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# Root out May school elections

- Our Opinion, A10

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- Hometownlife, D1



THURSDAY  
March 27, 2008

# WESTLAND Observer

75 cents

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland resident Luann Englehart holds up the warrant for her arrest, issued for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Joining her on her trip to jail was friend Theresa Manuel (behind) had Englehart arrested as part of the local MDA Lock-Up.

## Official heads west to lure new businesses

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland city leaders are hoping that what happens in Vegas does *not* stay in Vegas.

In an aggressive move to lure new businesses here, Westland Economic Development Lori Fodale will travel to Las Vegas on May 18-21 for an international convention that will draw more than 50,000 representatives of the retail real estate industry.

Armed with marketing brochures, Fodale hopes to hit the economic jackpot by convincing businesses to choose Westland when she attends the Global Retail Real Estate Convention. The event, billed as the largest gathering of its kind, is sponsored by the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Communities like Canton, which has snagged stores like IKEA by ratcheting up their marketing strategies, already send teams each year to the retail convention.

"We can't sit back and wait for businesses to come to us," Fodale said. "We've got to be aggressive like the communities around us."

Westland has its own successes to tout. A report by outside consultants McKenna Associates of Northville revealed late last year that residents in this city's densely populated, core shopping area have a higher income per acre than their neighbors in places like Canton and Livonia.

Widespread economic woes have made the task of luring new businesses even more daunting, but Mayor William Wild said the city has to fight back.

"What we're doing is taking a more proactive approach," he said. "In the past, we have let developers come to Westland. Now, in this market, all the cities are competing against each other, so we're going to start actively recruiting them."

Fodale hopes to market Westland as a desirable place for businesses to locate, particularly those looking to expand for the first time into southeast Michigan.

"It's my opportunity to sell the city of Westland to them and convince them to come to Westland," she said. "I'll have a target list of businesses I'd like to see come to Westland, and I'll be scheduling meetings with them."

Fodale plans to try to market specific sites, such as the former Sam's Club and the old Best Buy on Central City Parkway. She said one developer could piece those properties together to create room for a large new development, one that could complement Westland Shopping Center.

Wild confirmed that next year he hopes to send not just Fodale, but perhaps an economic team, to the retail convention. At that time, he said, Westland could actually have its own exhibition at the global gathering.

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

## Under arrest: Jailbirds raise money for MDA

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 70 "criminals" were rounded up recently and thrown in the slammer.

Their crime? According to the warrants issued for their arrest, it was "for having a big heart."

Sheriffs, masquerading as limousine drivers, rounded up the hooligans and took them to a makeshift jail last Thursday at Dario's Restaurant in Garden City, where they donned prison stripes for their mug shot and then were put to work raising bail.

"My kids were worried about where I was going,"

said Luann Englehart, a first-grade teacher, who was taken from her classroom at Memorial Elementary School.

Welcome to the Muscular Dystrophy Association Lock-Up, a fund-raiser in which friends and relatives enter the witness protection plan in exchange for the names of would-be criminals.

The criminal overtones are all in jest, except for the bail which is used to provide services to MDA patients in Westland and Garden City.

"All of the bail that they bring in stays in this area," said Rob Merritt, MDA program coordinator. "It helps with doctor visits, wheelchairs, research, anything not

covered by the patient's medical insurance. It sends kids to MDA summer camp where all expenses are paid for."

Englehart, a Westland resident, may have been one of the few people arrested who knew who turned her name into MDA. It was Theresa Manuel, her friend and fellow member of Merriman Road Baptist Church.

"I work with a teen group at church and I think one of the teens turned in my name," said Manuel. "I decided I wasn't going alone, so I got them to arrest LuAnn."

The two women worked as a team, raising \$427. Manuel sent out three e-mails — one about their pending arrests,

a second about their Web site where people could make donations and the third to let people know "this is it."

"I attached her name figuring it would help, but it didn't work in my favor," said Manuel. "I told them to at least keep me from going to jail, let LuAnn stay."

### 'SISTERLY LOVE'

Also coming together, but working separately, were sisters Christine Hurston and Kacy Stewart-Brown. Hurston is trying to figure out who turned in her name, but Stewart-Brown needed only to look across the table.

Please see JAIL, A3

## Local meetings put foreclosures front and center

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents will have a few opportunities to learn how to protect themselves from foreclosure and predatory lending.

For one, they can attend a town hall meeting at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.

Westland Mayor William Wild also has announced a seminar from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the city's Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford. The seminar comes after Wild

formed a task force to address the foreclosure problem.

Referring to Friday's town hall meeting, state Rep. Bob Constan, D-Dearborn Heights, said, "I don't want to see people lose their homes. It's a benefit to the community for someone to be living in their home. There is a lot borrowers can do. I don't think people in general are aware of all the alternatives."

Among the speakers will be representatives of the Michigan Mortgage Bankers Association, the non-profit Better Financial Alternatives and Garden City Mayor Jim Plakas.

Homeowners in foreclosure need to work with their lender, Constan said, to find an alternative, such as refinancing, putting the arrears at the back end of the mortgage or a short sale for what is owed on the home.

"Lenders in this market don't want the property, it's detrimental. If a home is foreclosed on, it sits vacant and is vandalized. It brings down the values in the neighborhood," he said. "They have to deal with this."

At the town hall meeting, Constan also will provide information from the Wayne County Treasurer on a related

problem — property tax foreclosures.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also is hosting a town hall meeting on preventing foreclosures from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Attending the meeting will be representatives from ACORN, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, United Way 2-1-1, the Wayne County Tax Foreclosure Project and Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services.

rogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

## Gunman holds up family in lot at apartment complex

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A masked gunman robbed a Westland couple early Saturday as they returned home with their young daughter to The Landings, a sprawling apartment complex southeast of Warren and Central City Parkway, authorities said.

The handgun-toting bandit didn't fire any shots, but he ordered the couple to get on the ground after they drove up around 12:02 a.m. Saturday, police Sgt. Ed Price said.

"He ordered the female to the ground. She dropped her purse and went to the ground with her daughter," Price said. "He stole her purse."

The gunman then ordered the 31-year-old woman's husband to the ground and searched his

pockets before fleeing with the purse, Price said.

No one was physically injured. "The couple had just pulled up," Price said. "The man was still in the driver's seat when it began, and the woman had gotten out of the car with her daughter."

The victims described the gunman as a black male who was wearing a ski mask and dark clothing, the detective said.

The Landings, with 1,056 units, is Westland's largest apartment complex and fifth largest taxpayer.

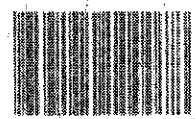
Anyone who has information about the robbery is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or (734) 721-6311.

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Volume 43  
Number 87



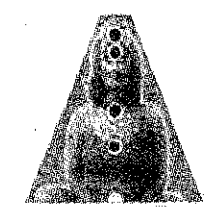
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### Coming Sunday in Health



DVD promotes yoga and self-reflection to resolve food issues



## Students pledge to stay off drugs

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Emily Buttigieg wants to know, "Why are all the celebrities who are supposed to be our role models doing drugs?" Especially when she learned through DARE that drugs "can do crazy things to your body, like, well, kill you."

Buttigieg was among hundreds of sixth graders at Cooper and Johnson upper elementary schools who recently graduated from an 11-week Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

Cooper's East House had its celebration Friday.

They learned from Westland police officer and DARE instructor Ken Kline that tobacco smoke contains 200 known poisons, marijuana smoke contains more lung-cancer causing chemicals and that alcohol can damage every organ. Students wore "drunk goggles" to see what it is like to be impaired, and this year's lessons also contained a video about the dangers of prescription drugs and cough medicine.

Graduates pledged to make

the right choices.

"You only have to say a short two-letter word, and it's very powerful," said DARE graduate Ana Pancevska.

"I pledge to make wise decisions to say no to anything that can hurt my body or someone else's," said sixth-grader Graham Tyrrell.

Kline has been Westland's DARE officer for seven years. The program is supported by donations, but the city pays his salary. Livonia, on the other hand, discontinued its DARE program due to budget cuts, meaning that while Cooper and Johnson have DARE programs, Riley Upper Elementary does not.

"We've made a commitment to the DARE program because we want to help you guys make the right decisions in the future," Deputy Police Chief Al Ramsden said at the graduation.

Principal Terry Taylor told the students that they have a big road ahead of them, and they have a responsibility to look out for friends who haven't made the same choices.

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## 17 teenagers vie for Michigan Junior Miss

Seventeen high school girls will be competing for scholarship money and the chance to represent the state in the 50th anniversary edition of the Michigan's Junior Miss Program.

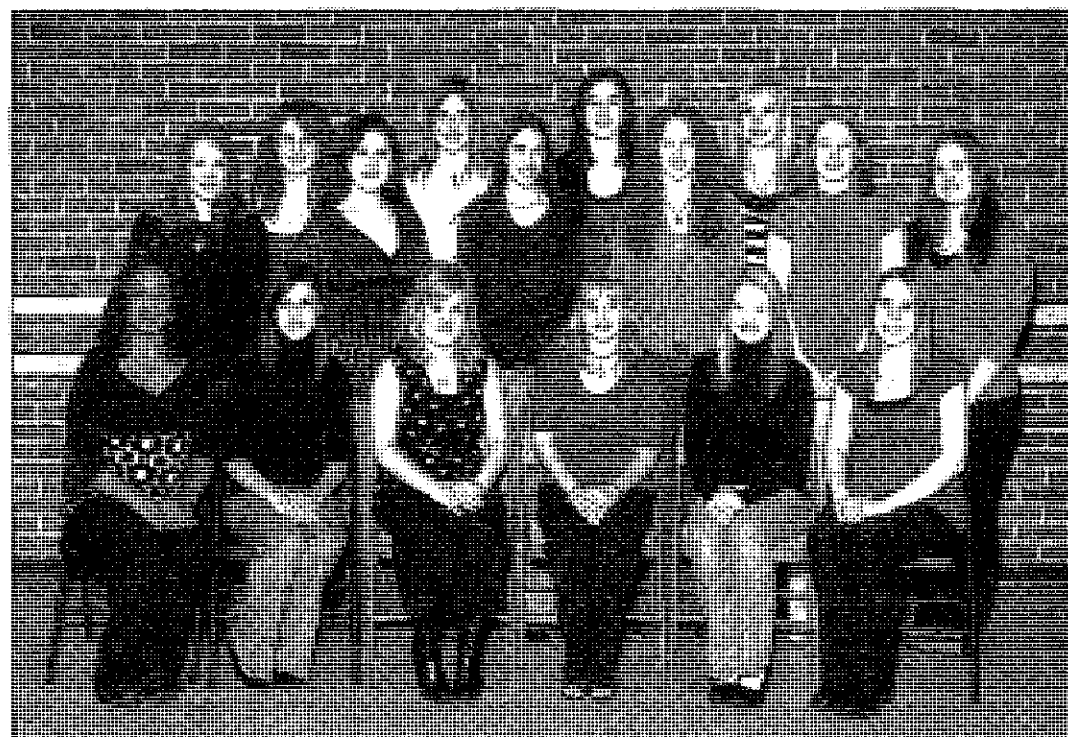
The scholarship program will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Washtenaw Community College. This marks the first time that Michigan's Junior Miss has been held in the Ann Arbor area.

