't have a lot of money," added Fedrigo, a past president. "We raised dues and instituted a \$1,000 lifetime due which quite a few people took advantage of and we asked everybody to help."

"It was a lot of people's dreams," said Greco. "It's true what they say, where there's a will, there's a way."

Fedrigo said "the club has done an amazing job keeping people together."

Today, 875 families belong to the club, 350 of which are



Mary Galasso

active members. The banquet center subsidizes the club by hosting events.

"We're booked Fridays and Saturdays, even some Sundays for weddings, corporate functions during the week," said Mary Galasso who became a member in 1977.

"The club is open Tuesday through Saturday. Thursday night is pasta night for members and their guests. There are bowling and golf leagues and bocce on three indoor and two outdoor courts, Italian language classes, a once a month regional dinner which is a potluck where members bring a dish to pass from their own area, and a wine tasting



Alex Fedrigo

in mid September. We always have something going on. I'm excited about the upcoming Verdi concert (Oct. 11) by an ensemble from La Scala (opera house in Italy). I'm hoping it will be an elegant function. Any music lovers are welcome."

Ann Tavolacci remembers celebrating her 50th anniversary with her late husband Pat at the club last year. Pat was a pipefitter in Local 636. He made it his life's mission to oversee construction of the new facility.

"I'm going with all my kids to Columbus Day. We're going to sit there and toast him. The club is primarily about family.



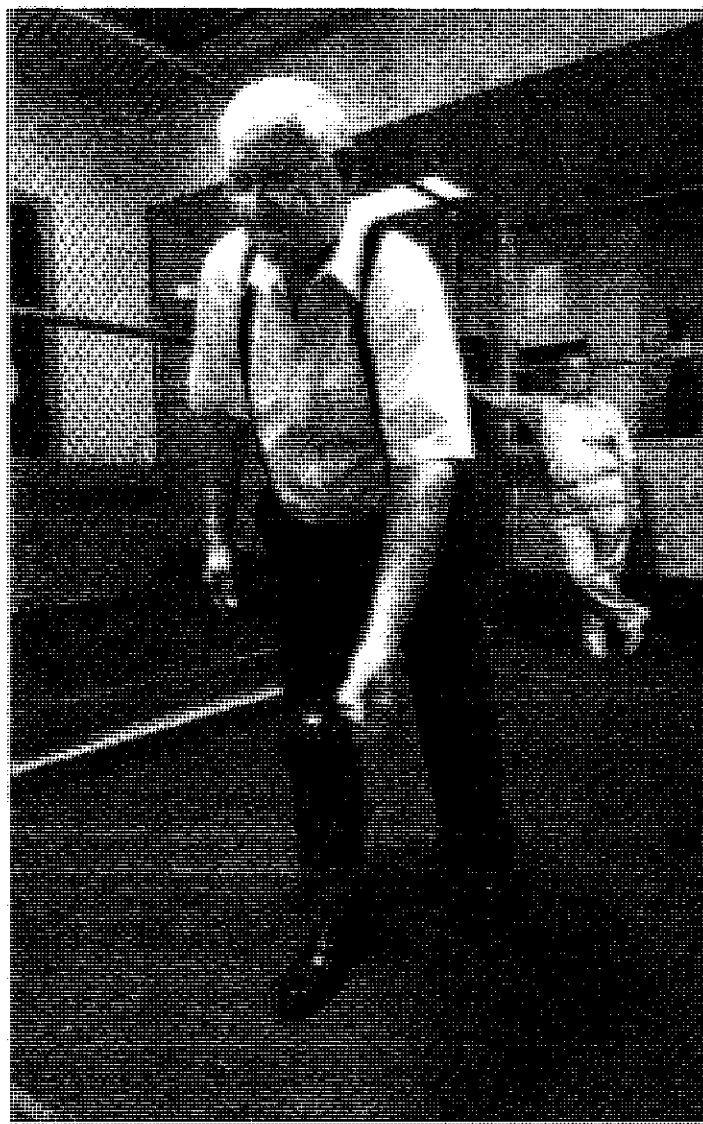
Tony Greco

From the beginning, we tried to include the children," said Tavolacci, who was named the 2000 Italian of the Year by the club.

The club encourages young people to join Amici for members from age 18 to 40. Dante Cerroni directs the group and will be honored as this year's outstanding Italian of the Year on Columbus Day. The 29-year-old Cerroni is the club's vice president.

