



Holiday spirit
abounds in
new shows
fill r

Students add festive
touch to store windows
Local news, A3

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November 29, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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Design plan: 'Bold journey' for corridor

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A group of community leaders, inspired by a study that found Westland residents have more income per acre than Canton, Livonia, Farmington Hills, Dearborn and Southfield, has embarked on a bold journey to redefine a key commercial corridor along bustling Ford Road.

The findings by Northville-based McKenna Associates, a community planning and design firm, provided startling data Tuesday that spurred

a new vision for Westland, starting with a small stretch along Ford between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway.

"This is an exciting night for the city of Westland," Mayor William Wild told a crowd of 60 movers and shakers who gathered inside the Friendship Center for a 2 1/2-hour visionary session called a design charrette.

The meeting drew city planners, zoning officials, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) representatives, elected leaders and residents. They began charting a

new direction for the target area that could include produce and meat markets, bookstores, home and garden businesses, trendy boutiques, bakeries and coffee shops.

The group also envisioned more greenery, possibly even in the middle of Ford Road to create a boulevard. Moreover, they embraced ideas for a pedestrian-friendly area where residents could mingle, shop and enjoy their leisure time.

"This project is going to happen," said Lori Podale, Westland Chamber of Commerce president and DDA chairwoman.

Community leaders conceded the project won't happen overnight, but they seemed confident that it will gradually unfold despite deepening economic woes that have forced many cities to retrench and rethink major development initiatives.

"I've already had developers call me," Wild said. "They're looking at this area."

A report by McKenna Associates, an outside firm, shows why. The company studied a so-called "trade area" — roughly bounded by Hix,

Please see **PLAN, A3**

Trade Area Median and Average Household Income

	Census 2000	2007 (Estimated)	2012 (Projected)
Median Income	\$46,706	\$49,863	\$52,582
Average Income	\$53,442	\$58,722	\$62,463

Higher than the Detroit Metro Area.

Annual Aggregate Income and Income Density

Community	Aggregate Income	Income Density (Income/Acre)
Westland Trade Area	\$1.5 Billion	\$178,000
Canton Twp.	\$2.8 Billion	\$123,000
Dearborn	\$2.2 Billion	\$141,000
Livonia	\$3.0 Billion	\$133,000
Farmington Hills	\$3.2 Billion	\$149,000
Southfield	\$2.0 Billion	\$120,000

SOURCE: McKenna Associates



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holiday 'dressing'

Wayne Memorial High School senior Christina Curtis (from left), John Glenn High School junior Josh Garza and Wayne Memorial junior Angela Reemer put the final touches on the stocking they painted on the window of Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches in Canton. The students participated in a window painting project in Canton through the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. See story and more photos on Page A3.

Dog's owner, police at odds over why animal was shot

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland family and police officials are at odds after an officer shot a pit bull whose veterinary bills could spiral to thousands of dollars — money the dog owner says the city should pay.

Police Chief James Ridener said the officer shot the dog when it charged at him early last Thursday in a yard on Bakewell, a residential street near Wayne and Warren roads. "The officer was in danger of imminent attack, so he shot the dog," Ridener said Tuesday.

The dog's owner, 37-year-old Jason Darke, gave a different version, and he said he may consider filing a lawsuit unless city officials pay the veterinary bills for his 6-year-old pit bull, Flash.

"I'm going to leave that possibility open if I keep getting

the runaround," he said.

The dispute stems from an incident that started about 6 a.m. last Thursday, Thanksgiving morning, at Darke's mother's house, just a couple of doors down from his home. Jason Darke was spending the night there while his mother, Cheryl Darke, went to her parents' house to start preparing for Thanksgiving.

A police officer entered Cheryl Darke's yard through an open gate while looking for a suspect who had broken into a nearby home, Ridener said. The intruder was believed to be hiding in the neighborhood. At the same time, Jason Darke let Flash outside after the dog started barking.

"As she hit the bottom step of the porch, a police officer shot her in the face," Cheryl Darke said, adding later, "I

Please see **DOG, A4**

Prosecution seeks gag order for families

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Peter Letkemann has been a presence in the media ever since his son, 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland, and 17-year-old acquaintance Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township, were arrested in the grisly murder of a 26-year-old River Rouge man three weeks ago.

But if 35th District Court Judge Michael Gerou signs an extension of his gag order, as sources say he is likely to do, the elder Letkemann will be silenced.

In a 2 p.m. hearing Thursday, Gerou was scheduled to hear arguments on a motion by Assistant Wayne

County Prosecutor Robert Moran to extend the gag order — which Gerou signed after an hour-long negotiating session with lawyers from both sides — to the families of the two suspects.

The order, originally drafted by the lawyers, currently applies only to lawyers, law enforcement officials, the medical examiner's office and the like.

Moran declined to comment on the reasons for filing this new motion, citing the current gag order, but the motion makes it pretty clear why it was filed.

"The parents of Alexander James Letkemann have given numerous statements to the media regarding this case. ... The nature of these countless

media statements have the strong potential of interfering with the process. ... The extensive comments made thus far to the media by Mr. Letkemann's family render this amendment to the gag order imperative."

Peter and Diane Letkemann have made themselves readily available to the media since their son's Nov. 12 arraignment, making statements and even holding a press conference in the Farmington Hills office of their son's attorney, Raymond Cassar.

Orlewicz's parents, William and Charlotte, have done just the opposite, eschewing every chance to speak to the media.

Neither Cassar nor Joseph Niskar, the attorney representing Jean Pierre Orlewicz,

returned calls seeking comment. They have previously declined comment, citing the gag order.

On Tuesday, however, Cassar filed a response motion asking Gerou to deny Moran's motion to gag the Letkemann family. Citing the use of words such as "thrill kill" by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy and much of the news media, Cassar's motion argues speaking to the press is the only way the Letkemanns have of combating negative statements about their son.

"While it is nearly impossible to unring the bell (Worthy) had sounded with her inflammatory statements ... it is important to give the defendant's parents the ability to deny such negative allegations



DETROIT NEWS POOL PHOTO

The Wayne County Prosecutor wants to extend a gag order in the Daniel Sorensen murder case to defendants' families, including Pete and Diane Letkemann of Westland.

and to speak out in support of their son."

Ironically, Niskar (Orlewicz's attorney) filed a motion supporting Moran's request to

extend the gag order to include families.

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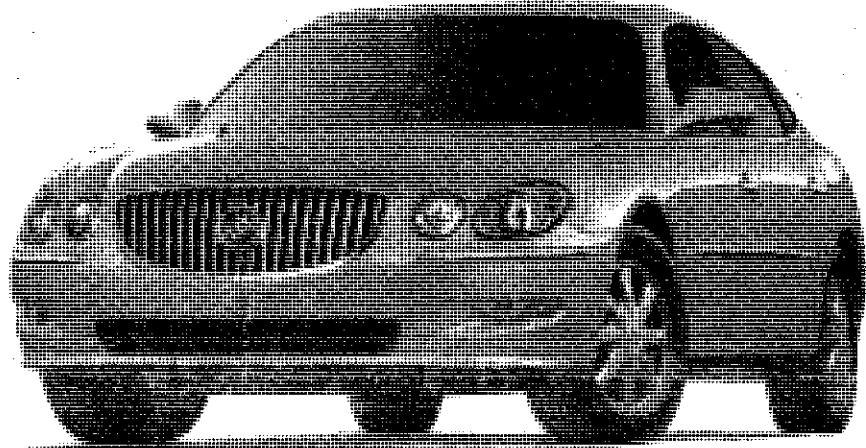
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Students bring festive look to store windows

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The windows of businesses along Ford Road are dressed up for the holidays as part of a program that partnered students from the Wayne-Westland and Plymouth-Canton school districts and the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

The students have been painting 42 store windows stretching from Lotz to Canton Center Road in advance of the Shop Canton Holiday Festival Saturday, Dec. 8, at Canton Corners at Lilley and Ford.

"It's being done as community service to beautify the storefronts with seasonal themes," said Joyce Silagy, who organized the event. "This is the second year the chamber has done window painting, last year it was a contest, this year we made it into a project."

Students from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Starkweather Center and Tinkham Alternative High School were invited to participate.

"The rationale is that there are Canton students who go to Plymouth-Canton schools and there are Canton students who go to Wayne-Westland schools," said Silagy. "It's a way for students to showcase their talents and add to the festival atmosphere."

This is the first year Wayne-Westland students have participated. The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is a member of the Canton chamber, and Cindy Candela, placement coordinator at the Career Technical Center, serves on the chamber's education committee.