The 17 high school seniors from throughout the state will vie for the title of Michigan's Junior Miss 2008, along with \$9,000 in college scholarship money.

The winner will go on to compete at America's Junior Miss in Mobile, Ala., in June. Contestants are judged on talent, physical fitness, self-expression, interview and scholastic achievement.

America's Junior Miss Program is the oldest and largest scholarship program for high school senior students. Since America's Junior Miss first began in 1958, more than \$90 million dollars in college scholarships have been awarded.

Each year, 200 additional college scholarships are available to contestants who participate in local, state and national Junior Miss programs around the country. National sponsors are The City of Mobile and Mobile County and the



Competing in the Michigan Junior Miss Program Saturday are Canton Junior Miss Whitney Askew (front row, left), Alpena Junior Miss Katherine Homant, Brooklyn Junior Miss Nicole Bontrager, Houghton Lake Junior Miss Brittany Manifold, Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Erin Wheeler and Prudenville Junior Miss Adrienne Linskey; and (back row, left) Redford Junior Miss Sara Mayne, Muskegon Junior Miss Christy VanAndel, Wyandotte Junior Miss Samantha Thomas, Clarkston Junior Miss Chelsey Knapper, Bay County Junior Miss Lillian Asiala, Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Raven Rickard, Montrose Junior Miss Nicholle Pierce, Ann Arbor Junior Miss Katherine Ballman, Westland Junior Miss Rachel Mlynar and Detroit Junior Miss Jennifer Quaine. Not pictured is Inkster Junior Miss Kiana Sledge.

Mitchell Company.

Local sponsors and donations for the state program include the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor, the Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn, Ann Arbor Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Children's Music Academy, Jan's Dance

Connection, The Comfort Inn on Carpenter Road, Affinia Group Inc, Mr. Spots, Domino Farms, Subway, Great Harvest Bread Company, Whole Foods, Kroger, BD'S Mongolian BBQ, Smokehouse Blues, Olive Garden, Dancer's Edge, AAA, the BoBo family and the

Schultes family.

Tickets for the program are \$15. Call State Committee chair Lydia Soroosh at (734) 426-4744 for ticket sales information.

Proceeds from this event go toward the Michigan Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

### CORRECTION

A story on the Livonia Public Schools candidates forums in the Sunday *Observer* incorrectly referred to the wrong Web site where an e-mail address supporting candidate Patrice Mang was briefly posted as the

way to submit questions. It was actually posted at the Livonia Neighbors Web site, not the Citizens for Livonia's Future site. *Mang* said she was not aware her e-mail address was included there.

## LPS board delays vote on new computers

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a 4-3 vote, the Livonia Public Schools board has postponed a decision on a \$2.3 million computer purchase after some trustees said they wanted more time to sort through teachers' concerns.

A district technology committee recommended buying Dell computers. Currently, the elementary schools use Macintosh computers and secondary schools use Windows-based personal computers.

All of them are due to be replaced, and the committee recommended using the same platform across all levels and purchasing "robust" computers that would serve the district's instructional needs for a long time.

The Dell computers were almost \$600 cheaper apiece than the Macs that Apple identified in its bid.

Trustee Greg Oke said he heard concerns from at least a dozen staff members and wanted more time to review them. "If I was pretty satisfied that the PCs

would meet all of their needs, I don't think I would have a big issue moving forward with this."

Art teacher Jamey Masters, who addressed the board, said he was concerned the switch would not give students the same creative outlet. Currently students create movies, claymation and animation works. Some were featured at an Apple store's School Night Out event.

"Our focus should not be on what will help the IT department, but what technology best allows our students to learn," Masters said.

Trustee Cynthia Markarian asked for a postponement and Oke, Steve King and Tom Bailey voted in favor of her motion.

The issue will come up again

for a vote on April 14.

By then, said Trustee Dan Lessard, not much will have changed. "The folks that favor a Mac are going to favor a Mac."

Bailey said he's been in a number of buildings with broken computers and is in favor of the replacement as presented, but he supported board members' need for more information.

King said because Macs work differently, stacking the two against each other just based on memory size and other numbers wasn't comparing "apples to apples."

"It's not a single platform world," King added. "Apple is not going away. If anything it's getting stronger and stronger, so we need to prepare our kids for a dual platform world."

### CITY OF WESTLAND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westland anticipates receiving an estimated \$1,057,158 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$319,491 of HOME funds for the 2008 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009) and has prepared an "Annual Action Plan" covering the program period. The Annual Action Plan details how the City proposes to utilize the 2008 CDBG entitlement grant in addition to \$100,000 in reprogrammed funds from prior years and program income. The Action Plan is required by federal regulations in order for the City to continue to participate in the CDBG and HOME programs.

The Annual Action Plan provides for a consolidated application process for several federal formula grant programs, including CDBG and HOME. The Annual Action Plan represents an update to the City's five-year (2005-2010) Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan consists of a Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment, Housing Market Analysis, Strategic Plan, Action Plan and Certifications. The Consolidated Plan sets forth priorities and lists activities to be pursued over a five-year period as well as a one (1) year Action Plan which includes Community Development Block Grant and HOME activities planned for the 2008-9 fiscal year.

The priorities and strategies stated in the five (5) year period found in the Consolidated Plan are summarized as follows:

- Provide rehabilitation assistance to low and moderate income homeowners
  - Major Home Rehabilitation Program (125 homes)
  - Minor Home Repair Program (400 homes)
- Reduce cost burden of renter households by providing affordable rental opportunities in safe, decent, sanitary housing via the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- Address infrastructure improvements to stabilize targeted neighborhoods
- Focus on public service programming that provides assistance to low and moderate income households, including:
  - Senior Citizen Program
  - Mental Health Counseling Program
  - Domestic Violence Prevention/Counseling Program
  - Youth Assistance Programs
  - Community Policing Program

#### 2008/2009 PROPOSED USE OF CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

2008 Fiscal Year CDBG Program funds (\$1,057,158 + \$65,000 in Program Income):

- Housing Rehabilitation Program - \$105,005
- City Projects - \$121,910
- Fire Station Loan Repayment - \$ 87,650
- Code Enforcement - \$159,000
- Continue to fund various Public Service activities:
  - Senior Programs - \$175,000
  - Youth Assistance - \$ 33,000
  - Community Policing - \$ 50,000
  - Mental Health Counseling Program - \$ 4,000
  - Domestic Violence Program - \$ 4,000
- Commodity Food Program
- Fair Housing Initiative
- Improvements to Dorsey Center
- After School/Summer Recreation Program
- Overall Grant Administration

2008 Fiscal Year HOME Program funds (\$319,491 + \$35,000 in Program Income):

- Housing Rehabilitation Program - \$325,860
- Rental Rehabilitation Program - \$107,364

#### Other Programs

- Administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Administration of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Provide referrals to the homeless and persons with special needs for shelter and other available services.

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizen comments shall be taken at a public hearing on April 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., at the meeting of the Westland Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee. The Westland City Council will also receive public comments at a public hearing on April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. on the One-Year Action Plan for fiscal year 2008/2009. Anyone who is unable to attend the official public hearings and wishes to comment or make suggestions can do so by submitting written comments to the Department of Housing and Community Development at 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186. Comments will be received for a period of not less than 30 days, but not after April 25, 2008. Technical assistance will be provided on a limited basis to low income resident groups in developing proposals for eligible projects, approved by the city under the consolidated submission. Copies of the Consolidated Plan and 2008 Annual Action Plan are available for review by interested citizens in the Housing and Community Development Department during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The Consolidated Plan will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on or about May 22, 2008.

William R. Wild, Mayor  
City of Westland

Publish: March 27, 2008

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### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009 will be held on Monday, May 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall; 36601 Ford Road; Westland, MI 48186. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart  
City Clerk

Publish: March 27 & 30, 2008

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### Observer

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The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

### NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN FOR THE MAY 6, 2008 LIVONIA AND WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Please take Notice that the Wayne-Westland School Board Election in parts of the Township of Canton and parts of the Cities of Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the Livonia School Board Election in parts of the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the Wayne-Westland and Livonia School Board Elections to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, is Monday, April 7, 2008. Persons registering after 4:00 p.m. in the evening on Monday, April 7, 2008 are not eligible to vote at the Wayne-Westland and Livonia School Board Elections.

You may register at the Clerk's office within your respective municipality of residence listed below or at any Secretary of State Office.

TERRI BENNETT, CMC  
Canton Township Clerk

VELIDA SMITH  
Inkster City Clerk

MARY CARNEY  
Wayne City Clerk

JUDI DUDZINSKI  
Dearborn Heights Clerk

LINDA CHOATE  
Romulus City Clerk

EILEEN DeHART, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: March 27, 2008

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### GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 Middlebelt Garden City, MI 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at Public Auction on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

PLEASE NOTE: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN#
1992 Buick	4 Dr.	1G4HR53L6NH522650
1995 Chevy	4 Dr.	2G1WL52M2S1189474
1994 GMC	SW	1GKEC16K3RJ762875
2001 Chevy	TK	1GCEC14W11Z100395
1990 Dodge	VN	2B7HB21Y8LK790888
1995 Dodge	VN	2B4GH453SR133164
1998 Ford	4 Dr.	1FAFP13PXWW171810
1997 Merc	4 Dr.	1MELM13PXVW616369
1996 Geo	4 Dr.	2C1MR5329XT6777990

Publish: March 27, 2008

C08093114\_203

### CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 6/3/17/08

Presiding: President Godbout  
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer

- 68-Approved minutes of 3/3/08.
- Approved req. from Moslem Shriners Hosp. Fund Drive 6/19 thru 21.
- Approved req. from WFCL for Flower Fundraisers 3/21 thru 23 & 5/10 thru 11.
- Approved req. from Westland Shopping Ctr. for small camper show in pkg. lot 4/3 thru 13.
- Approved req. from Westland Firefighters Public Awareness Comm. for Carnival 5/28 thru 6/8.
- Approved req. from Kirk of Our Saviour Church for Crop Walk on 5/4.
- Approved req. from St. John's Episcopal Church for flower sales 3/21 thru 23 & 5/9 thru 11.
- Approved Prof. Services Agreement w/Resource Recycling Syst.
- Approved Traffic Control Order 2007-10.
- 71-Adopted P & R 5 Yr. Mast. Plan, w/amend.
- 72-Approved grant appl. for Play Planet @ Tattan Pk.
- 73-Approved grant appl. for Rainforest H2O Zone @ Tattan Pk.
- 74-Approved grant appl. for Central City Pk. Restoration Plan.
- 76-Adopted Budget Amend. 2007-12; Gen. Fund \$260,000.00.
- 79-Set 5/5/08 as Public Hearing for 2008-09 Budget.
- 80-Approved Land Div. & Comb., #017-99-0048-700 & -0047-002, s. side of Joy, e. of Newburgh.
- 81-Approved Site Plan for addition to Verizon Wireless Comm. Ctr., #027-99-0001-003, n. side of Ford, w. of Hix.
- 82-Approved Land Div., #027-99-0001-004, n. side of Ford, w. of Hix.
- 83-Approved Spec. Land Use for Child Care/After School Prgrm, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, #082-99-0016-303, sw. cor. of Annapolis & Middlebelt.
- 84-Approved 5 yr. contr. with Police Lts. & Sgts. 1/08-12/2012.
- 85-Approved Checklist Activity: \$783,825.04 and Prepaid: \$3,961,987.27.
- Meeting Adjourned at 10:16 p.m.
- Minutes available at the Clerk's office.