"Tony and my children belong to the club so it's carried down," said Fedrigo, 84 of Livonia.

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Alex Fedrigo tosses a bocce ball on one of the club's indoor courts. Tony Greco waits his turn.

Workshop shows how to plan wedding in 90-minutes

A unique Wedding Workshop has been designed so couples-to-be can enjoy a stress-free and cost effective wedding by spending only 90 minutes with a variety of experts 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse, Wayne, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom, 499 S. Main, Plymouth.

The workshop is arranged like speed dating, or musical chairs, but it's all about you meeting wedding experts who can help plan your event of a lifetime. Our panel of experts has the experience of hundreds of weddings and most have been assisting brides and grooms for 10, 20 even 25 or more years.

"We are very excited about an entirely new concept in

wedding planning called the Wedding Workshop. It is designed around the concept of speed dating, only this interaction is between brides and grooms and wedding professionals," explains Kathy Mabbott. "Every 10-minutes brides and grooms will move from one expert to the next. Along the way, these experts reveal pearls of wisdom gained through years of experience in the wedding business."

The panel of experts include photography, florist, D.J., videography, invitations, honeymoon travel, bridal accessories, chair covers, cakes, decorating, catering, reception halls, and engraving.

The wedding experts not only will offer tips on how to better plan and prepare for the wedding but also will give advice on how to save money

and reduce expenses. The experts will not be there to sell products or services but to give honest answers and advise that will help you stretch wedding dollars without sacrificing the wedding of your dreams. In addition there will be tips on how to make your wedding run

smoothly and avoid the most common wedding mishaps.

The workshop is free to those who make reservations in advance. Call (734) 453-8872. Seating is limited.

Tickets at the door will be \$10. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

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Eye for critters

Bloomfield Hills photographer even makes bugs look good

BY SHARON DARGAY
COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR



Judy Yaker, 61, of Bloomfield Hills loves to photograph 'critters,' in her back yard, at the Detroit Zoo and around the globe.

trips to Manitoba, Canada, for use on an invitation when the Detroit Zoo opened its Arctic Ring of Life exhibit. She also has donated prints for a zoo auction and permitted the zoological society to use one of her tiger cub photos on thank you notes.

FAVORITE 'BIG CATS'

She and her camera were fixtures at the zoo's tiger habitat when triplets were born in 2000.

"I think the tiger keepers knew me. I used to go there more often than I do now. I was there all the time with those guys. I got to know them and I always talked to them. I didn't know which was which, but I called them by name."

She even arranged to visit two of the cubs after they were shipped to Minneapolis, Minn. After touring behind-the-scenes with a zookeeper and then called the cubs by name as they walked their outdoor exhibit.

"They stopped and turned and came over to me," she said. "It was so cool."

Although Yaker has photographed Japanese cranes and snow monkeys in the Far East, polar bears in Canada and traveled with her camera to the Galapagos Islands, Iceland, Costa Rica, East Africa, Norway, Scotland, England, Finland, Italy, Russia, France, and Ecuador, the Detroit Zoo has always been one of her favorite locations to shoot tigers in the winter.

"I like to go when it's snowing to give it that Siberian feel," she explained.

But even her suburban back yard yields enough subject matter to keep her Canon Mark II's with its 500 mm lens busy. Her exhibit at the zoo includes whimsical close-ups of beetles and spindly-legged insects clinging to leaves.

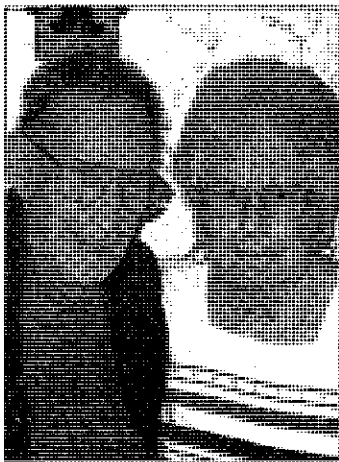
What: A photo exhibit of more than 170 color and black and white images of nature and wildlife taken by Judy Yaker of Bloomfield Hills
When: Through Nov. 25
Where: The Ford Education Center Exhibit Gallery at The Detroit Zoo
Details: All proceeds from sale of the photographs benefit the Detroit Zoological Society. Admission to the exhibit is free with paid entry to the zoo of \$11 for ages 13-61, \$9 for senior citizens, age 61 and older and \$7 for children, ages 2-12. Children under 2 are admitted free.

zoo annually as a member of its Renaissance Circle. She approached the zoo about exhibiting her work, showed her portfolio and "it was a go."