Candela is excited about the project and the opportunity to partner with Plymouth-Canton schools and the chamber. She has spent the past few weeks ferrying 22 students from the Career Technical Center and Tinkham Alternative to and from work sites.

"We've done other events with the Canton chamber," added Candela. "We've had scholarship winners through the chamber and the Canton Community Foundation. We've done co-



Santa serving loaves of bread is one of the creations painted by the Wayne Westland Career Technical students on a window at Parthenon Coney Island in Canton.

op with the chamber, but this opens up additional opportunities for us to work in cooperative programs."

Businesses paid \$35 to have their windows painted or sponsored the painting of a window as part of the program. The project is sponsored by Canton Township Leisure Services, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Downtown Development Authority.

The money helped cover the cost of the tempera paint provided by D & M Studio as well as a program that will list the windows, their sponsors and the students who painted them. The program will be given out at the Dec. 8 event where students will receive a community service certificate and get to reach into a grab bag to get a prize provided by the businesses. They also will earn an extra credit grade and/or receive community service hours.

A artistic team that includes Sharon Dillenbeck of D & M Studio also will review and write comments about the students' work.

The windows have been divided between the two school districts, and Silagy can't wait to hear what the artistic team has to say about the students' work.

"The original plan was for students in art to do the painting, but almost 100 percent of the



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Career Technical Center students - Melvindale High School senior Jessica Matschikowski painting the star and Wayne Memorial seniors Tonya Ramsey and Gabrielle Borden (back) work on the snow and snow flakes on a window in Canton Corners shopping center.

students aren't in art," she said. "I guess these students saw this as an opportunity to express themselves."

The Wayne-Westland students come from classes like health occupations, electronics and auto body at the center. But students in Steve Paulsen's graphics design classes also helped, creating window clings of winter scenes in squares put up over the doorway at National City Bank.

Designs were also sketched out and the print technology class, working with window-sized paper, created transparencies. Where possible, the transparencies were placed on the inside of the window to give the students an outline to work with. Where it wasn't possible, it gave students an outline and a

color picture to follow, Candela said.

"The kids picked the pictures," she added.

The students did the work during school time, starting the week before Thanksgiving. They worked a few days last week and did the last few windows on Tuesday and Wednesday, including painting a Swedish angel in a window at IKEA.

Admittedly, the project has been a lot of work for Candela who not only did the driving, but provided hot chocolate and food as needed and helped with the cleanup.

"It's all about getting out and doing something for the community," she said. "They did it as a community service."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library will hold an End of the Year Holiday Book Sale Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 7-9, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.

There will be a preview sale 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, for members of the Friends organization. Sale hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday which will be a bag sale.

For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

WYAA meeting

The annual meeting of the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the WYAA Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road, north of Ford. The purpose will be to review the year's events and vote on the 2008 general board of directors.

Tree-lighting event

The city of Westland's annual tree-lighting ceremony is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, in front of Westland City Hall. The public is invited. The event will include the singing of Christmas carols, a visit by Santa Claus and the turning on of holiday lights on City Hall grounds. Afterward, children may go next door to Fire Station No. 1 for treats and to visit with Santa.

Christmas concert

To prove it's cool with street slang, the Westland public library has announced a

Christmas concert by saying "the library is kicking' it old school — really old school."

In fact, the library plans to party like it's the year 1230.

The Cynnabar Collegium Musicum, an 11-voice choir, will perform Medieval seasonal music at the library at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, in the Faust Room.

"Those Medieval Homeboys, The Cynnabar Collegium Musicum, are rockin' da house with happenin' tunes from the 13th through the 17th century," according to a library poster.

Translation: Feel free to stop by for what is expected to be a good, holiday concert.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Win a truck

The Westland Community Foundation and police officers plan to assist local families. Purchase a ticket to a raffle, sponsored by the Westland Community Foundation, the Westland Police Officers Association and the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, and you could win a two-year lease of a 2008 Ford F-150 pickup truck from Jack Demmer Ford or \$7,000 cash.

Tickets are \$100 and only 175 will be sold. The money raised will benefit families in Westland.

The drawing will be held at the Westland Community Foundation's annual Holiday Event at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the Media Center of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland.

For more information, call (734) 595-7727.

Events usher in holidays

The spirit of the holiday season comes to Westland's civic center complex next week with the annual tree lighting event and decorating of trees by youngsters.

The annual tree lighting ceremony will be at 6:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, on the steps of Westland City Hall. Santa will make a special trip to help Mayor William Wild and the members of the City Council turn on the lights on the city hall grounds.

Westland resident and storyteller Nancy Spinelle will present this year's holiday tale, "Cotton Ball ... A Holiday Story," the story of a small cotton ball and his journey to be made into a special holiday gift. The story has spurred a community-wide scarf collection for Westland's Salvation Army. Scarves will be accepted at the ceremony as well.

The evening also will include a carol sing-along and a visit with Santa and refreshments at the Central Fire Station next to City Hall immediately following the ceremony.

Students and scout troops also are invited to decorate the

trees between City Hall and the Bailey Recreation Center at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5. Each group will decorate a tree especially chosen for them before presenting their trees to the mayor and Santa Claus.

Children will also have the opportunity to make their own Victorian scrap art ornament inside the Bailey Center. The afternoon will include a sing-along and refreshments.

For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

And for youngsters who want a chance to talk to the Big Man himself, Westland's annual Santa Call-In Show, produced by WLND-TV, will be on a 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6. Children can chat with Santa and detail their holiday wishes by calling (734) 427-9003.

The program will re-air throughout the holidays on WLND-TV - Wide Open West Channel 10 and Comcast Channel 12.

To view WLND's weekly viewing schedule, visit the City of Westland's Web site at www.cityofwestland.com and click on the WLND icon.

PLAN

FROM PAGE A1

Joy, Venoy and Glenwood — in which it said residents have money to spend. The problem is, those people often are taking their dollars outside Westland.

Residents who live in the trade area may not have the collective income found in places like Canton and Livonia. But because their neighborhoods are often more densely populated, they can boast that they have a higher per-acre income.

McKenna Associates found that the trade area had an annual income of \$178,000 per acre, compared to \$123,000 for Canton, \$133,000 for Livonia, \$141,000 for Dearborn, \$149,000 for Farmington Hills and \$120,000 for Southfield.

Moreover, nearly 36,000 vehicles pass along the Ford Road corridor a day, making it Westland's busiest thoroughfare and giving the area a built-in customer base — if officials can develop a plan to get those motorists to stop.

Charles Smith, a project manager with McKenna, expressed confidence in the Ford Road project despite economic problems that have engulfed southeast Michigan and, indeed, much of the country.

"For Westland, we actually think things are quite good, especially for this corridor," Smith told the charrette crowd.

Officials voiced confidence that the project can move ahead with private investors and with special tax revenues collected by the DDA in the target area. The DDA money would likely be spent for such amenities as improved parking near businesses.

Community leaders stress that the project isn't intended to push out businesses already thriving along Ford Road. Rather, they hope those places will conform to design plans for new buildings that would be built on vacant properties.

One area that leaders called

ideal for new development is the old Village of Homes, south of Ford Road near the long-standing Dairy Dan. The village, built as a place to show mobile homes, has some 11 acres that aren't in use — prime land that officials say could be used for shops and a community gathering spot.

Wild pointed to the redevelopment of Michigan Avenue in downtown Dearborn as one area that has the appeal he envisions for Ford Road.

"It's the same concept," he told the crowd. "It's the same idea."

The project would almost certainly require the city, through the DDA, to acquire property — possibly even some homes that sit behind businesses on Ford Road. That's because community leaders would need deeper lots to spur the project, which could include buildings up to three stories tall, possibly with top-floor lofts.

Several leaders also indicated they would want to petition the state to reduce the 45 mph speed limit along Ford.

Officials conceded the project could take several years to show tangible results. For now, McKenna officials will take the ideas proposed at Tuesday's design charrette and draw up potential concepts for the Ford corridor.

Councilman James Godbout was among those encouraged by the possibility of a new Ford Road, although he, too, said the project will take time.

"This is a journey," he said, "and it takes creative thinking."

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Former Novi city manager announces run for 11th District seat

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Longtime Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall, 66, is seeking the Democratic nomination in the 11th Congressional District to challenge incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter, who is expected to seek a fourth term, in the 2008 election.



Kriewall

Thomas Spencer, a Methodist lay minister and Air Force veteran, announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination two weeks ago.

"I see myself as a change agent and I'm not going to be a follow-the-leader congressman when I get there," Kriewall said. "I think that's one of the problems with the Legislature that exists now. They tend to go along with what the president says."