James R. Godbout  
Council President

Eileen DeHart  
City Clerk

Publish: March 27, 2008

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**JAIL**

FROM PAGE A1

"Don't you just love sisterly love? I immediately came to mind for this, but she won't even think of me when she wins that \$1 million prize," said Stewart-Brown.

Sandy Atovski of Dearborn Heights had raised about \$250 and was using a list of names from her work, David's Bridal in Westland, and anyone she could get on the phone to raise more money.

"I appreciate whatever they can give, especially in these times," said Atovski. "Every little bit helps."

She suspects someone at work snitched on her, especially when they teased her when she was picked up.

"They said, 'You guys can keep her, and they were going to teach me a lesson,'" she said.

Dena Brown also is sure it was someone at her work, Plastipak in Westland, that offered her name. Using the MDA Web site, she came to jail armed with some \$700 in bail money, collected from friends and family members.

"I did this once before 10-11 years ago, with the Web site, it made it a lot easier to collect money," said Brown whose goal was to send a child to summer camp. "It really helped, that's where I got the most money."

**JAIL HOUSE 'GRUB'**

While the jailbirds worked the phones, Dario's owner David Valdivia made sure there was food to eat. Valdivia donated the location, the food and beverages for the event.

"I did the lock-up last year and the year before my wife did it," he said. "We decided it would be good to have it here."

The jail house grub he provided included mostaccioli with homemade sauce, Italian



Renee Strokes of Westland poses said for her lock-up mug shot as part of the MDA fund-raiser. An employee at American House III in Westland, she ended up on MDA's most wanted list after answering the telephone at the senior apartment building.

sausage with peppers and onions, pizza, homemade bread and salad.

"I want to do a lot more of this with other organizations," said Valdivia.

For MDA, having that kind of donation means more money to help patients.

"Seventy-eight percent of every dollar goes to the patients," Merritt said. "We run very efficiently so you know that when you make a donation, it's going where we tell you it's going."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112



Theresa Manuel of Garden City chose to wear handcuffs for her mug shot. Manuel was arrested by the MDA at with her friend, first-grade teacher Luanne Englehart.

**Westland teen drowns in lake**

BY KELLY MURAD  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The Oakland County Medical Examiner has ruled the death of the 13-year-old Westland boy as an accidental drowning. The teen fell through the ice Sunday while walking on a Novi neighborhood lake.

At the request of the family, officials are not releasing the name of the victim.

Novi police said the boy was visiting his aunt and uncle who live in the Village Oaks subdivision, located southeast of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, when he fell through the ice while walking their dog.

The dog was able to escape the water and run to the house to alert family members, reports said. Family members ran to the lake, where the hole in the ice was discovered.

A 9-1-1 call was made at 1:24 p.m. and Novi police were on the scene within four minutes, with the fire department to follow three minutes later, Molloy said.

The Oakland County Sheriff Department's Dive Team was on the scene within 40 minutes and the boy was recovered at 2:28 p.m.

Prior to the arrival of the dive team, Novi firefighters broke the ice and entered the frigid water in search of the victim, but officials estimate he was submerged under

water for 60-90 minutes.

It took the dive team about 25 minutes to locate the boy, who was found at the bottom of the hole where he initially entered the water, Molloy said.

"According to the divers, (the water) was approximately 14-15 feet deep," said Novi Police Chief David Molloy. "He was transported from the scene to Botsford Hospital and from Botsford to Beaumont at about 3:30 p.m."

Molloy said the victim was transferred due to enhanced life-saving equipment at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. He was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m.

"With the warm temperatures upon us, stay off the ice at all costs," Molloy said.

This is the second drowning in less than a year in Village Oaks Lake.

Isaac L. Reid, a 23-year-old Inkster man, drowned in the neighborhood lake on Mother's Day last year. Reid was attempting to swim across a 75-yard section of the lake to cool off after helping family members with household chores. Police believe the drowning was an accident, and neither drugs nor alcohol were factors, then Deputy Chief Thomas Lindberg said.

Reid was in Novi visiting family. His brother, who also was swimming at the time, was unharmed.

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Higher Rock Cafe**

Independent artist Rachanee will be the featured performer at the Higher Rock Cafe at 8 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

The Michigan-based singer/songwriter will perform songs from her current album, "3 am," and her debut album, "Ordinary Girl." For more information about the performance, call Mindie O'Neil at (734) 722-3660.

**Donations needed**

March is Disabilities Awareness Month and the people at the Tried and True Thrift Store are asking residents who do spring cleaning to donate their unwanted goods during an open house from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the store, 35004 Michigan Ave., just east of Wayne Road, Wayne. The store is accepting donations of all types of clothing, shoes, antiques and vintage items, linens, jewelry, toys and bikes, books, housewares and gently used furniture.

All donations are tax deductible.

**Free Movie Friday**

Westland seniors and their guests are invited to enjoy a viewing of *Ever After: A Cinderella Story* at 2 p.m.

**ON THE WEB**

For expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) and click on Westland.

Friday, March 28, at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, just south of Ford. The film, which stars Anjelica Houston and Drew Barrymore, is a 1998 film adaptation of the fairy tale *Cinderella*. Both the movie and popcorn are free.

**Breakfast benefit**

"How do I pay my bills and eat? Do I buy my medication or go without dinner tonight?" These are unfortunately questions which plague the lives of many older adults in southeastern Michigan, and the American House Foundation aims to help put an end to the suffering.

On Friday, March 28, the foundation will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8-10 a.m. at the American House II at 39201 Joy between Hix and I-275 in Westland. The cost is a minimum of \$3 per person donation. All proceeds will benefit the American House Foundation. For more information, call (734) 454-9838.

**Karaoke party**

The Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896

is holding a Karaoke and Pajama Party Saturday, March 29, at the post, 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and include appetizers, beer and snacks. Pajamas require, no birthday suits. For more information, call the post at (734) 525-9454.

**Bowling fund-raiser**

Baseball registration The Wayne Ford Civic League is holding baseball registrations for children ages 4-10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays at the league hall at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Registration fees are \$65 for T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues and \$80 for Mustang League. Registrations will continue each Saturday until all the teams are full. For more information, contact the hall at (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail at [vbarra@comcast.net](mailto:vbarra@comcast.net).

The Westland Youth Athletic Association is holding its baseball and softball registration now through March 29. There are openings for T-Ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16), Palomino (17-18), Slow-Pitch softball (10 U, 12 U, 14 U, 16 U) and Fast-Pitch Softball (same as fast-pitch).

Registration can be completed from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays

at 6050 Farmington Road north of Ford. For more information, visit [wyaayouthsports@gmail.com](mailto:wyaayouthsports@gmail.com) or call the office at (734) 421-0640 during regular business hours.

**Country breakfast**

AMVETS Post 171 will hold an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 30, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland. The cost will be \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for kids under age 12.

**Fund-raiser**

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is holding a Little Caesar fund-raiser now through May 1 to raise money for its youth and community outreach programs. There are 16 different Little Caesar pizza kits, five varieties of cookie dough and two types of pie kits available. Prices range from \$12.75 to \$18. To order items, stop by the Salvation Army at 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer and ask for Sandy. For more information, call (734) 722-3660, Ext. 11.

**Gunman gets cash in robbery of KFC**

A lone gunman robbed a fast-food restaurant on Westland's south side and ordered several employees into a freezer before fleeing Monday night, police said.

No shots were fired and no one was injured during the holdup that police Sgt. Brian Miller said happened just minutes before 9 p.m. at the Kentucky Fried Chicken store on Wayne Road north of Glenwood.

No customers were inside the restaurant at the time, Miller said.

Employees told police the bandit was a black male who wore a skull cap, a gray sweatshirt and dark pants. Miller said the gunman had a medi-

um build and appeared to be about 30 years old.

"He came in, produced a handgun and demanded cash," the detective said. "He ended up having the employees go into the freezer and then he left."

The employees were able to get out of the freezer by pushing a handle from the inside, Miller said.

Anyone who has information about the robbery is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or (734) 721-6311.

- By Darrell Clem

**10th Annual Spring Open House**

Saturday, March 29th 10am to 6pm

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1 pm to 3 pm	R/C Flight instruction with R/Crackers flight instructors
2 pm to 4 pm	Free Make it / Take it rocket model building***



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\*\*\*Seating is limited for the Make it/Take it sessions so please call 734-428-9720 to reserve your spot. Make it/Take it is open to all children ages 5-14. Please choose only one session per child. Children under 10 will require parental assistance.

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# Easter Bunny pays visit to convalescent center

Patients, staff, family members and visitors celebrated Easter at Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center last Saturday with an old-fashioned Easter egg hunt.

The celebration began with the Easter Bunny hopping in the facility to interact with all of his little visitors. Patients of the 230-bed skilled nursing center watched from the Garden Café as the children darted around, collecting more than 300 eggs filled with candy and small toys that were hidden in the grass, under tables, on ledges, on the patio and in the trees.

While guests enjoyed Easter cookies and punch, the Easter Bunny strolled through the crowd, posing for photos with the patients and guests. The celebration ended with a raffle for two Easter baskets, one for the boys and one for the girls. Sharrieff Liddell was the lucky winner of the boy's basket and Kyras Liddell proudly accepted the girl's basket, both are grandchildren of WCRC employee Marilyn Best.

Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center, located on Warren Road just east of Central City Parkway, provides sub acute care for people who are coming directly from the hospital and require recovery from surgery, the acute onset of medical conditions, neurological disorders and neuromuscular disorders and other complex diagnoses. More information is available on its Web site at [www.westlandcc.com](http://www.westlandcc.com) or by calling (734) 728-6100.



Sharing a smile with the Easter Bunny was Sally Rettinger, a resident at the Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center.

# Global ReLeaf hosts annual tree sale

Spring is around the corner and tree-lovers will once again get a chance to help a good cause and buy a variety of trees through Global ReLeaf of Michigan.