"It's an honor to be there. I was pretty excited," she said.

Yaker, 61, supplied a polar bear photo from one of her

ANNIVERSARIES



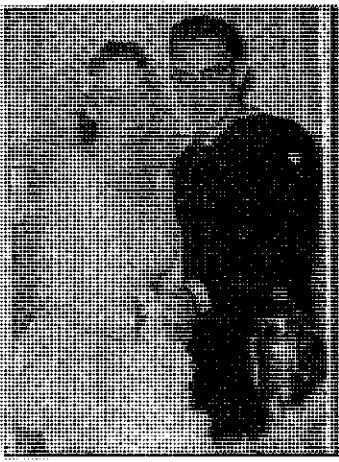
Garrs celebrate 65th

John and Loretta (Bunting) Garr of Westland celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 12 with family at Amatea's Restaurant.

The couple married in San Luis Obispo, Calif., in 1942 before John was shipped out during World War II. He returned to the states after serving four years abroad.

They have two children, Elizabeth of Westland and Douglas of Las Vegas. Two granddaughters Karen (Ted) Bester of Hartland and Laura (Jason) Morris of Pittsfield Township and four great grandchildren, Allison, Teddy, Alex and Trey.

John is retired from Michigan Lead Battery and Loretta retired from Seaway Hospital.



Augers celebrate 50 years

Eugene John Auger and Claudine Charlotte (Brown) Auger of Livonia are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The Augers were married Oct. 12, 1957 at First Baptist Church of Livonia.

The Augers had five children: the late Eugene Le Auger, who died in 1985; Anita Kay Lomas of Livonia; Amanda Claudette Berry of Traverse City; Eric Eugene Auger of Livonia and Anna Marie Auger of Livonia. The have two grandchildren, Mary Selena Carmichael of Westland and Tina Kay McKennon of Livonia and two great grandchildren, Adin Scott McKennon and Elijah Christian Johnson.

Eugene worked is retired from the Livonia Water and Sewer Department and owned A&C Sewer Cleaning. Claudine is a homemaker.

They are active member of the Haas Lake RV Park. Interests include gardening, reading, traveling, camping and taking care of their three dogs. An anniversary celebration will be held Oct. 13.

BIRTHS

Brooklyn Alaina Rodriguez

Michael and Melissa Rodriguez of Superior Township (formerly of Canton) announce the birth of their daughter, Brooklyn Alaina Rodriguez.

Brooklyn Alaina was born Aug. 26, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. She has an older brother, Caleb.

Grandparents are Michael and Mary Ann Dziekan of Canton and Israel and Isabel Rodriguez of Canton.

Elijah James Richards

Proud parents Molly Richards and Aaron Hooper announce the birth of their son, Elijah James Richards, on Sept. 24, 2007.

Grandmothers are Aggie Richards (mother of Molly) and Cheryl Hooper (mother of Aaron). Elijah also has an aunt, Sarah Richards.

ENGAGEMENTS

Foster-Appelman

Daniel and Karen Foster of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and formerly of Westland, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Marie Foster, to Brett Andrew Appelman, son of Barbara T. and Henry Appelman of Ann Arbor.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 graduate of John Glenn High School and a 2000 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is now attending DePaul University and is a candidate for a master's degree in business administration.

The future groom is a graduate of Community High School in Ann Arbor and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1995, a bachelor's degree from DePaul University in psychol-

Webber-Hall

Robert Webber of Livonia and Janice Webber of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jillian Webber, to Dusty Hall, son of Linda and Harvey Hall of Livonia.

Jillian and Dusty are both 2000 graduates of Livonia Franklin High School. Jillian is a 2005 graduate of the University of Michigan Dearborn and is currently a graduate student at Wayne State University studying school counseling.

Dusty will graduate from Wayne State University in May 2008 with a degree in physical education. He is a substitute teacher and football and track coach with Livonia Public Schools.

Hines-Bernhardt

Scott Bernhardt and Erin Hines will be married in mid-October at United Methodist Church in Garden City.

Erin is a 2001 graduate of Garden City High School and is currently employed by Farmington Family Physicians.

Scott is a 2001 graduate of Garden City High School and a 2004 graduate of the Fire Academy. He is currently employed by St. Mary's Hospital.