Kriewall was Novi city manager from 1974 to 2000. He began working for Novi in 1969 as a public works superinten-

dent and was director of public works and interim city manager before becoming city manager.

"I was there when they went through most of their growth," Kriewall said. "It was very exciting and very tough. We went from 9,000 population to almost 50,000. We actually led the state in growth through most of that time."

Kriewall said he was involved in the development of the M-5 Haggerty Road connector, the Novi Expo Center and, as an administrative assistant, coordinated the development of Twelve Oaks Mall.

"I understand government and what drives people, department heads," he said. "A lot of the time they are looking for more funding than they need and you've got to see through that. I believe you could cut government spending by 10 percent right off the bat."

Kriewall is a licensed builder. After retiring as city manager, he developed a condominium development in Tecumseh and is currently developing a commercial property in Green Oaks.

He has a bachelor's degree from the Detroit Institute of Technology and a master of

Spencer campaign goes online

Congressional candidate Thomas Spencer has started a Web site.

Spencer, a Methodist lay minister and U.S. Air Force veteran, is now online at www.tomspencer4congress.com. Spencer and former Novi

city manager Edward Kriewall have announced as candidates for the Democratic nomination for the 11th Congressional District.

Incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter is expected to run for a fourth term.

public administration degree from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. He is single and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

As with Spencer, the war in Iraq is the No. 1 issue for Kriewall in this election.

"I want to get out of there. We should never have gotten in there," he said. "I'm a firm believer that we are looked upon by the rest of the world very negatively because of our intervention in some of these areas."

The economy and immigration are other key issues for Kriewall.

"The outsourcing of jobs overseas and what we are doing in this country with manufacturing and our ability to manufacture is a sad situation," he said.

He said Washington has not been respectful to the domestic auto industry.

"Immigration is a major issue," he said. "I believe that illegal immigration is totally out of control. Even legal immigration is at too high a level. I think it's causing problems with our natural resources and I think it's

taxing to the American public."

He said immigration has contributed to urban sprawl and infrastructure problems.

Kriewall said he believes McCotter is vulnerable because of his ties to the Bush administration.

"I also think he's vulnerable because there's going to be a Democratic administration in the next election and a lot of Republicans are vulnerable," he said.

Kriewall doesn't have a strong feeling for any of the Democratic presidential candidates, but he said a Hillary Clinton-Barak Obama ticket would be "hard to beat."

Kriewall said he has received encouragement from supporters of Tony Trupiano, who challenged McCotter in last year's election.

He said he has begun fundraising and will be distributing campaign material. He doesn't have a Web site yet, but said he will have one soon.

"From now on, it's full speed ahead," he said. "We're up and running."

DOG

FROM PAGE A1

can't understand how this happened."

Jason Darke said, "It could have been me who got shot."

But Ridener said the dog, involved in an earlier incident in which a teenager was bitten, "tore off the porch" and got within two feet of the officer before being shot.

The incident remains under investigation, but Ridener said it appears the officer, whose name he didn't disclose, wasn't at fault.

At first, Jason Darke said he held his bleeding dog while no one helped him. He said the officer ultimately escorted him by following him in his car to Veterinary Emergency Service West in Plymouth.

Jason Darke contends that he was told by the officer that the city would pay the bill, but he and his mother said police later withdrew the offer. By then, Jason Darke said, the veterinary bills already had approached \$2,000.

Cheryl Darke said the bullet "blew out the dog's teeth on one side and put a hole in her nose." Jason Darke said the bullet on Tuesday was still in the dog's lower jaw.

He brought Flash home Friday night, but took her this week to Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield. He said he was told the dog needed care that would likely cost another \$1,900 to \$2,200. He said he

hadn't figured out how to pay the initial \$2,000, much less the remaining tab.

"I just want my dog to be taken care of — that's it," Jason Darke said, adding that he is hoping to get help paying the bills.

Meanwhile, Ridener said the Darkes have been told that they may file a claim for costs with the city and that it will be reviewed. However, the chief said Jason Darke violated the city's pit bull ordinance by not having the dog muzzled, on a leash and inside a closed pen with four sides and a top.

Ridener said the officer, faced with an attack, had yelled for Jason Darke to call off the dog before the shot was fired.

It's not the first time the dog has been in trouble, Ridener said. In May, he said, the pit bull bit a teenager on the left arm on Bakewell. The chief said Jason Darke was cited for having an unlicensed dog and for failing to turn it over for quarantine.

At that time, Ridener said, the dog hadn't had all its shots. Flash was taken by officers and placed in quarantine at the Michigan Humane Society, where she was examined before being released the next day to her owner, Ridener said.

Jason Darke said the incident happened while children were playing with Flash during a birthday party. "That was six months ago."

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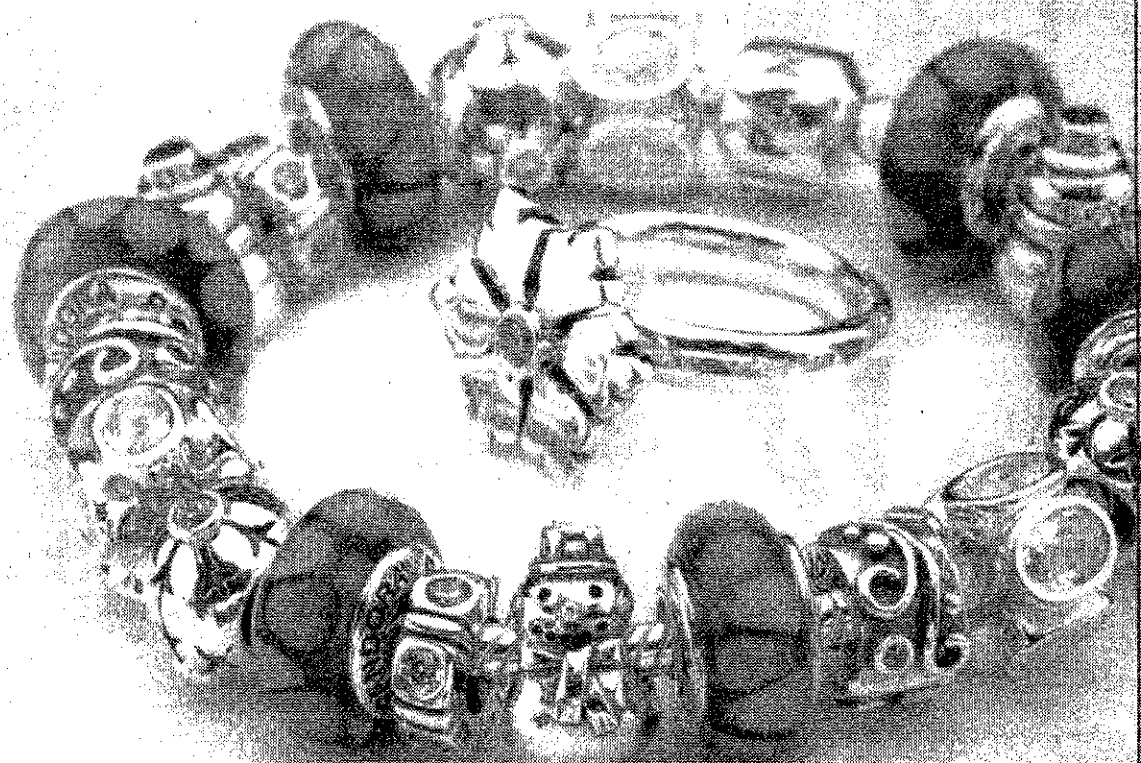
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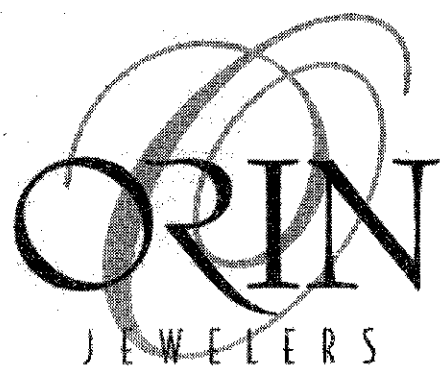
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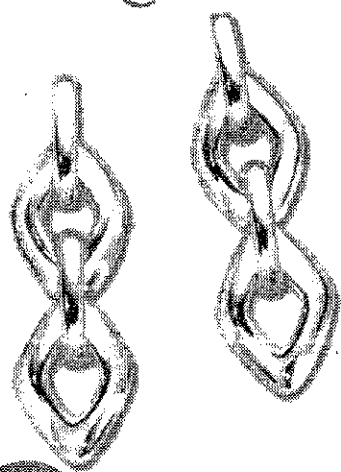
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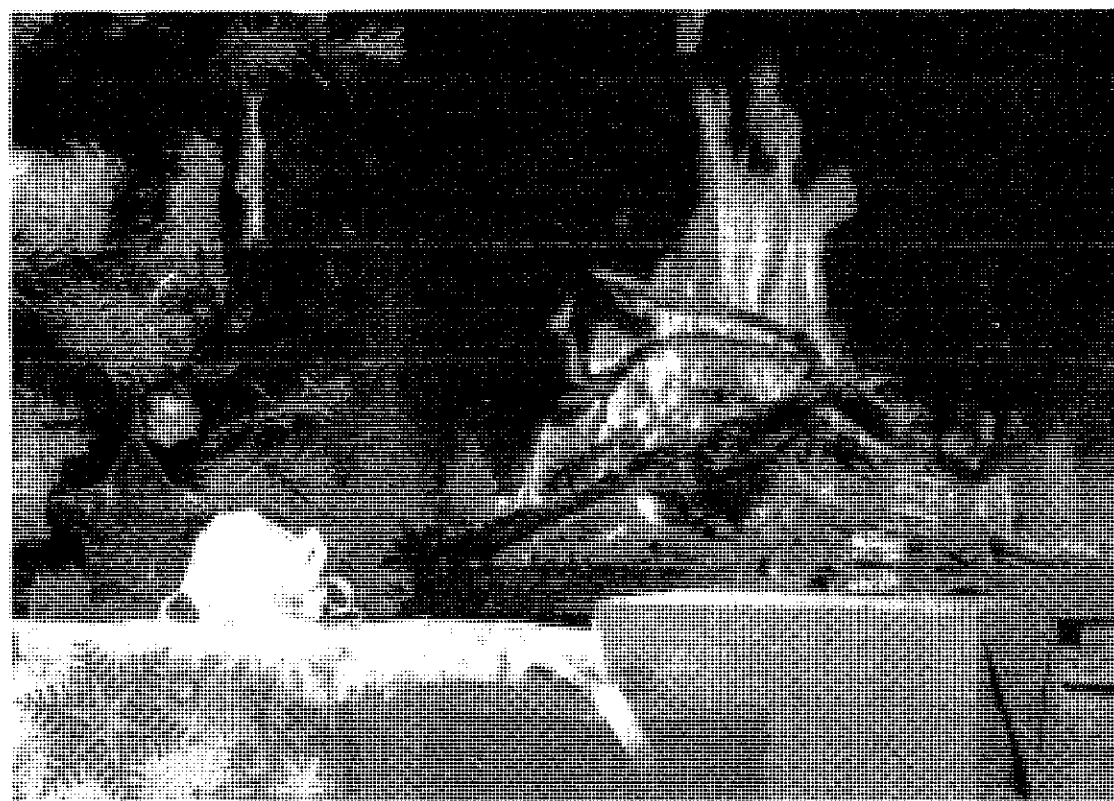
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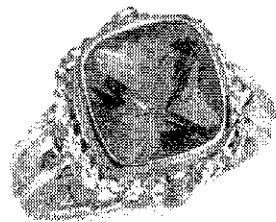
1. Put on Your Coat.