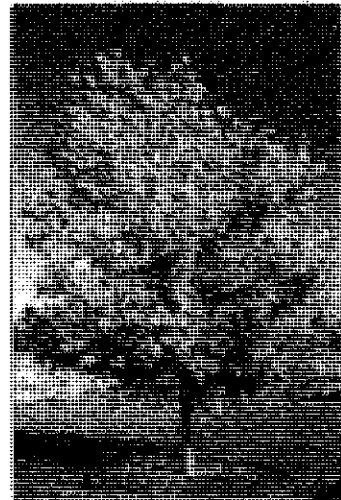
The sale is open to the public, with a wide variety of bare root trees especially selected for their hardiness and ability to prosper in both urban and rural areas.

"They're at a pretty low cost," said Gail McPherson of Global ReLeaf. Funds raised through the annual tree sale support community tree plantings throughout Michigan.

Trees must be purchased with pre-paid orders by April 10 and they can be picked up at Capitol Park in Redford (a new site this year) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. The Redford site is one of 10 across Michigan with others offered in Troy, Grosse Pointe Park and elsewhere.

The group, which relies strictly on volunteers, sells single or multi-stemmed trees/shrubs that are 3 to 6 feet in height, depending on species.

Unlike some store-bought trees, McPherson notes that these are grown in a similar climate as Michigan. "These



Red Maple trees that can grow into one like those shown above can be purchased through Global ReLeaf.

trees are hearty to this area," she said.

Trees offered are: Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Royal Red Norway Maple, Swamp White Oak, Littleleaf Linden, River Birch, American Plum, Aristocrat Pear, Nannyberry, Japanese Tree Lilac, Red Bud, White and Red flowering Crabapple and Honeycrisp Apple.

New this year, Global ReLeaf also has specialty trees including Paperbark Maple, Katsura and Green Vase Zelkova. Additionally,

four types of bare-root shrubs (1 to 2 feet) and three types of bare-root evergreens (about 2 feet) are for sale. The shrubs are "Emerald Triumph" Viburnum, Witch Hazel, Vernal Witch Hazel, "Wine & Roses" Wiegela and Oakleaf Hydrangea. The evergreens are Eastern White Pine, Concolor Fir and American Arborvitae. Trees cost \$30 each; specialty trees are \$50; and shrubs and evergreens are \$20. Discounts are offered for those who buy five or more. Quantities are limited.

To request an order form, call 1-800-642-7353 or e-mail [GlobalReLeafMi@aol.com](mailto:GlobalReLeafMi@aol.com). Order forms can also be printed off the Web site at [www.globalreleaf.org](http://www.globalreleaf.org).

Checks, money orders or credit cards may be used for payment.

Global ReLeaf is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is "To educate the public on the value of trees and the need to properly select, plant and maintain them. This is accomplished by working with community groups with local tree planting projects and by providing informational material and presentations."

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Listings** for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at [smaison@hometownlife.com](mailto:smaison@hometownlife.com). They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

e-mail at [downt@comcast.net](mailto:downt@comcast.net). All proceeds will benefit the 2008 Michigan 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

**In concert**  
Musical storyteller and political satirist Charlie King will perform during a fund-raising concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Unity Church of Livonia. The show will raise money for the Livonia-based Citizens for Peace and Peace Action of Michigan. Folk legend Pete Seeger called Charlie King "one of the finest singers and songwriters of our time" as he performs folk songs about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. His songs have been sung and recorded by other famous artists such as Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Peggy Seeger, Chad Mitchell and Judy Small. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Students pay only \$10. Unity of Livonia is on Five Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. For tickets or additional information, call (248) 548-3920 or (734) 425-0079.

career services, financial aid, scholarships and other areas. Campus tours of a classroom building, the Halle Library, the Olds-Robb Recreation and Intramural Building, and a residence hall room run every 15 minutes. All students attending Explore Eastern will be able to apply for admission, free of charge - a \$20 savings. One high school senior who enrolls at EMU will receive 12 free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. One transfer student who enrolls will receive six free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. To register for Explore Eastern or for more information, go to [www.emich.edu/explore/](http://www.emich.edu/explore/).

**Love of Lace XV**  
The Great Lakes Lace Group Inc. will present Love of Lace XV 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington, in Livonia. The event is a day of lace making, with demonstrations, try-it tables, vendors and displays. Admission is free, public is welcome. For more information, go online to [www.GLLGI.org](http://www.GLLGI.org).

**Wrestling Club**  
Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 5-14. The club meets on Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. The club runs from November through March and costs \$20. For questions or more information, contact Judy at [judyawl122@yahoo.com](mailto:judyawl122@yahoo.com) or calling (734) 634-4595.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mom2Mom**  
The Livonia YMCA will host a Mom2Mom Sale, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 30, at the YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, just north of Schoolcraft. Tables are still available by calling Jean at (734) 261-2161 or (248) 615-1080. There will be a large item room, with furniture and baby equipment and a bake sale and hot dogs for sale to benefit the YMCA. Admission is \$1. Strollers are allowed after 3 p.m.

**Crop for a Cure**  
An all day scrapbooking event, Crop for a Cure, will be held 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the gymnasium at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch, dinner, beverages and snacks. Pay by March 20 and receive five free prize tickets for a raffle of scrapbooking and non-scrapbooking related merchandise. A Close to My Heart consultant will be on site with some cash-and-carry stock and limited supplies for purchase. Registration fee is non-refundable. First come, first serve. For more information, call Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or contact her by

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section

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# Men's conference supports lifelong faith

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Paul Dobbs finds it difficult to live his faith in an American society filled with substance abuse and lust. For the last five years he's found respite from the madness at the men's conference sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Every year thousands of Catholic men enjoy the camaraderie and support they receive at the event featuring inspirational speakers and Mass celebrated by Cardinal Adam Maida. This year the conference takes place Saturday, April 12, at the University of Detroit Mercy.

"The main reason I go is for the support of other Catholic men there. Society is all about trying to support me in drug, alcohol use, lust, entertainment. What I'm looking for in my life is truth, hope, faith, and love and I don't find that. It's good to see ordinary men who believe as I do. Sometimes I feel like I'm alone," said Dobbs who lives in Canton and works

## PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

**What:** Men's conference sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit  
**When:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 12 (doors open at 7 a.m.)  
**Where:** Calihan Hall, University of Detroit Mercy, 4001 W. McNichols  
**Cost:** \$40 in advance, \$50 at door, \$25 students. Call (313) 237-6532 or visit [www.christschosen.com](http://www.christschosen.com)

in Plymouth where he's been a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church for 36 years.

This is the sixth conference Dobbs will not only attend but help coordinate lunch for the men. In years past Dobbs' son, Christopher, has joined his father not only as a participant but volunteer.

"It's special to have someone from your family share the experience," said Dobbs.

Paco Gavrilides, director of evangelization for the Archdiocese of Detroit, expects at least 3,000 men to attend the conference, "Put Out Into the Deep VI." This

year's inspirational speakers include Richard Lane, co-founder of Qorban Ministries and son of the late Dick "Night Train" Lane; Leonard Defillippis, actor, producer and director of religious theatrical productions, videos and films; Kenneth Henderson, founder of True Knights International Apostolate and self-admitted former pornography addict, and Michael Timmis, author of *Between Two Worlds: The Spiritual Journey of an Evangelical Catholic*.

The Rev. Timothy Whalen, chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools, hosts a break out session for youth. The Rev. John Riccardo, Our Lady of Good Counsel pastor, returns for a sixth year as a speaker. He was born and raised in Birmingham and graduated from Shrine High School. He is the former pastor of St. Anastasia in Troy.

For more information about the speakers go to [www.christschosen.com](http://www.christschosen.com).

Gavrilides formerly worked at St. John's Center in

Plymouth with Rev. Riccardo directing programs for the Cardinal Maida Institute.

"He (Rev. Riccardo) has a special charisma to speak truth to men in a way that inspires and challenges them in their walk in Christ. He can speak to men confidently, honestly and with great affection about living the gospel," said Gavrilides, conference coordinator. "I'm excited about the performance by Leonardo Defillippis on the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe who gave himself for his brother in the Auschwitz concentration camp."

"We're really going to highlight the importance of Christian men standing together and supporting one another in their Christian walk, taking more seriously their covenant commitment in Christ to lead our lives as faithful disciples of Jesus. We're going to make a special appeal and emphasize having a sense of responsibility and love for one another in Christ, walking together in the jour-



The Rev. Stanley Ulman of St. Mary's of the Hills in Rochester Hills (left) and the Rev. John Riccardo (center) at the Archdiocese of Detroit men's conference last year. Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, returns for a sixth time to speak and inspire men in their faith.

ney, living in righteousness, working together in the service of Christ in the church, and admonishing one another so as to stay faithful to our duties as fathers, husbands and servants in the parish."

Dr. Greg Elliott especially enjoys attending the conference with his son, Patrick, age 21.

"It's just a beautiful day. It's a wonderful time to spend with my son. He really likes Fr. John Riccardo," said Elliott, a Livonia resident with a den-

tal practice in Farmington Hills. "I'm looking forward to Leonardo Defillippis doing the one act play on St. Maximilian."

"I'd like to put out a wonderful invitation to all the Christian men in the area. It's inspiring to hear 3,000 men sing hymns of praise and worship. A worship band comes in, guitars and singers and keyboards and plays Christian music. It's a great day."

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

## RELIGION CALENDAR

### MARCH

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

#### Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia celebrates the day March 30, with special devotions and a luncheon to which all area Catholics are cordially invited, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd. The day begins with noon Mass followed

by 1 p.m. Polish luncheon with stuffed cabbage, Kielbasa, sauerkraut, by reservation only, cost \$6.50 adults, \$3.50 children ages 4-12, free age 3 and under. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext 200 no later than Tuesday, March 25. Followed at 2 p.m. by confessions and rosary. Divine Mercy Devotion begins at 3 p.m. and includes the exposition

of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction.

#### Garage sale

9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Thursday, March 27, followed by \$2 bag sale at 4 p.m., at the garage sale presented by the Saint Dunstan Rosary Altar Sodality in the church at 1515 Belton, Garden City.

#### Polish church pilgrimage/Easter dinner

Deadline for ticket reservations is March 27 for West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society's Historic Polish Church Pilgrimage and traditional Polish Easter Dinner (Swienconka) Saturday, April 5. Pilgrimage starts 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Angels, 4200 Martin, and includes St. Hedwig, St. Francis d'Assisi, St. Andrew, and St. Cunegunda with stops at the former Baptist church on Martin north of Michigan Ave. and former Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church. Parking is secure in Queen of Angels' lot. Pilgrimage and meal \$33 adults, \$20 age 12 and under. Pilgrimage \$25 adults and children. Meal only \$13 adults, \$7 age 12 and under. Checks/money orders should be made payable to WSDPAHS and sent to Laurie Gomułka Palazzolo, 32101 Shilwassee Rd., Farmington, MI 48336. For details, call (248) 477-8518 or send e-mail to [lpalazzolo@detroitpolonia.org](mailto:lpalazzolo@detroitpolonia.org), Don Samull at (313) 792-0297 or [dsamull@detroitpolonia.org](mailto:dsamull@detroitpolonia.org), or visit [www.detroitpolonia.org](http://www.detroitpolonia.org).