The couple will make their

Henderson-Gallup

Steven John Henderson of Plymouth and Kimberly Rae Henderson of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Jamie Marie Henderson to Steven Hill Gallup, son of Karen and Douglas Gallup of Concord, Mich.

The bride-to-be received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and master's degree from Marygrove University. She is employed at Lincoln Middle School in Ypsilanti.

The future groom is employed by the Occupational Health and Safety Department

Hines-Bernhardt

Scott Bernhardt and Erin Hines will be married in mid-October at United Methodist Church in Garden City.

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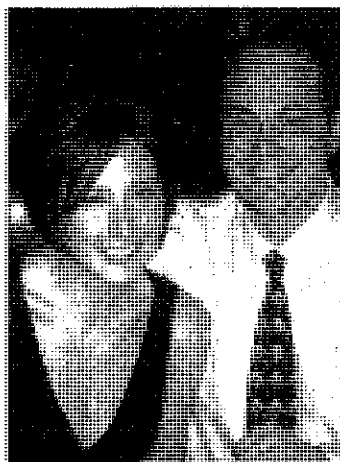
The couple will make their

Radiothon will support outdoor programs

The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division (TSA), in partnership with Cabela's, the world's foremost outfitter and 106.7 The FOX are joining forces to raise much-needed funds for children in our community.

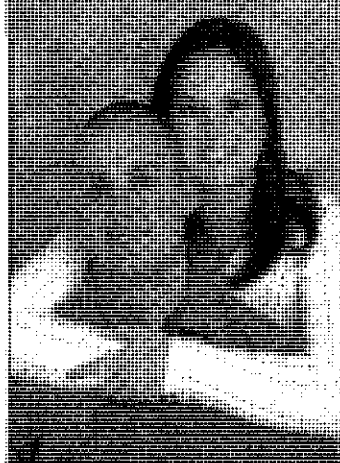
The One Child Now (OCN) Radiothon, a program of The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO), will broadcast live from Cabela's in Dundee from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5. and from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6. Donations can be made by calling (888) 600-1067 and will go directly to (TSAO).

TSAO aims to transform the lives of children and families by engaging them in wholesome,



ogy, a master's degree in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He received a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Medicine Law School. He is employed as a criminal trial attorney in Chicago.

A November wedding is planned in Gevena, Ill.



coach with Livonia Public Schools.

A December 2007 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



home in Garden City after a honeymoon in Hawaii.



of the University of Michigan. A December wedding is planned.



home in Garden City after a honeymoon in Hawaii.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

BARBARA A. RAMSEY
Age 82, September 25, 2007. Beloved wife of the late William. Loving mother of Jeff (Hermine) Ramsey, Denny Ramsey (Barb Clarke), and Joan M. (Kevin)Feeheley. Cherished grandmother of Joshua Ramsey, Emily Ramsey, Jacob Ramsey, Katie McKee, Rachel Feeheley, Joel Ramsey, Megan Feeheley, Sarah Rose Feeheley, and Spencer Smith. Barbara was a retired teacher for Farmington Public Schools. Funeral Services were held Saturday at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society. www.thayer-rock.com

JOHN CARL HILTY
Age 59, died Monday, September 17, 2007, at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer. John had many talents and interests. He was an outdoorsman and spent many hours hunting and fishing at a cottage on the Pine River. He was a gourmet chef and caterer, and a lover and caregiver of animals. John was a beloved family man and is survived by his mother, Dorothy Hilty; sister, Susan Hilty; his nephews, Carl and Daniel Zimring, and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Preceded in death by his father John Carl Hilty. Inurnment was held at White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial Tributes U of M Cancer Center Lymphoma Program or Michigan Humane Society. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500 View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

CATHERINE JANE CLEARY
Livonia, Mi. Age 92, died September 26, 2007. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington

In Memory Of

IN MEMORY OF ALLISON MAY NEWMAN
May 7, 2004 - Sept. 22, 2006
You touched so many lives in such a short time. We are hurting as much today, as we were a year ago when we first learned of the tragic news of how your life was taken away from you - by the hands of another. Our hearts are broken. We pray for justice, not only for your sweet spirit, but also for other children who have also lost their lives in a similar way. Love Always and forever, Daddy, Grandma & Papa Newman, sister Chrissy, Aunt Becca, Uncle Bob, cousins Hannah, Zachary, and Great-Granny.