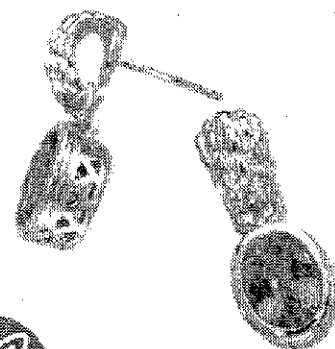
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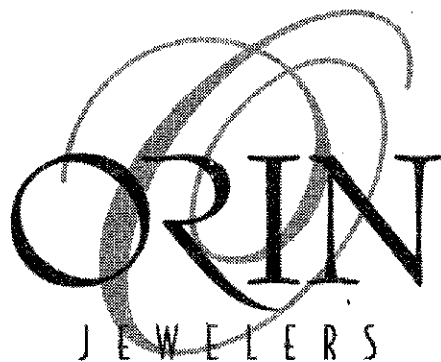
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Inflation is long-term risk for conservative investments

have given a number of talks at public libraries and one issue that always comes up is investing risk-free. People want an investment with long-term stock market returns without short-term volatility. Unfortunately, that type of investment vehicle does not exist. There is no such thing as a risk-free investment. Every investment has some risk. The goal is not to eliminate risk, but rather to manage it. The key is to understand the different types of risks and how they affect your money.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Most look at risk with regard to principal fluctuation. People believe that the stock market is risky and aggressive because the value of an investment goes up and down. On the other hand, CDs are considered a conservative risk-free investment because principal cannot go down. Looking at risk this way exposes an investment philosophy that can cause serious problems in the future. When investors do not consider the risk inflation has on a portfolio, they are fooling themselves into believing they have a risk-free investment. Inflation erodes the purchasing power of an investment. One example of this is postage stamps. Forty years ago, it cost six cents to mail a first-class letter. Today, it costs 41 cents

When investors do not consider the risk inflation has on a portfolio, they are fooling themselves into believing they have a risk-free investment. Inflation erodes the purchasing power of an investment.

to mail that same letter. What costs a little over a nickel 40 years ago now costs nearly 50 cents. It's just not postage stamps, it is everything in our society. The cost of living is higher today than it was 20 years ago and it will be even higher 20 years from now. You must make sure you are receiving enough to offset inflation. What makes this issue even

more complex are taxes and how inflation itself is calculated. When you earn money on investments, you have a tax liability. Focusing on the government's inflation number is not sufficient. The government's number is a measurement that economists use, however, it does not reflect your increased cost of living. The reality of the situation is that each of us needs to calculate our own inflationary number based upon how our costs are increasing on a year-by-year basis. Risk is a function of time. The stock market is very aggressive over the short run, which causes volatility, principal fluctuation and some sleepless nights. However, over the long run the market's per-

formance is much more predictable and less volatile. Investments such as CDs that have no principal fluctuation are considered safe and conservative for the short run. The exact opposite can be said about CDs over the long run, where the effects of inflation erode the value of money. During these turbulent times, investors who are nervous are bailing out and investing their money into CDs and U.S. Treasuries. Although that stops the short-term pain, investors should not fool themselves into thinking they are investing risk-free — they are not. The risks of inflation can't be overlooked. Investors who let short-term comfort dictate the long-term strategy of their portfolio will find that the short-term

comfort causes long-term difficulties. I wish I had the magic words to get investors through difficult times. However, what is happening in the market now is not unusual. We've seen it earlier this year, like we have seen it in the past. Understanding how the market operates and focusing on your financial goals and objectives will allow you to follow a strategy to get through the difficult times. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at monymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

**CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 22 11/19/07**

Presiding: President Pickering
Present: Godbout, Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
270-Approved minutes of 11/5/07.
-Adopted Budget Amend: 2008-05: Gen. Fund \$41,738.00.
-Removed Bid Award from Gaglio Pr. Cement & award to Major Building for concrete repairs, \$91,690.00
-Agrmnt. between City & WWCSO re. JGHS Police Ofcr. Liason.
-Adopted Prep. Land Div. Res., Parcel #062-99-0008-703, e. side Wayne Road, s. of Cherry Hill.
-Approved 2008 Schedule of Reg. Council Mtgs.
-Approved Clean up fees on Winter Tax Bill, \$14,894.64.
271-Approved Special Land Use AJ's Attic Resale Clothing Store, Parcel #035-99-0004-001, e. side of Wayne Road, n. of Ford Road.
273-Re-appoint. of B.D.Hopkins as Dem. on Bd. of Canvassers.
275-Re-appoint. of R. Story as Rep. on Bd. of Canvassers.
276-Approved check list Activity: \$1,391,048.52 & Prepaid: \$1,749,677.93.
Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.
Minutes available at the Clerk's office.

Charles W. Pickering
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: November 28, 2007

2 bills would rein in insurance companies

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson has introduced a bill that would tighten the reins on insurance companies and increase consumer protection for individual policyholders. "Michigan residents not only put their money into insurance companies, but their faith as well," said the Westland Democrat. "When someone is injured or files a claim, they

need to know that they will be treated fairly by their insurance company, and if not, then by our legal system." SB 913 will require insurers to handle benefits or claims fairly and in good faith with individuals claiming benefits. It will also remove barriers for policyholders who are forced to pursue a policy breach in court. An insurer that breaches their

duty will be held liable for compensatory, consequential and exemplary damages caused by the breach. The second bill, SB 914, establishes that the court shall award all legal costs and expenses related to taking legal action to an insured individual when an insurance company has been found to be in breach in court. This will include rea-

sonable and actual attorney fees, interest and taxable costs. "Currently Michigan insurance laws allow insurance companies to draw out settlements and deny claims with little recourse to the consumer," said Anderson. "My legislation will create a disincentive for these bad actors in the industry to delay payment on legitimate claims."