#### Single Place Ministry

Upcoming activities include March 27 seminar on how to find relationships that are good for you and avoid those that aren't. Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit [www.singleplace.org](http://www.singleplace.org). Cost \$5 per person.

#### Mother and unborn baby

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, in the Social Hall at St. Aidan's, Michelle Yax shares her personal story. Yax has been active in the pro-life movement for more than 20 years, and now is Executive Director of Mother and Unborn Baby Care. Find out more about what abortion really means. Those who attend receive a free copy of Life Institute's interactive computer CD-ROM, Truth Unmasked-Abortion Information for Today's Youth. To RSVP, call (734) 464-7677.

#### Reformed Protestant services

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Road, Canton. For more information, call Humby at (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to [sean.humby@att.net](mailto:sean.humby@att.net), or visit [www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html](http://www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html).

#### Vespers

Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit services continue Sundays March 30, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia; April 6, at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, and April 13, at St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church, Troy. General public as well as Orthodox Christians invited. Proceeds used for COCC charities and projects. Worshipers also asked to bring nonperishable packaged food for donation to Orthodox parish food pantries for needy in metro area. For information, call Richard Shebib (734) 422-0278 or send e-mail to [pascha-books@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pascha-books@sbcglobal.net).

#### Spiritual healing

Free lecture on spiritual healing based on the teachings of Bruno Groening 7 p.m. Monday, March 31,

at Church of Today West, 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. No charge. For information, call Arsen Darnay at (313) 882-7946 or Sabine Goltz at (248) 593-9091. To learn about Groening, visit [www.bruno-groening.org/english](http://www.bruno-groening.org/english).

### UPCOMING

#### Blended family workshop

7-8:15 p.m. Wednesdays through April 2, at Ward Church, 40000 6 Mile Rd., Northville. Call (248) 374-5912. The Step-Family Doctor, Pastor Paul Clough, facilitates the group focusing on the issues pertaining to the blended family. Registration best but walk-ins welcome.

#### Spaghetti dinner

PBJ Outreach Inc. ([www.pbjoutreach.org](http://www.pbjoutreach.org)) is sponsoring a Super Slammin' Spaghetti Jam 5-8 p.m. Saturday April 5, following 4 p.m. mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Fun family night includes spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes. All proceeds go to the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to our brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor. Tickets \$7 adults, \$3 ages 3-12, under age 3 eat free. For tickets, call Linda Barterian at (734) 459-0771.

#### Mom to Mom sale

Connection Church (formerly Tri-City Christian) is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Ave., Canton. For details, send e-mail to [mom2mom-sale@yahoo.com](mailto:mom2mom-sale@yahoo.com). Table rentals are sold to capacity with over 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. Admission is \$1.

#### Bethany Suburban West

All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.

Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

#### Seekers of spiritual intelligence

Beacon Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) explores the multi-faceted theme of spiritual intelligence during each Sunday 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in April at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel, 7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through the south double doors next to the play area) For more information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to [beaconhillccdoc@aol.com](mailto:beaconhillccdoc@aol.com).

#### Bethany Suburban West

All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Sequence Tournament (board games) 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 12, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479, or Michele (313) 996-8644. Cost will be either a snack, dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet) or \$5 and we will supply the paper products and the coffee.

Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.

#### Men's conference

Put Out into the Deep: Brothers in Christ Standing Together Saturday, April 12, at University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall, Detroit. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the conference doors open at 7 a.m. followed by a day of speakers and Eucharistic celebration, concludes at 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.christschosen.com](http://www.christschosen.com).

#### Mom-to-Mom sale

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, in

the church gym and classrooms at St. Thomas a' Becket, 555 S. Lilley, Canton, phone (734) 981-1333. Check Web site for details, [kirstemoline.com/mom2mom.html](http://kirstemoline.com/mom2mom.html). Over 70 tables and racks of great finds for babies, toddlers and kids. Several Large Item Rooms full of strollers, cribs, car seats, exersaucers, large toys, etc. Admission \$1. Those shopping with strollers will be admitted after 10 a.m.

#### Celebrating families

After 5 p.m. Mass Saturday, April 12, and after 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses Sunday, April 13, in the Monsignor Alex Brunett Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950. View large LEGO displays, watch short movies on joys and struggle of Catholic family living, browse Catholic bookstore's display, supervised LEGO play area for the kids. No charge.

#### Pancake breakfast

8:30-11 a.m. Sunday, April 13, in the activity center at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$4 adults, \$4 children age 10 and under.

#### Sisters in Christ

Women's conference 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, east of Beech Daly, Redford. Cost is \$40 pre-conference registration, \$50 at door. Call (313) 534-7730. Speakers are Brenda Josee who's been active in Christian publishing 25 years, and Nancy Moser who's published 17 inspirational novels.

#### Day of Reflection

Bethany Central Board is offering a Day of Reflection hosted by the Rochester Bethany 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. This Mini Conference will have two topics: Social Security Benefits for Divorced People and the Catholic Annulment Process. There is no cost for conference and lunch will be served. For details, call Audrey (248) 613-5461.

#### Pax Christi conference

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Christo Rey Church, Lansing. Theme focuses on bringing an end to racism. Registration fee \$40 until April 12, \$45 after, visit [www.paxchristmi.org](http://www.paxchristmi.org), send e-mail to [TirakPaxMI@aol.com](mailto:TirakPaxMI@aol.com) or call (517) 482-2556.

#### Clothing bank

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit [www.CantonCF.org](http://www.CantonCF.org).

#### Bethany Suburban West

Monthly Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday May 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Road, Redford. Cost \$10. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 261-5716. Cinco d' Mayo/Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday May 9, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479 or (313) 996-8644. Cost will be either a snack, dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet) or \$5 and we will supply the paper products and the coffee. Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday May 17, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd., Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call (734) 513-9479. Bethany Together Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 31, Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall 27345 Schoolcraft

Please see CALENDAR, A7



**Passages**  
Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232  
e-mail: [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com)  
View Obits On-line @ [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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**ALWIN L. BRYANT**  
Age 78, Farmington Hills, MI, passed March 23, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

**BARBARA J. LAUGHLIN**  
Age 75, Livonia, MI, passed March 21, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

**BESSIE BRIMHALL**  
October 11, 1900 - March 23, 2008. Age 107, of Redford Twp. Loving mother of Leland Brimhall, Grandmother to Susan Suomi, Marilee Cullen, Wanda Brimhall, Angela Clingan. Also survived by 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-granddaughters. This amazing woman was "Grandma" to all who knew her. A celebration of Bessie's life will be held at Heaney-Sudquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, on Thursday, 3/27/08 at 11:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The Salvation Army.

**DORIS VOORHEIS**  
Age 88, March 18, 2008 of Westland. Loving wife of the late Clifford. Dearest mother of Sybil (Cecil) Grah, Jane Sadley and Pamela (Donald) Unsworth. Dear grandmother of nine, great grandmother of thirteen and great great grandmother of one. Visitation and services were held at Harry J. Will Funeral home in Wayne on March 21, 2008 with Rev. Kurt Radke officiating.

**FRANCIS H. THOMSON**  
March 24, 2008 Age 95. Loving husband of the late Allison. Dear father of Charles Dennis (Meta), Francis "Gar" (Arleen), Mary Moldowan (Michael) and Margaret Leslie Thomson. Beloved grandfather of 12 and great-grandfather of nine. Funeral service Friday 11am at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Comell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn. 13-14 Mile). Family will receive friends Thursday 2-8pm. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073. View obituary and share memories at [www.desmondfuneralhome.com](http://www.desmondfuneralhome.com)

**KENNETH E. MILLER**  
Suddenly March 23, 2008 at age 57. Beloved husband of Carol. Dear father of Noelle (Ron) Ryan, Benjamin, Jeffrey (Melanie) and Cindy (Jeremy) Floyd. Grandfather of Marissa, Jarred and Logan. Dear son of Wanda Miller. Brother of Dennis (Marie). A memorial service was held on Tuesday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Share your special thoughts and memories at [schrader-howell.com](http://schrader-howell.com).

**SHEILA R. WILSON-STEVENS**  
Age 51, Pontiac, MI. Passed March 23, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

**JOANNE S. SILVI**  
Age 73, March 20, 2008. Beloved wife of the late John. Dear sister of Beverly (William) Lyday. Daughter of the late Roger and Marie O'Hara (nee DeMarois). Loving mother of Pamela Varilone, Roger (Jayne), Stephen, Leslie Virag, Joan (Fred Bergman). Cherished Nana to Brandon, Krystyna, Hayley, Brian, Corey, Darcy, Paul, Judy, Jack, Lane and Gina. Services were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home. Burial at Holy Sepulchre. Memorials may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute or Angela Hospice in Joanne's honor.

**JULIA MARY KONARSKI**  
Age 92, March 21, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Aloisius, Al. Loving mother of Anthony (Sharon) of Florida, Jeanette May, Margaret Roy, Phillip (Lydia) and Gregory (Brenda) all of Michigan. Wonderful grandmother of 20 and great-grandmother, Busza of 28. Dear sister of Bernard (Eleanor) Willmowitz and Genevieve Kay. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Visitation Friday 2-9pm with a 6:45pm Rosary at the John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 9:30am until a 10am Mass at Saint Dunstan Catholic Church, 1515 Belton (2 blocks west of Inkster, 2 blocks south of Ford Rd.).

**VIRGINIA C. HEUSTED**  
Age 81, of Winter Park, Florida died peacefully on March 19, 2008. Born August 8, 1926 in Payne, Ohio to Basil and Isabel (Leslie) Heaston. Resided in Livonia, Michigan for 28 years with husband Donald while raising three children. Moved to Florida in 1985 and lost husband Donald in 1993. Virginia loved quilting, antiques, history, travel, politics, cats, and her three children. Survived by son, David Heusted of Orlando, Florida; daughter, Deborah Heusted of Orlando, Florida; daughter, Melanie Cybulski of Hastings, Michigan; and grandson, Andrew Cybulski of Hastings, Michigan. Visitation at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, Ohio on April 2 from 11:00-1:00 P.M. Graveside ceremony to follow at St. Paul's Cemetery.

**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.*

e-mail your obit to [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com) or fax to:  
Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson  
734-953-2232

For more information call:  
Charolette Wilson  
734-953-2070  
or Liz Keiser  
734-953-2067

or toll free  
866-618-7853  
ask for Char or Liz

CE0619862

**Let others know...**

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

  
Call 1-800-579-7355



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A6

(I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Admission \$15. For information, call (586) 264-0284.
Rev. Kern award dinner
In honor of the Rev. Clement Kern Thursday, May 8 (6 p.m. reception and silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. award ceremony). Tickets \$100. For information and reservations, call (248) 666-1194.

ONGOING

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5 per person.
Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake

Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday services

Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Tai chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.

Church offerings

Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services

Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church (30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills) is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes began 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, and continue every Monday thereafter. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Living Water series

Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church

of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus.

Couple prayer series

St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women, the group meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays (began Jan. 10). The second session is called Different Times, Abiding Dignity and deals with a woman's inherent dignity at all stages of her life from 0 to 100. The group meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays (began Jan.