MAY YOU FIND COMFORT IN FAMILY & FRIENDS

WARREN DURAND BROWN
September 26, 2007. Age 96. Loving husband of the late Katherine. Dear father of Vicki Hurd and Charles Warren Brown. Beloved grandfather of Brian Hurd. Brother of the late Wade Brown. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vass, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Sunday 5-7pm. Funeral service Monday 11am at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin. Visitation begins at church 10am. Memorial tributes to The Endowment Fund of Franklin Community Church or the Salvation Army. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

JUDITH NAOMI LARSON
of Clarkston; September 25, 2007; age 64. She was a social worker with a master's degree from Oakland U. Wife of Lawrence for 40 years; mother of Brett (Angela Legree); grandmother of Vanessa; daughter of Lorraine Painter and the late Rev. Luther Painter; sister of Stephen and Alice Painter and the late David Painter; sister-in-law of Clifford Larson and Mary Painter; aunt of Christopher Means, Michael, Kelly and Stephen Painter; cousin of Carolyn Litzinger. Private memorial service entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home at 5929 S. Main St. (M-15) Clarkston. Memorials in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Heart Association. Please visit www.wintfuneralhome.com with pleasant memories and condolences for the private memorial service on Monday Oct. 1st at 1:00 pm.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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Attn: Obits c/o Charollette Wilson
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Fruits, veggies help keep brain sharp

Brad from Waterford e-mails asking what he can add to the diet to keep his brain sharp?

Brad, pile your plate high with fruits and vegetables! Researchers followed a group of more than 1,600 people for 10 years. They watched their diet and measured their mental sharpness.

They found those who ate foods with high flavonoids had better cognitive function than those who did not eat as many foods with flavonoids. Flavonoids are nutrients found in fruits and vegetables.

You get an added benefit with these foods, because they are also full of antioxidants and fiber.

Cognitive function typically declines with age. With this new study, experts hope adding more good food to a person's diet could help slow that decline.

Grace from Southfield e-mails asking what she can do to lower her chances of getting Parkinson's disease?

Grace, the answer is exercise! Researchers followed more than 150,000 men and women and kept a close eye on their diet and lifestyle factors. Experts found those who did 30 minutes of moderate to intense physical exercise each day decreased their risk of developing Parkinson's disease by 40 percent! They also believe Parkinson's patients can improve their physical performance and their daily activities by exercising. Parkinson's disease is a motor system disorder. As it progresses people may find it difficult to complete simple tasks.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Avoiding the scalpel

Laser treatment relieves enlarged prostate symptoms

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The Holmium Laser is allowing Dr. Surendra Kumar to treat his patients without the use of a scalpel. The Westland urologist avoids traditional surgery



Kumar

whenever possible to treat enlarged prostates. Technological advances in medical devices continue to reduce hospitalization and recovery times as well as blood loss during procedures not to mention pain and discomfort.

"Open surgery is a fairly bloody procedure. Patients may need transfusion before or after," said Kumar who specializes in the treatment of prostate disease at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Westland.

"The Holmium laser has been used for prostate treatment since the early '90s but was only about 60 watts. The 100 watt laser became available four years ago. I started using it to avoid doing an open surgery or a TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate). With the laser there are minimal complications, little or no bleeding, minimal discomfort. With a TURP a patient would stay in the hospital about three days, open surgery about seven days. There's a huge difference. Patients don't need any narcotics after the procedure."

The Holmium laser is a major

advancement in the treatment of benign enlargement of the prostate (BPH), according to Kumar. So far, he's successfully treated 150 patients with enlarged prostates. Kumar expects laser usage to grow in the future as the population ages.