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Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: December 13, 2007
Time: 1:00 p.m. EST
Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185

Attn: Sheila King, Supervisor of Business

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after Monday November 26, 2007.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE PLAN ROOM, Detroit, Michigan; or the CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: November 29 & December 2, 2007

Meeting aims to fight foreclosures epidemic

An organizing meeting to fight the epidemic of foreclosures in Detroit and throughout Michigan will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, on the fourth floor of Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams at Grand Circus Park in Detroit. The meeting is to build support for a campaign to

demand that Gov. Jennifer Granholm exercise her authority under the law to declare a State of Economic Emergency in Michigan and impose a moratorium to stop foreclosures and utility shut-offs. Three separate Michigan statutes mandate that the governor declare a State of Emergency during periods of

crisis, natural or "man-made," and provide special powers to meet the crisis. During the 1930s, the State Legislature utilized its emergency powers to pass the Mortgage Moratorium Act which extended the redemption period during which homeowners could not have their property taken from them after foreclo-

sure from six months to five years. In Russell vs. Battle Creek Lumber Co., the Mortgage Moratorium Act was upheld as constitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court based on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Home Building & Loan Association vs. Blaisdell, which upheld a similar moratorium passed in Minnesota. Meeting organizers point out that Michigan is currently among the leaders nationwide in foreclosures, with more than 24,000 homes in foreclosure in Detroit alone. In Detroit, 85 percent of mortgages are sub-prime. They add that the people of Michigan desperately need emergency relief now to meet the crisis and prevent the unprecedented loss of homes in the state.

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11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:55, 9:15
FR/SAT LS 11:35
THE MIST (R)
11:00, 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
(G) 12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
FR/SAT LS 11:40
BEOWULF (PG-13)
11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:50
FRED CLAU (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
REE MOVIE (PG)
11:15, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:05
FR/SAT LS 11:15
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R)
11:45, 3:00, 6:20, 9:30

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Ceramics show has work by more than 130 potters

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

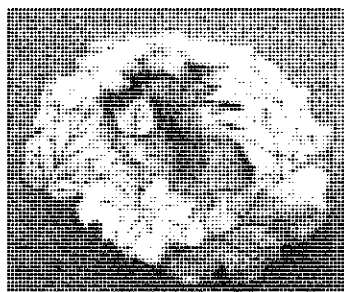
This is Debbie Liberman's first Potter's Market. She was telling everyone how excited she was to be in the annual show featuring 12,000 square feet of hand-crafted bowls, sculptures, teapots, bird-houses, soap dispensers, and more.

At the time, Liberman was exhibiting her ceramics in the Village Potters Guild annual Holiday Show in Plymouth. She started working with clay 20 years ago and has been a member of the guild (www.villagepottersguild.org) for 12 years. She'll exhibit tiles, baskets with beaded handles, flat trays, beads, buttons, and a few ornaments at the Potters Market.

"The Potters Market has the potential for a large volume of sales and the opportunity for a lot of people who are interested in pottery to see my work," said Debbie Liberman of Southfield.

Kathy Sandberg exhibits her wares every year at the market that literally offers ceramics for everyone. Like Liberman, Sandberg was invited to exhibit in the show as a guest artist. The Potters Market primarily spotlights the advanced and former students of the Oakland Community College (Royal Oak) Ceramic Technology Program, but displays the work of other potters as well.

"It's all potters," said Sandberg, a member of the Village Potters Guild. "It's not set up by individual art-



Kathy Sandberg of Plymouth displays her latest work in the 32nd annual Potters Market.

32ND ANNUAL POTTERS MARKET

What: The show features 12,000 square feet of ceramics by more than 130 potters.

When: Preview and advance sale 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 (\$10); admission free during the rest of the show 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2

Where: United Food & Commercial Worker's Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, south of 13 Mile Road between Stephenson Highway and John R, Madison Heights

Details: Visit www.thepottersmarket.com or call (248) 246-2686.

ists. There's a jewelry section, ornaments, a \$25 and under section. The main floor is individual and one of a kind pieces. If you like pottery that's the place to go. If you're a collector of mugs, they're one of a kind. There's a lot of very talented artists there."

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RELIGION

FROM PAGE A8

Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Bible study 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The current study is the Gospel of St. John. For more information, call (734) 261-1455.

Farmington Women Aglow Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. Farmington Aglow is a Christian women's group.

Worship services Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and

hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Sunday service All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes Adult and English as a Second

Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Scripture studies From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093 for information.

Eucharistic adoration The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The

church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Senior activities Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro, The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST

UNITED METHODIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180 Virgil Humes, Pastor Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Praise Service 9:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-474-3444 Pastor Beth Libranete Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Canton Christian Fellowship "Where the Word is Relevant, People are Loved and Christ is the Key" Join us for Worship Service at 10:30 am Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00 am Located at 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI, 48187 Between Haggerty Road and Lilley Road SW corner of Joy Road and Ronda Drive 734-404-2480 www.CantonCF.org It's not about Religion, it's about Relationships.

More than Sunday Services! Worship Services 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds. 734-422-0149 Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Marsha M. Woolley Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

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

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 9800 Laverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424 "Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rockrohr" Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Education Hour 9:45 a.m. Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233

CATHOLIC

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

NON DENOMINATIONAL

PRESBYTERIAN U.S.A.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy • Grades K-8 23810 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 584-2121 Mass Schedules: Fri. 7:00 p.m., First Sat. 11:00 a.m., Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m., Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

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

Worship in Downtown Plymouth First Presbyterian Church Main & Church Streets - (734) 453-8464 8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. visit us at www.fpcpn.net Accessible to all

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road just west of I-275 Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services - Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRD-AM 580 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Nursery Care Available www.risenchrist.info

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH 48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 451-0444 REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO Weekday Masses Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m. Saturday - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Vinoy) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petreca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class 8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Sabbath School (all ages)-11:00 a.m. Worship Service-Hispanic-12:30 pm. Wednesdays Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

ROSEDALE GARDENS 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Advent Celebration, Sunday Dec. 9th Living Nativity at 6 P.M. Christmas Carol Collage Concert at 7 P.M.

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M. Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1380 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jefferson) MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 46901 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

OUR VIEWS

House's opening is a grand event

Tomorrow is a red letter day for the Westland Historical Commission with the unveiling of the restored Octagon House.

While there's still some work to be done, it's a tribute to the city's Historical Commission and to the many volunteers who have given their time to restore the home. It has come a long way from sitting on the beams that brought it to the Westland Historical Village Park from a site on Warren Road more than five years ago.

Preserving the city's history is a daunting task and a lot of people have given of their time and energy to repair and restore the Octagon House. Kudos to the construction trades students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center who sided the house, to Ford Motor Co. employees Ron Bruce, Mike Hall and Mike Zebron who restored the home's semicircular front porch among other things and to Mike Sifter who plastered and painted most of the interior's walls.

But the biggest kudos go to the Westland Historical Commission, especially Bill Tremper, who took on the job of completing the restoration. The commission hasn't

We encourage residents to stop by the Octagon House tomorrow afternoon to see an impressive piece of the city's history. Be sure to take time to walk through it and offer a thank you to those people who made it all possible.

wavered in its determination to get the house open to the public. It has held numerous fund-raisers to finance the repairs and has gotten help with donations to move it along.

The Octagon House was the biggest of the park's two restoration projects. Now that it's available for use by the public, it will begin generating revenue that can be used to pay for the restoration of the Rowe House.

We encourage residents to stop by the Octagon House tomorrow afternoon to see an impressive piece of the city's history. Be sure to take time to

walk through it and offer a thank you to those people who made it all possible.

The city is lucky to have such a committed group of individuals dedicated to preserving its past. We thank them for what they have done and look forward to what they plan to do. The Rowe House is next on their list, and at the rate they're going, it won't be that long before the rest of the park is completed.

Keep holiday shopping grounded locally

If you're feeling like you're in a scene from the movie *Groundhog Day*, but Bill Murray is nowhere around, chances are you're looking at your holiday shopping list — again.

It happens every year ... the same list ... the same conundrum.

You sigh, shake your head and once again promise that this year will be different. Still fresh is the memory of the Alpaca wool hat that you bought Uncle Joe online, only to see it a month later — on the back of your cousin's dog.