8). Both groups meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207 or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

ENDOW

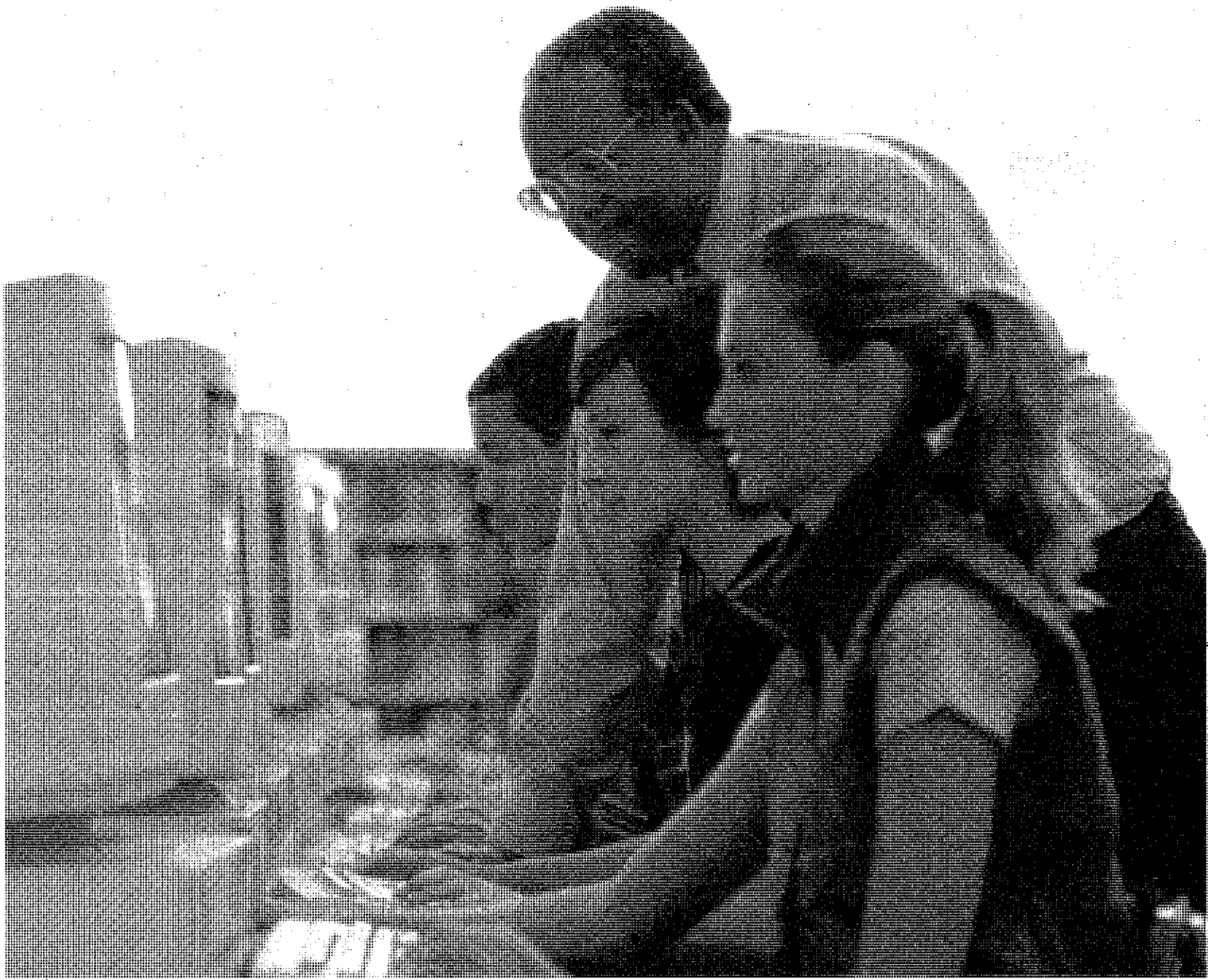
Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulieris Dignitatem - On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Second session is 7-9 p.m. Mondays to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Your Invitation To Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: BAPTIST (NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH), UNITED METHODIST (Clarenceville United Methodist, Redford Aldersgate United Methodist), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD), CATHOLIC (ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH), EVANGELICAL COVENANT (FAITH COVENANT CHURCH), SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church), NON-DENOMINATIONAL (BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH), PRESBYTERIAN (ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, St. James Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Presbyterian Church), EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN (WARD), LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD (ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE), CHRISTIAN SCIENCE (First Church of Christ, Scientist), and EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (Timothy Lutheran Church).

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





## Any volunteers? At DTE Energy, you better believe it.

Every year, thousands of DTE Energy employees and retirees volunteer their time to make their communities a better place. They have our heartfelt thanks. Since thanks just doesn't seem to be enough, the DTE Energy Foundation honors many of them with a special award recognizing their contributions and providing grants to the organizations they serve.

The DTE Energy Foundation proudly announces the recipients of the 2007 Walter J. McCarthy Jr. Awards for Volunteer Leadership and the organizations that benefit from their good work:

### ALLEN PARK

Geraldine Downes, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association

### BIG RAPIDS

Lawrence Bourke, National Little Britches Rodeo Association of Michigan

### BYRON CENTER

Laura Brown, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation

### CANTON

Alfred Ciantar, Salem High School

### CARLETON

Gary Bretnier, Monroe County Library System

Kristine Durkin, St. Patrick's Church

Virginia Oliver, River Raisin Centre for the Arts

### CASS CITY

James Heiser, United Way of Tuscola County

### CLAWSON

Joseph Bedford, City of Clawson

### CLINTON TWP.

Brian Thomas, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

### DEARBORN

Karin Sharp, Looking for My Sister

### DETROIT

Leon Burke, Community Service Community Development Corporation

Cornelia Butler, Wings of Truth Gospel Church

Karla Hall, Michigan Nonprofit Association; Motown Historical Museum, Inc.

Donald McSwein, Optimist Club Foundation of Central Detroit

Leslie Nolan, Detroit Institute for Children

Esther Porter, City of River Rouge

Mitchell Shamsud-Din, Community Service Community Development Corporation

### DUNDEE

Michael Drummond, Monroe County Library System

Tim Sampson, American Cancer Society

### E. TAWAS

Tim Kolnitys, Tawas Area Schools

### ECORSE

Cassandra Marbury, Great Faith Ministries, Inc.

### ERIE

William Dempsey, Mason Consolidated Schools

### FARMINGTON HILLS

Keith Abbott, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

Marc Zupmore, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

### FLAT ROCK

Bonnie Fitzgerald, American Cancer Society, Inc.

### FORT GRATIOT

Terry Hall, Port Huron Scholarship Assistance Program of St. Clair County

Mark VanderHeuvel, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

### GRAND RAPIDS

Kelley Alcock, Boxer Haven Rescue

Niurka Diaz, Down Syndrome Association of Western Michigan

### GRANDVILLE

Mary Connor, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation

### GREENWOOD

David Asselin, Pheasants Forever-St. Clair County

### GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Frederick Curto, Student Mentor Partners

### GROSSE POINTE PARK

Marsha Ennis, Arts & Scraps

### HOWELL

Michael Schlaack, Boy Scouts of America - Great Sauk Trail Council

### HUNTINGTON WOODS

Roberta Urbani, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance; City of Detroit Recreation Department; Community Foundation of Greater Rochester

### IDA

Matthew Kirkland, Boy Scouts of America - Great Sauk Trail Council

### INKSTER

Douglas LaRowe, Lymphoma Research Foundation

Artie Norwood, Community Service Community Development Corporation

### KINDE

Stephen Harmon, Greater Huron County United Way

### KINGSLEY

Steve Rawlings, Michigan 4-H Foundation

### LASALLE

Donald Pearce, Mason Consolidated Schools

Dennis Reincke, Mason Consolidated Schools

### LINCOLN PARK

Daniel Meyers, Trenton Firefighters Charities

### LIVONIA

Don Bramlett, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

William Clemens, Livonia Public Schools - Stevenson High

Charlotte Mahoney, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

Winon Mahoney, Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Doyle McKay, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

Joseph Robach, Accounting Aid Society

Reed Romain, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Matthew Shackelford, Friends of the Detroit River

### MARYSVILLE

Steven Down, Marysville Viking Regiment Boosters Club, Inc.

John Goulet, Marysville Viking Regiment Boosters Club, Inc.

### MONROE

Dennis Bergmooser, Pheasants Forever - Monroe

Peter Burkitt, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.

Doug Diraff, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.

Jeffery Hensley, Monroe Public Schools; Arthur Lesow Community Center

Rodney Johnson, Monroe County Intermediate School District

Kathleen LeCompte, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; International Wildlife Refuge Alliance

Linda Schmidt, Monroe County 4-H Council

Myron Smolinski, YMCA of Monroe County

Edward Stehulek, Monroe Public Schools - Monroe High School

Kathleen Stiefel, Airport Community Schools

William Terrasi, Foundation at Monroe County Community College

Nancy Williams, The Education Foundation of the Monroe Public Schools

Marsha Wilson, Monroe Public Schools - Raisinville Elementary School

### MT. PLEASANT

Daniel Thering, Jacob Michael Davis Foundation, Inc.

### MUSKEGON

Kenneth Bowlin, Eastside Extravaganza, Inc.

Keven Carroll, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore, Inc.

Laneta Paskel, Muskegon Heat

Thomas Rapson, North Muskegon Public Schools

Tiffany Scott, Muskegon Heat

Anne Smith, Grand Rapids Community College Foundation

### N. MUSKEGON

Kurt Edburn, American Cancer Society

### NEWPORT

Cynthia Cody, American Red Cross - Monroe County Chapter

George Teribery, Jefferson Schools - Jefferson High School

### NORTH STREET

Nancy White, Michigan Elks Association

Dennis White, Michigan Elks Association

### NOVI

Donald Goshorn, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

Michael Kotyk, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

Raymond Seidl, Novi High School Band Boosters

### OAK PARK

Salim Mumia, Community Service Community Development Corporation

### PLEASANT RIDGE

Rajan Telang, Accounting Aid Society

### ROCHESTER HILLS

Ron May, Warren/Conner Development Coalition

### ROCKWOOD

Stephen Chapman, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

### ROGERS CITY

Dennis Meredith, Little League Baseball, Inc.

### SALINE

Molly Luempert-Coy, Community Foundation of Monroe County; March of Dimes; Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Bureau Foundation; YMCA of Monroe County; Foundation at Monroe County Community College; Michigan Duck Hunters Tournament, Inc.; American Red Cross - Monroe County Chapter; Mercy Memorial Hospital Corporation; First Step - Western Wayne County on Domestic Assault

South Rockwood

Timothy Walsh, Village of South Rockwood

Southfield

Suzanne Dibble, Detroit Dence Collective

Mark Jubas, Akiva Hebrew Day School - Yeshivat Akiva

Henrietta Robinson, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Ray Parker, Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S., Inc.