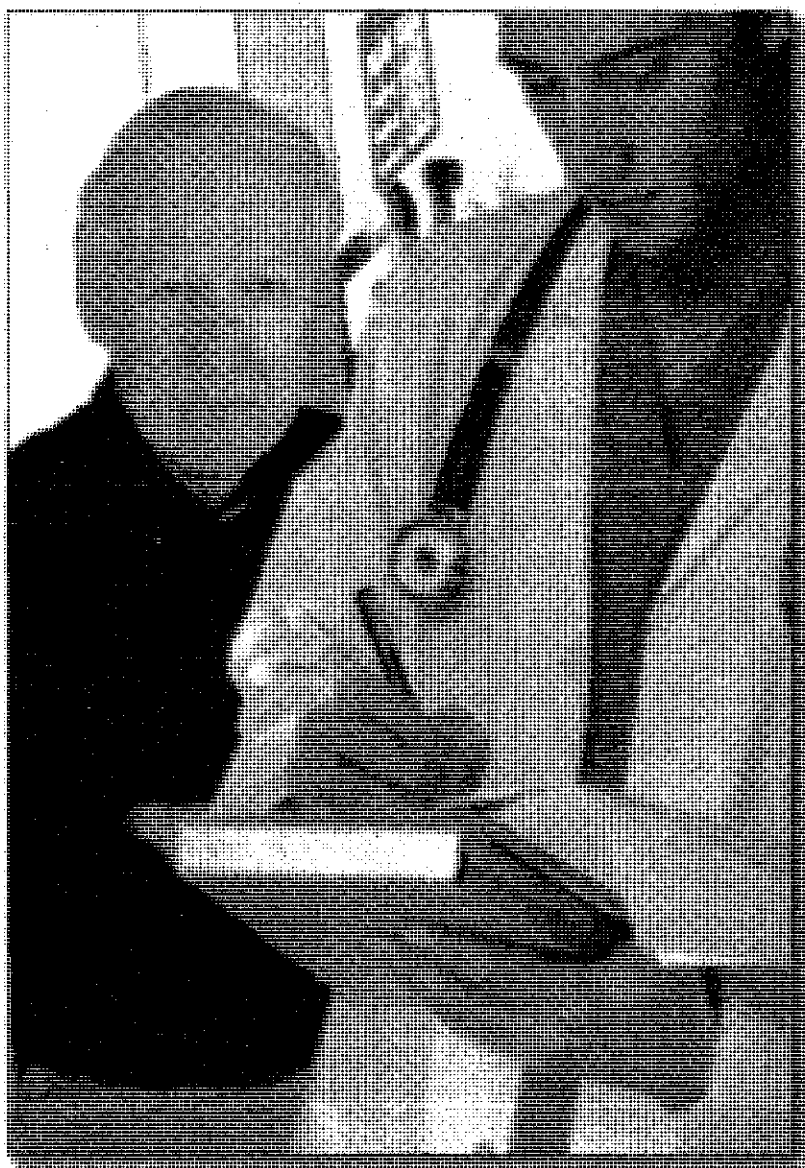
"It's used to relieve obstruction for an enlarged prostate. From age 50 and on men start to develop benign prostate hypertrophy. They have trouble urinating. Eighty percent of men in their 80s will have enlarged prostates and one in four will need treatment," said Kumar.

"If it's small enough it may be taken care of with medication like Flomax. When they get larger or complications start and medications are not working at all, they need a surgical procedure. The standard surgical procedure (TURP) scrapes out the prostate gland from inside, but you can only remove a certain amount of prostate on the inside then open surgery is necessary."

While most of Kumar's patients are in their 60s and 70s, men in their 80s and 90s could benefit from the minimally invasive procedure.

Henry Jackson was in his mid-60s when urination became so difficult he went to a Belleville Health Clinic physician who referred the Ypsilanti man to Kumar. Five weeks after receiving a Holmium Laser treatment Jackson is amazed the procedure required no incision and only a two-day hospital stay.

"I had absolutely no pain at all and I got up myself to walk in



the evening of the surgery," said Henry Jackson. "Since then I've had no problems urinating."

Kumar expects the next generation of lasers to be even more effective.

"It's always better and better. I'm always looking forward to getting more powerful machines," said Kumar. "It's not experimental. We already have

seen the advantages mainly because of the fact there's no discomfort. After treatment they are not having any trouble urinating. Patients are able to sleep through the night. Before treatment they keep waking up many times because the bladder can't empty completely."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Thank You!



Livonia Little Tots would like to congratulate Gail VanTiem for 20 years of dedication to young children. Miss Gail has been a preschool teacher at Livonia Little Tots since 1987.

Her commitment to early childhood education is demonstrated thru her continued enthusiasm, creativity and love for the children.

Thank you for choosing education as a career.

You are a fabulous teacher!



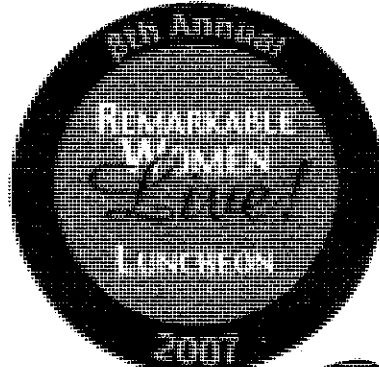
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