It's hard to judge sizes online, not to mention colors. You wince, remembering the sweater for your sister that looked chocolate brown on a Web site, but turned out to be olive. There wasn't time to return it by mail and get a replacement.

You weigh your options, taking up the list again and reaching for the *Observer & Eccentric*. The cat scurries off as the pile of catalogues you've dislodged cascades to the floor.

Reading the paper, you're reminded of the value of shopping locally. This year there will be no mistaking the quality of goods from high-end stores at Somerset in Troy and at Laurel Park in Livonia. Even some of the big box and craft stores throughout the suburbs hold the right treasures for the right people who enjoy working with their hands.

As budgets shrink, discount stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target at the new Wonderland Village in Livonia, offer increasing values.

If options are good, planning is better and you saved time to shop the boutique stores along the main streets of Birmingham, Rochester, Farmington, Garden City and Plymouth. Many hold one-of-a-kind gifts that recipients won't see someone else wearing at church on Christmas.

There's also no mistaking the level of service at smaller stores, whose owners know their survival depends on it.

Needing a break, you settle in for a cappuccino at a local bookstore and consider your day. A kid across the aisle hogs the table as he leans into the final Harry Potter tale.

The corners of your mouth turn up. You'll sleep well tonight.



LETTERS

Thanks for support

Dear Westland residents:
I would like to give a long, overdue thanks to the residents of Westland. This includes the many wonderful voters who went out in the rainy weather to vote at the polls, those who voted by absentee ballot and the kind and thoughtful residents I talked to while campaigning for the position of city clerk.

In my opinion, it is the people that make a city. While I knocked on door after door, I had the honor of meeting and talking to the residents of Westland. Without a doubt, Westland can truly be considered a Great, All American City!

Regardless of who we voted for, the residents should stand behind our elected officials. Whatever their views are or what their goals may be, I believe the elected officials have the city's best interest in mind.

Once again, thank you to everyone and let's work together to continue to keep the City of Westland Great!

Sincerely,
Bruce H. Paige, C.P.A.
former candidate for city clerk

No to sanctuary cities

You wrote in the *Observer*:
"Personally, I find it a great irony that aboriginal peoples of North America are being labeled immigrants to this country." Webster's New World college dictionary defines an "aborigine" as "any of the first or earliest known inhabitants of a certain region; native." Your claim, then, is incorrect. The aborigines of the continental United States are Native Americans, not Mexicans, Central or South Americans, or even Canadians for that matter.

But in your short sighted, "humanistic" and progressive perspective, you overlook the bigger picture: the one of the North American Union that is being developed which you've probably never heard about but is a matter of public record and existing inter-governmental treaty.

The reason the current and corrupt and treasonous U.S. administration and Congress has failed to do anything is simple: the massive influx of illegals from south of the border fits perfectly into the agenda of the soon coming sovereign North American Union involving Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, similar to the European Union which now exists. You HAVE heard of that one, I hope.

The government doesn't care about the flood of illegal immigrants. They don't CARE about potential criminals slipping in with the mix of impoverished family folks looking for a job. They don't CARE that Mexico and other Central and South American countries are havens for growing narco-cartels that are now, and will be more able to infiltrate our borders. All they care about is profit and power.

If there are 12 million illegal aliens in this country, it will take a long time for us to get rid of them so the sooner we start, the better. But once we begin, and some already have, the message will be clear to the so called "aborigines" that our sovereign United States of America is NOT welcoming huddled, masses yearning to be free, if they are wall jumpers, river swimmers or tunnel crawlers. My parents came here legally from Poland. My wife is from Thailand and I waited, legally, a year for her to get her papers to come here. She is now a citizen. I personally know a lot of desperate legal citizens who are out of work and would be more than happy to take a job as a bricklayer, toilet cleaner, landscaper, or whatever in order to survive.

Sad it's come to that. Pray that it doesn't get worse. And badger our officials to not allow so-called "sanctuary cities" to take root in Michigan. Detroit has already done that. Stand guard, America. Our country is under attack from both foreign and domestic enemies. Now is the time that tries all men's souls.

John Byk
Garden City

Allow embryonic research

Phil Power (in a column Nov. 1) stated that in 1978, Michigan passed a law banning all forms of research on human embryos. He further stated that this has resulted in possible \$10 million fines

and 10 years jail time. For this issue, I agree that embryonic research should not result in fine or jail time.

Mr. Power stated that the Bush administration cut off funding for embryonic stem cell research. A fact that he neglected to mention is that President Bush is the only president in history to federally fund stem cell research. Bush announced on Aug. 9, 2001, that his administration would make the funds available for lines of cells already in existence. What Bush banned is the specific creation of embryos for the purpose of stem cell research.

Mr. Power also stated that scientists could possibly find a cure for Parkinson's, macular degeneration, and Huntington's chorea. Research has shown that embryonic stem cells have a tendency to produce tumors. However, British scientists have grown a liver from umbilical cord cells. Scientists at Wake Forest and Harvard universities have used amniotic fluid stem cells have been used to create brain, liver, and bone cells. A Swiss researcher has managed to turn amniotic fluid stem cells into heart cells that could be grown into replacement valves.

This year, a team of Brazilian and American scientists led by Julio Voltarelli of the University of Sao Paulo reports that young patients with Type 1 diabetes used stem cells drawn from their own blood to stop taking insulin injections after their body resumed producing the hormone naturally. Two months ago, a British research team led by Sir Magdi Yacoub managed in the laboratory to grow tissue that functions in the same way as human heart valves, using stem cells drawn from the patient's own bone marrow.

The final point Mr. Power made that I would like to respond to is that he mentioned opponents make the claim that adult stem cell research is just as promising as embryonic stem cell research, but that adult stem cells are limited in their ability to grow into the kinds of cells that would support wide-ranging research. My comments earlier mention umbilical cord stem cells, amniotic stem cells, and most recently adult stem cells for insulin and heart valve treatments. I would like to repeat that I agree with him that embryonic research should not be illegal.

Robert M. Carter
Redford

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.

Mail:
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WESTLAND Observer

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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.

QUOTABLE

"We're having our own investigation of this individual. Right now, we just don't have a lot of information."
Livonia Public Schools spokesperson Donna McDowell about a Churchill High School student who may be the "person of interest" in the Daniel Sorensen murder case.

Parents handling media pressure in an entirely different manner

When I saw Jean Pierre Orlewicz and Alexander Letkemann walk into Judge Michael Gerou's courtroom at the 35th District Court last week, I had the same reaction I've had in most of the murder cases I've covered.

I pictured my own 17-year-old and wondered how I'd feel if he stood charged with these kinds of crimes. As you by now surely know, Letkemann, 18, of Westland, and Orlewicz, 17, a Canton High School senior from Plymouth Township, are charged in the grisly death of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen, an acquaintance the two are charged with stabbing and decapitating.

I thought of my other children and wondered how such a thing would affect them. And, I thought, with all the media scrutiny this case — and others like it — is getting, how are the families coping?

The suspects in a case like this obviously get the bulk of the attention. People want to know what they're like, what might have driven them to commit such a crime (remembering, of course, that they're innocent until proven guilty). People want to know about the victim, how he got caught up in a situation where he lost his life, what he possibly could have done to the suspects to warrant losing his life.

But how much attention gets paid to the families?

Both sets of parents were in the courtroom last week, Orlewicz's parents sitting quietly on one side, Letkemann's father and mother sitting not-so-quietly on the other. Peter Letkemann has been in front of just about every camera since his son's Nov. 9 arrest, championing his cause, telling anyone with a tape recorder, a microphone or a notebook that "my son would never do something like this."

Gerou signed a gag order silencing lawyers and law enforcement officials in this case, but it doesn't apply to the families (at least not yet; it probably will after Thursday), and the elder Letkemann has made it well known he doesn't care much for the gag order in the first place.

I've been more intrigued by William and Charlotte Orlewicz, who've yet to say a word publicly, unless you count "no comment." This is just one person's opinion, but they look the way I'm pretty sure I'd look: Like their world has crumbled around them, and they aren't at all certain why.

Their son's lawyers, Joseph Niskar and

The suspects in a case like this obviously get the bulk of the attention. People want to know what they're like, what might have driven them to commit such a crime (remembering, of course, that they're innocent until proven guilty). People want to know about the victim, how he got caught up in a situation where he lost his life, what he possibly could have done to the suspects to warrant losing his life. But how much attention gets paid to the families?