### SPRING LAKE

Vince Duca, West Michigan Society for Protection and Care of Animals

Janie Duca, West Michigan Society for Protection and Care of Animals

### ST. CLAIR SHORES

Sharon Cloud, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

Charles Jackson, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

### STERLING HEIGHTS

Shelley Murphy-Wolocko, American Cancer Society, Inc.

William Schrodt, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

### TEMPERANCE

Kimberly Harsley, American Heart Association

Barry Thomas, Bedford Public Schools

### TRENTON

William Jasman, Trenton Rotary Foundation, Inc.; St. Timothy's Church-Trenton Food Pantry

### TROY

Satyendra Basu, Troy Community Foundation

Bichitra Pathbhavan, Troy Community Foundation

Jim Cyrulewski, Troy Community Foundation

Ignatius Fadanelli, American Heart Association

Michael Palchesko, Rebuilding Together Oakland County, Inc.

### WARREN

LaToya Billingsley, Cass Tech High School Alumni Association

Mary Catherine Robinson, The Parade Company

### WATERFORD

Fred Bond, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

### WAYNE

Angela Acosta, Accounting Aid Society

### WEIDMAN

Derek Snyder, Chippewa Hills High School

### WEST BLOOMFIELD

Anthony Targan, American Lung Association of Michigan

### WYANDOTTE

Thomas Wilson, Female Alumni Athletic Boosters

### WYOMING

Mary Jo Rozek, Crash's Landing

### YALE

Raymond Bollaert, Michigan 4-H Foundation

**DTE Energy  
Foundation**



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# Investors can learn from mistakes made by Bear Stearns

The stock market has been on a roller coaster ride of late. One day it's up 400 points, the next day it's down 300 points.

Market volatilities are, unfortunately, the norm.

One of the main problems recently has been the real estate downturn and the sub-prime crisis.

Although many people have seen significant reductions in certain investments — there have been some funds and investment partnerships that have gone belly up — there had been no large name companies put out of business. That changed last week when it was announced J.P. Morgan was buying Bear Stearns.

The reality is Bear Stearns had no alternative. It was forced to sell in order to avoid bankruptcy. The question is: What happened to Bear



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

the dot-com crash and 9/11. It was, however, not able to survive the sub-prime market.

Although, there are lots of reasons and detailed explanations about why Bear Stearns failed, I believe there are two simple reasons that caused the collapse.

The first problem Bear Stearns ran into was liquidity. Bear Stearns was highly leveraged. When it ran into a cash

flow problem, the amount leveraged prevented it from having any flexibility in working out this problem.

The second issue that hurt Bear Stearns was the lack of diversification. The firm had a significant portion of its investments within the sub-prime market. While things were good, Bear Stearns was doing well, however, when the sub-prime market had its downturn, the firm was hurt.

For the average investor, there are lessons to be learned from the collapse of Bear Stearns.

The first deals with leverage.

I believe that people should not leverage their investments. When people margin their investment accounts it allows them to borrow money against an investment portfolio. The problem with this

strategy is when there is a downturn you lose flexibility in your account. Because of the requirement to have a certain amount of equity in a portfolio, investments can be sold, without knowledge in order to cover collateral on the loan.

Bear Stearns lost control and they were forced to sell at an inopportune time. The same thing can happen to the individual investor who over-leverages an account.

Keep in mind that a year ago Bear Stearns was selling for \$160 a share. On Friday at the close of business before the Monday sale, it was selling for \$30 a share. The sale price — \$2 a share.

Secondly, Bear Stearns suffered from a lack of diversification.

I always stress the need to diversify a portfolio.

Diversification offers protection against volatile and uncertain markets.

The lessons to be learned from the Bear Stearns situation are: first, that it could happen to anyone. Big companies, small companies, big investors and small investors are all subject to the volatilities of the market;

Second, to be a successful investor, you must diversify your portfolio. Investors who do not diversify are, in fact, gamblers — and the reality of the situation is most gamblers lose;

Third, to be a successful investor you always have to remain in control of your investments. When you lose control — by using margin on accounts — you lose all flexibility.

In spite of this crisis, however, it would be wrong to

assume the sky is falling simply because Bear Stearns was sold at a fire sale price. We have seen this in many different industries where for many different reasons companies go out of business. In our own back yard, companies like Highland Appliance and Fretter went out of business because they could not adapt to the changing times.

As investors, we must adapt to the changing environment. However, adapting to change does not mean forgetting about the fundamentals. Don't let that happen to you.

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

## Sheriff warns about fake IRS e-mails

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans is warning local residents about an online identity theft scam that uses bogus e-mails, designed to look like they have been sent by the IRS, to trick people into providing personal information. Evans said his Internet Crime Unit has received several complaints from people who have received these "spoof" e-mails.

Evans said that the bogus e-mails bear the logo of the IRS, or in some cases, the IRS's tax return processing company, eFile, and inform the recipient that they are owed a tax refund. Contained in the e-mail is a link to a fake IRS Web site, which prompts the victim to provide personal information that the scam artist can use to steal the person's identity.

"With a poor economy and this being the height of tax time, a lot of people could fall prey to this scam because the e-mails look legitimate and offer the promise of money to the targeted victim," Evans said. "We want to help protect citizens from being swindled out of a lot more money than they are being offered as part of this scam."

Typically, a spoof e-mail often starts out saying something along these lines: "After the last calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined you are eligible to receive a tax refund," and then specifies an amount the recipient is supposedly due. Evans said that it is important for people to know that the IRS does not notify people via an unsolicited e-mail if they have a return due to them.

"Typically, these are believable amounts, ranging from \$50 or \$60 up to several hundred dollars, to draw people into the scam," Evans said. "The insidious part of this con is that it doesn't really play on a person's greed. The victims are being led to believe that this is their hard-earned money being returned to them."

The e-mail contains an embedded link to direct victims to a web site, which appears to be an IRS Web site, but will have a Web address that has nothing to do with the IRS or federal government, Evans said.

The look-alike web site offers the victim the opportunity to get their refund applied to his or her credit card and asks the individual to provide their account information and Social Security number.

"With just that information, an identity thief can be off to the races and your life can be turned upside-down before you even know anything is wrong," Evans said.

Evans said that because the e-mails are likely being generated outside Michigan, and perhaps outside the United States, anyone receiving a suspect e-mail should report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov), which investigates such complaints.

"We hope that by educating the public to this fraud, no one will fall victim to it," Evans said. "But if they do, or even if they receive one of the bogus e-mails, they should make a complaint immediately through the FBI's Web site, rather than a local agency."

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OUR VIEWS

## Master plan has plenty to offer

A splash park, new play structures, more baseball and soccer fields ... The new five-year parks and recreation master plan city officials rolled out last week is filled with all things recreational. It's a mind-boggling \$15.5 million wish list that, if it becomes a reality, would offer better recreational opportunities to residents.

We like what we see in the plan, especially the make-over of Tattan Park. The park is set up to accommodate young children, and its Tot Town has offered little ones adventures as big as their own imaginations. The new plan calls for several new play structures and a splash park. The former is a good idea, considering the once popular playscape is part of the Central City Park quarantine, and the latter, hands down, would turn Tattan Park into a mecca for the younger set.

We also agree that there is a need for ball fields and soccer fields and like their addition to the layout of Central City Park. Sports activity, whether it's through the Westland Youth Athletic Association or the Wayne-Westland Soccer League, is booming in the city, and in the case of the latter, there's a definite need for better quality fields. Many of the league's older teams play on soccer fields in Venoy Dorsey Park that are poorly maintained and lack any kind of amenities.

But we must be realists. Including Central City Park in the first year of the master plan may be wishful thinking. It's been 17 months since word of its contamination became public knowledge and it's obvious the park is far from any kind of remediation. State, county and city officials are waiting for the results for yet another round of testing that could open the door to developing a remediation plan or to even more testing.

The park will get fixed, but when is anybody's guess right now. It is important that the county as the owner of Central City Park keep moving forward on a plan to get it cleaned up and reopened to the public. That alone will improve recreational offerings for residents 100 percent.

We like what Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski was able to accomplish with this plan. It is comprehensive and, yes, it is clearly focused. Like the Frontier Park proposal, it offers something for almost everyone, but instead of starting from scratch, it builds on what the city already has. In these economically dreary times, it's the better option.

All of it can happen if the city focuses on tapping into every available revenue source it can. That includes grants from the state Department of Natural Resources and the Wayne County Parks millage. Finding the money won't be easy. It may take longer than five years, but when all is said and done, the city will have many more than its fair share of recreational jewels in its crown.

## Root out May school elections

Daffodils and tulips aren't the only things poking up through the snow and mud this year. So are May school elections in some districts that are determined to keep them separate from traditional August and November state and federal elections.

That could change. H.B. 4507 would require that all school elections be held in November, but following a confusing set of amendments to the bill, it has languished in the state Senate since late November.

It's become increasingly apparent that the business of running a school district is no bed of roses. It's time for the Legislature to prune that bill of unnecessary amendments and insist that school districts hold their elections in November.

That time frame is fiscally responsible and ensures a greater turnout of voters.

Previous state legislation that took effect in January 2005 consolidated elections, requiring that they be held only in May, August and November. Gone were the days of June elections — and "do-over" votes when bond issues failed.

The response has been mixed. According to the Oakland County Clerk's office, 18 school districts have switched to November elections.

Those districts are hoping to avoid a situation like that in Wayne County's Redford Union district, which faces a deficit and had little choice but to move the election to November. Doing so reduces costs by sharing the financial burden with other governmental units.

Some districts, like Plymouth-Canton and Garden City, are trying to minimize the cost by holding their May elections every other year instead of yearly, starting in 2009.

The thinking is that odd-year May elections keep education issues and candidates off of crowded ballots. Unfortunately, that doesn't help improve the traditionally low turnout for school elections.

After all, that is what elections are about — hearing the collective voice of the public.

It's up to the Legislature, and reticent districts like Ferndale and Clawson, to plant a sound foundation for school elections by moving them to November.



LETTERS

### Be part of the celebration

Well, our opening day ceremonies for our (Westland Youth Athletic Association) 50th Anniversary are noon May 3 at Marshall Middle School. We would like to extend an invitation to the residents of Westland to help celebrate a great program.

You will be seeing Karen Newman singing the national anthem, the John Glenn color guard, Sen. Glenn Anderson and Rep. Richard LeBlanc. WYCD and WRIF will be on hand. We have invited the City Council and mayor. We will have concessions and plan on making it a fantastic day. Come out and see some great kids have fun.

We are still searching for information. We are looking for lifetime board members, former coaches, players, past presidents. If you have any information to share, we would love to have you be part of our ceremonies.

So you will be seeing us at the City Council meetings. WLND will be doing a show, highlighting pictures from the past, and, with the help of Courtney Conover and Craig Welkenbach, this will be very good and informative. So keep watching for it.

If you know anyone with information or pictures from the past, call us at the Lange Compound at (734) 421-0640, or feel free to stop in to see our building 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays. We would love to see you. Thanks again and see you opening day.