James Thomas, are certainly largely responsible for the Orlewicz's silence. Speculation runs rampant it's because the prosecution's case is much stronger against J.P. than against Letkemann; no one will know for sure until Friday, when the preliminary hearing is scheduled.

Letkemann's lawyer, Farmington Hills attorney Raymond Cassar, did what he could — at least before the gag order — to distance his client from his teenage sidekick. After the video arraignment Nov. 12 in Romulus, Cassar said, "You heard the detective run down the litany of facts, and no where in that litany did you hear that (Letkemann) had a weapon." The Letkemanns have been all over the place claiming Alexander would "never do this."

When asked if Cassar was throwing Orlewicz under the bus, all Niskar would say was, "We're not getting into that game." And the Orlewicz's have done nothing to fire back. They've made it clear they aren't going to talk to the press, not that that has caused the press to stop trying. When Charlotte Orlewicz left the courtroom last week, her silence spoke volumes, wordlessly letting the media know "I'm not going to talk to you."

But the cameras pressed forward relentlessly, microphones were shoved in her face, she was asked personal questions about the locket bearing J.P.'s picture she wore around her neck. She shrunk in against her husband, and the ring of cameras didn't ease up until the couple got on the elevator.

It left me wondering the same thing I've always wondered — "Would I handle it that well?" — and knowing the answer before I asked the question:

Probably not.

Brad Kadrach is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrach@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

Crime ranking critics miss the mark ... again

The latest release of the nation's City Crime Rankings once again found that Detroit has the worst crime of all the major cities in the country for 2006, a position it last held in 2003 while Flint was ranked third this time. For most of the last decade or so, Detroit and Flint have held positions in the top 10 worst crime cities according to the Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press which released the latest ranking on Nov. 18.



Murray Davis

Rather than understand and learn from this information, our public officials and civic leaders have chosen to lambaste the report as biased, prejudicial and even erroneous. Yet, it cannot be denied that Detroit and Flint have major crime problems. If unconvinced, just look to the insurance industry and the astronomical premiums being charged in these two areas. It is not all just about "redlining."

Once again, our city and state officials have missed the mark by ignoring a major source of our crime problems. The CQ Press, in releasing its report, candidly admits that crime levels are affected by many different factors, such as population densities, youth populations, climate, economic conditions, etc. However, one factor it mentioned has always been ignored by our public officials and legislators — family cohesiveness.

Numerous analyses have shown that high rates of single parent households significantly contribute to a host of societal ills, including higher crime rates. Detroit and Flint have significantly higher percentages (well over 65 percent) of single parent households than most other major cities — the majority of households, which are African-American.

This destruction of two-parent families is not only a Detroit/Flint tragedy, it is a Michigan tragedy since state government has aided, abetted and encouraged this environment via its child support policies, practices, court rulings and laws since the 1980s. We believe it may even constitute a conspiracy of corruption among the three (independent) branches of state government since they now appear to work in concert

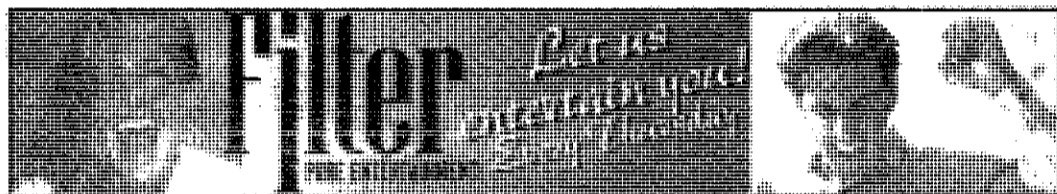
This destruction of two-parent families is not only a Detroit/Flint tragedy, it is a Michigan tragedy since state government has aided, abetted and encouraged this environment via its child support policies, practices, court rulings and laws since the 1980s. We believe it may even constitute a conspiracy of corruption among the three (independent) branches of state government since they now appear to work in concert to maximize federal funding for the state's multibillion dollar social services and divorce industries at the expense of middle-class families.

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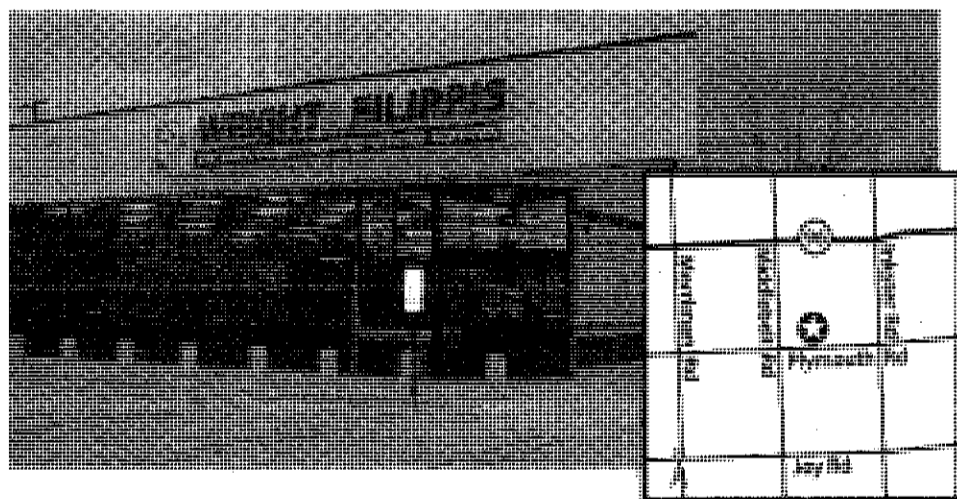
Considering the obvious progress being made in revitalizing Detroit and southeastern Michigan (among other areas) and the desire to maintain these achievements, it is now time our public officials, civic leaders and legislators take their heads out of the sand and address a major root cause of our crime problems — children growing up without natural two-parent involvement.

A good first step already is on the table in the state legislature in the form of House Bill 4564, which requires shared custody and parenting of minor children in the absence of any parental unfitness. This law would significantly reduce the number children that grow up in our state without both parents involved and risk higher chances of becoming tomorrow's school dropouts, drug users, and criminals. Although pervasive, these societal ills have affected our African-American population the hardest. Our state's families, children, and its citizens can no longer afford to continue down this same path of societal suicide and destruction.

Murray Davis of Southfield is board president of the National Family Justice Association (www.nfja.org), a national nonprofit education and advocacy organization for issues affecting American children and families. Contact Davis at NFJAPres@aol.com.



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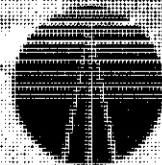
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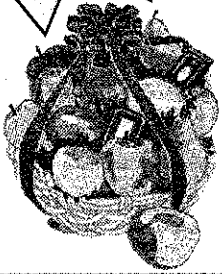


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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Dakota aerial attack spoils Stevenson run

QB sets records in 41-21 triumph

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Mitch Lovett and Kyle Demaster played pitch-and-catch Saturday, turning Ford Field into a field of dreams for the second straight year as Macomb Dakota repeated as Division 1 state football champion with a convincing 41-21 win over Livonia Stevenson at the home of the Detroit Lions.

The Spartans, only the third Livonia school to appear in a state championship game, end their finest season in school history at 13-1 overall. Dakota, winning its 22nd straight dating back to Sept. 29, 2006, finishes 14-0.

Lovett, a first-year quarterback who took over for James Stallons (now at Wisconsin), was the ghost of 1988 MHSAA finals record-setter Mill Coleman of Farmington Hills Harrison. The 6-foot-2, 170-pound senior was money all afternoon, completing 16-of-23 passes for 301 yards and five touchdowns (both state records).

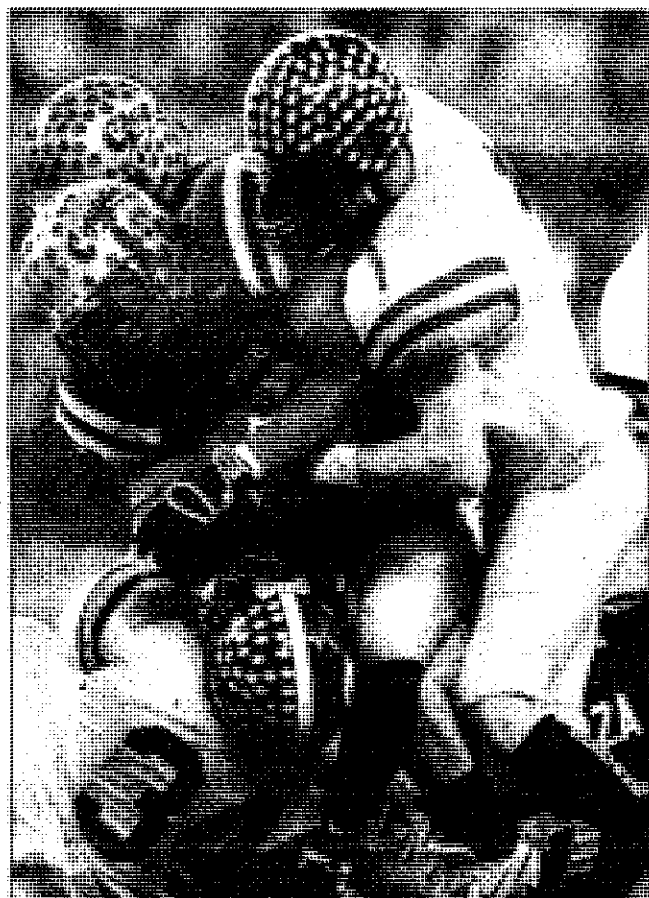
Demaster, a 6-1, 200-pound

Please see **TITLE, B2**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Kevin Marchelletta tries to get pressure on Dakota quarterback Mitch Lovett during Saturday's Division 1 state championship game at Detroit's Ford Field.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Wyatt Stahl (bottom) and Pat York (right) wrap up Dakota's Terrence Shelby during Saturday's Division 1 state final.

Spartans surpassed expectations

It may not have looked like it Saturday at Detroit's Ford Field, but Livonia Stevenson's football team certainly came a long way this season.

Yes, the 41-21 drubbing at the hands of defending Division 1 state champion Macomb Dakota put a momentary damper on the Spartans' most glorious grid campaign.

But to go 13-1 after losing 48-0 to Canton in the opening round of the 2006 state playoffs showed how far the Spartans had actually come.

Stevenson wasn't rated a pre-season top 25 team and wasn't even touted to win the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association (Walled Lake Central was the coaches' choice).

The Spartans, however, did not overachieve this season because they had talent, speed, work ethic and, most importantly, the will to win.

Stevenson coach Tim Gabel would be the first to admit he did not enjoy how things unfolded



Brad Emons

Saturday against Dakota, a Macomb Area Conference power who certainly deserved to win.

"They (Dakota) played well and we did not," Gabel said. "And I probably did not call a good game."

But that doesn't take away all the accomplishments this season by Stevenson, which included Lakes Division, WLAA, district and regional titles.

"These kids have to get the credit of setting a goal of going 9-0 and meaning it," Gabel said. "And that wasn't an arrogant statement to the rest of the league. They set high goals for themselves."

Ironically after the Spartans finished 9-0, they had to reassess their goals during the postseason.

Following a first-round 27-21 playoff scare from Plymouth, Gabel said his players decided to reassess themselves.

"We did not play well and Plymouth came to play," the Stevenson coach said. "We kind of felt after going 9-0 that we were without a goal. They said, 'Let's set another impossible goal and get to Ford Field,' and they dared to dream it."

A dramatic come-from-behind 40-35 state semifinal victory over Troy following a rugged 10-7 win over city rival Livonia Franklin made it a reality.

Despite all the hoopla and excitement leading up to Saturday's state championship game, Gabel said his team remained single-minded with a single purpose. The Spartans traveled last Wednesday to Ann Arbor and practiced indoors at the University of Michigan.

"It kind of epitomized the season," Gabel said. "They could have been distracted going out there, but it lasted about 20 seconds. They were focused on the game plan and practice. It was upbeat and positive. The practices (all

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**

Patriots stave off Churchill in opener, 50-40

New Livonia Franklin girls basketball coach Dave McCall may have summed it up best following his team's season-opening 50-40 win at home over Livonia Churchill.

"I guess an ugly win is better than an ugly loss," said McCall, whose team overcame 30 turnovers. "I was not happy with the performance. We got into some foul trouble. We were very sloppy, but give credit to Churchill. They played good inside zone defense and we kept forcing the ball in."

Senior guard Samantha Floyd led the Patriots with 13 points. Junior forward Brianna Taylor and senior center Ashley Price added 12 and 11, respectively. Junior forward Brittany Taylor contributed seven.

The Patriots made 19-of-29 free throws, while Churchill was 6-of-12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Churchill's Brittany Catalano, a senior guard, led all scorers with 15 points, connecting on five 3-pointers. Junior center Kia Griffin added 12.

The Chargers, who trailed 24-16 at halftime and 38-28 after three quarters, stayed within striking distance, but couldn't get over the hump.

"I was pleased with the way we played defense," said Churchill coach Chad Jenkins, who was making his debut as varsity coach. "We took away their inside game and were able to eliminate the paint, but it seemed every time we got within eight or 10, Floyd or somebody else would hit a 3-pointer. We also had some costly turnovers on the break."

Area grapplers pin their hopes

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Dave Chiola might be a candidate for the World Series of Poker.

The Livonia Franklin wrestling coach, who has guided the Patriots to three straight Observerland Invitational and Western Lakes Activities Association titles, could be considered bluffing and certainly doesn't want to show all his cards after losing 10 starters and three All-Staters to

graduation.

Among those lost include 125-pound Division 1 runner-up Josh Billiau, 152-pounder Nate Turco (seventh) and 171-pounder Pat Roumayah (eighth). Also gone is 130-pounder Jon Roos, who was a previous state qualifier, and 285-pound Observerland champ Kyle Brown.

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

WRESTLING PREVIEW

Sidelines

Patriots iced, 6-2

Josh Magnan notched a hat trick and Taylor Crawford added two goals Monday as host Waterford Kettering downed Livonia Franklin in a non-league boys hockey game, 6-2, at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Brian Stoll also added a goal for the Captains (4-0), who led 4-0 after two periods before Franklin cut the deficit to 4-2 in the final period on goals by Jordan Short (from Ben Kubiak) and Tyler Barnes (from Derek Davis) at 1:31 and 2:14, respectively.

Franklin net-minder Austin Mesler made 29 saves, while Kettering goalie Stephane Salek made 26 stops.

Blazer skaters fall

Livonia Ladywood finished 0-2-1 over the weekend Silver Stick round-robin girls hockey tourney held at the St. Clair Shores Arena.

On Friday, Charice Delbrugge's goal with 55 seconds left gave the 19-and-under Livonia Captains a 2-1 win over the Blazers.

Andrea Slusser also scored for the Captains, while Heather Sartorius tallied Ladywood's goal from Abby Kienbaum.

Ladywood goalie Michelle Wynniemko made 27 saves.

On Saturday, the Blazers and the 16-and-under Livonia Knights battled to a 1-all draw.

Mersadeez Mento's power-play goal with 54 seconds left gave the Knights the tie.

Sartorius scored unassisted for the Blazers, while Wynniemko made 24 saves.

On Sunday, the 19-and-under Kentwood Falcons downed Ladywood, 5-1, breaking a 1-1 deadlock with four goals in the final period.

Ashley Subu led the Falcons with a pair of goals.

Kienbaum scored from Elise Sarawski for the Blazers, now 1-2-1 overall.

Freshman goalie Jessica Pavela made 16 saves in the loss.

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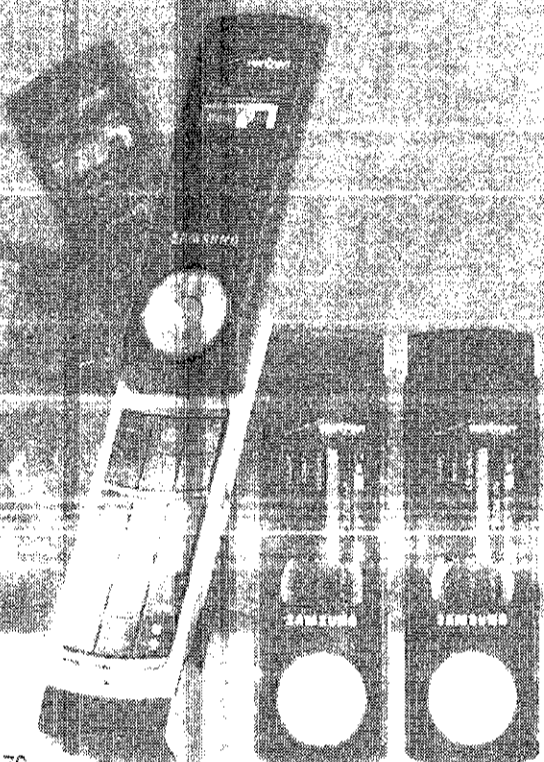
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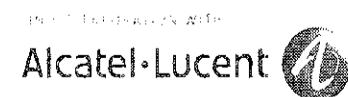
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