**Bud Somerville**  
Westland

### Career paths need sharing

I applaud the Livonia schools for implementing the Through Here 2 There. I taught high school students in a local school district for 23 years and it amazed me that students somehow felt they would know what they wanted to do as a junior or senior. Also, the expectation — and anxiety — was worse for many parents. Sometimes the path from here to there takes a lot of turns and pauses.

I, for instance, applied to college as a biology major. By the time I went for summer orientation, I changed to math. When I arrived for classes, I changed yet again, to music.

Then as a sophomore, I transferred to another university, still a music major. However, by chance, I enrolled in a psychology course which required outreach experience in the community. I went to Plymouth State Home and worked with two blind, retarded residents. I loved it and decided that I wasn't cut out for music (which takes more than talent). I transferred into the education school, graduated and worked for 30 years in four districts.

When I was teaching and had the chance, I would ask a person how they came to their job. RARELY was it a straight line.

And if it was, often a part-time high school job blossomed into a career or what was considered a just-getting-started job became a career.

For example, the men who installed our carpeting didn't graduate from high school saying that's for me.

I always told my students: It is better to start for somewhere than it is to stand still. Take a couple of courses at a junior college. Try several jobs. At least you will learn what you don't want to do, which is also important. Are you a day person or a night person? Some occupations, like teaching, are primarily day jobs. Nurses can work afternoons or nights. Are you an indoor or outdoor person, both or don't care? Are you willing to work your way up to learn a trade?

My point is, I don't know if I've ever heard someone say, "I want to work for Waste Management, collecting garbage." However, where would we be if the job was left undone?

I hope students will have many opportunities to hear "not a straight line" stories; it's an important concept. I also think starting earlier than high school would be a good idea.

**Peg Gall**  
Livonia

### Let jury decide

I would like to know why The Observer has turned into the PR agent for Letkemann.

First, and most egregious, The Observer broadcasts a page one headline implying that Letkemann is innocent.

After reading the article below the attention-drawing headline, it turns out this is only about trying to pressure the prosecutor into dropping the first degree murder charge and instead making it second degree murder. What a crock!

Why is this so important that it has to be put on page one as a headline? Are you trying to unduly influence the jury and the prosecutor?

Next we are constantly getting letters to the editor implying that poor Letkemann is being railroaded since he apparently is still charged with first-degree murder.

I am not an attorney, but the last I heard, lie detector tests (and their results) are not allowed in court. Apparently the courts do not allow lie detector tests since they are not reliable.

The trial can determine if Letkemann should be charged with first-degree murder. The prosecutor may have additional evidence showing that a first-degree murder charge is warranted. Let the court and the jury decide.

**Bill Piner**  
Plymouth Township

### Inheriting burden

The seemingly endless American political process of choosing a president is once again in the homestretch. Accompanying it is the characteristic psychological angst regarding the candidates. In some it appears as a diagnosis of "Barackosis," for others a fear of "McAgeism," or for yet others "Hillaryphobia," with symptoms and complaints of either "too young," "too old," or "too ... well, just too Billary!"

This presidential selection process, however, has one distinctive and refresh-

ing feature regardless of the outcome and eventual winner. It will at least conclude eight years of national leadership neglect that makes the tarnished watches of Nixon and Clinton pale by comparison.

Unfortunately, to the victor in November will also belong the unenviable task of remedying the economic, political, diplomatic, military and environmental damage left behind.

Certainly, as voters, we will continue to be exhausted for a while longer by the typical campaign promises of remedies which address our wants, needs, and desires. All of the necessary political rhetoric, however, will not diminish the reality of the eventual victor's inheritance of an economic recession, a soaring national debt, a tarnished international reputation, a valiant but exhausted and depleted military, and eight years of neglected environmental commitments.

Perhaps the most challenging legacy will be the continuing burden of unjustified, mismanaged invasion of Iraq and the \$275 million per day cost of this tragic misadventure.

More important than the \$500 billion plus cost thus far has been the enormous human cost of almost 4,000 U.S. military deaths, 60,000 wounded physically and psychologically, 700,000 Iraqis killed and the creation of an estimated four million refugees. These are numbers that make trivial the frenzy over delegate and superdelegate counts, poll projections, and the size of candidate election spending.

The reality is that in November our country will improve the quality of its national leadership by a quantum leap regardless of the person or party that is victorious.

Unfortunately, the victor, in attempting to implement that leadership, will inherit a presidential burden from his or her predecessor of historic proportions and a national debt which was \$5.7 trillion Jan. 19, 2001, and is now estimated by the Department of Treasury will be \$10.1 trillion by Jan. 21, 2009. Sympathies may certainly be in order for indeed "the victor may belong to the spoils."

**Lawrence J. Gage**  
Farmington Hills

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### QUOTABLE

**"The Outdoors Classroom Project is designed to improve Lincoln Elementary School students' knowledge and skills in the area of applied mathematics."**

- Sara Bliss, Bright Futures coordinator, about the project which is being funded by a \$1,000 State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award

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



# Kwame's tirade only deepens region's racial quagmire

Well, the house of cards is starting to fall. What remains to be seen is just how many will actually come crashing down before Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick decides to take responsibility for his actions. Up to this point, he has given every indication that he seems intent on taking as many people down with him as possible.



Kurt Kuban

Just ask Christine Beatty, his former partner in crime. I wonder how many jobs are out there waiting for her. And then there's attorney and onetime City Councilwoman Sharon McPhail, who certainly hasn't looked very good in the days since the *Detroit Free Press* broke the text messaging scandal. Both women have had their reputations tarnished — maybe irreparably — and they are not alone. But it is obvious Kilpatrick isn't concerned about anyone's reputation save his own.

In fact, he has been particularly unforgiving on all those people who have had the audacity to question him on why he would lie under oath about his extramarital affair with Beatty and then ultimately cost the taxpayers \$8.4 million to cover it up.

He has come out and accused the *Free Press* and other media outlets as being an unethical lynch mob out to get him and his family. He has also been harsh on members of the Detroit City Council, especially President Kenneth Cockrel Jr., who the mayor called out in his recent State of the City address.

In fact, in that speech, the mayor made it quite clear he isn't all that concerned about the reputation of the city itself, nor the region as a whole. To protect his own skin and his political fiefdom, Kilpatrick decided to play the old reliable race card, which has always been a winner in these parts.

Let's face it, his use of the "n-word" was a political calculation. Hey, I have no doubt there have been scum that have sent him hate mail or shouted the "n-word" in his direction on the street. But their actions don't reflect my opinions or the majority of white people in the suburbs. Yet the mayor seemed to be telling his black constituents that "the white suburbs are trying to bring me down and tell us how to run things" — a common theme when he finds himself in political trouble.

Unfortunately, Kwame is just the latest to use metro Detroit's racial divide to his own political advantage. White suburban leaders have been using it pretty much since the Detroit riots of 1967. Just as Kwame preys on black Detroiters' bitterness toward years of white racism, suburban leaders, dating back to Dearborn Mayor Orville Hubbard, have mined the white fear of black crime as a way to get elected.

It seems only under such negative circumstances is the issue of race really discussed, cre-

ating an us vs. them atmosphere that has made southeast Michigan one of the most segregated regions in the country. If we really want to solve the problem, what we need is a little honesty as well as some understanding.

I think the first step is to recognize that there are plenty of legitimate concerns to go around.

Detroit is a shell of the city it once was. Institutional racism played a role in this, as did "white flight." But blacks must accept some blame as well. Crime has helped destroy the city of Detroit. And that crime has begun to spill out into the inner-ring suburbs and has been a driving force behind suburban sprawl. As blacks move out of Detroit, and some of the crime comes with them, white families keep moving further and further away.

I don't think it's because they (at least the majority of them) are racist bigots at their core. Many good people I know have moved to Milford, South Lyon, or Brighton because they are concerned for the welfare of their families. They see heinous crimes committed by blacks, and they just want to get away.

I have lived in the Wayne-Westland area pretty much my entire life. When I was a kid, there were very few African-American residents. In recent years that has changed, as it has in other inner-ring suburbs. Let's just say integration hasn't necessarily been a smooth transition. Certainly crime has spiked.

For example, back in December, not two blocks from my home, a black man brutally assaulted a beloved female shop owner, stabbing her more than a dozen times, only to quit when she played dead. He did this to steal her purse.

A couple of years ago, I was riding my bicycle near my home and two black males, who were walking by, pulled a gun out and pointed it at my head. They threatened to kill me if I didn't give them my bike and my wallet.

These are not isolated incidents, nor are they relegated to Wayne or Westland.

Some of these things I just can't comprehend and scare the hell out of me, especially because I have three young children. But I also understand that these actions don't represent the actions of all African-Americans. And I also understand there are underlying reasons that lead many blacks to commit crimes — socio-economic, educational and even desperation. We as a region need to try to solve these issues, just as we need to stamp out white racism.

But I don't think Kwame or many of our other so-called leaders are interested in really getting to the roots of the problem. Instead of honest dialogue, they revert to inflammatory speech or pointing of fingers. It may work for them, but it only widens our region's racial gulf.

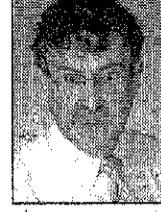
Kurt Kuban is editor of the Canton Observer. He can be reached at (734) 459-2700 or by e-mail at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com).

# Obama speech offers an explanation — and a vision

While sorting out a basement shelf a few weeks ago, I came across a class photo from my elementary school days.

There we were, all scrubbed, all smiling, all white.

It's different for my son.



Wayne Peal

His second-grade class is truly diverse. It's diverse in terms of race — not just white-black, but white-black-Asian. It's diverse in terms of religion — not just Christian-Jewish, but Christian-Jewish-Muslim-Hindu. It's diverse in terms of culture, containing not just the North American-born, but those from Europe and the Far East as well.

In short, it's the true melting pot. Yet the suburban Oakland County community in which we live is far more Oyster Bay than Ellis Island.

I've thought about all these things a lot these past few days, especially in the wake of Barack Obama's speech on race.

Like him or not, vote for him or not, the Illinois senator touched on some uncomfortable truths about our attitudes, all our attitudes, on race. He also offered an example of how we can transcend those attitudes and move, however haltingly, toward the future. In part, he himself is the proof. His pastor may have railed on (not entirely inaccurately) about how power in America is concentrated in the hands of "rich white men."

But millions of Americans, white and black, rich and poor, are more than ready to hand the most powerful office in the land to Obama. Millions of others, just as diverse, are willing to give that job to Hillary Clinton. That just hasn't happened before. To think that choice isn't the product of an evolving America is neither true nor correct.

Of course, injustices linger and old attitudes die hard. Obama's presidency, should it happen, might even churn the cultural waters more

than calm them. The issues are bigger than Obama and his pastor, bigger than white and black alone, bigger than any of us can realize. Yet even now, win or lose, there's no going back. This isn't the 1960s or even the 1980s. This already is a new America and we must adjust our attitudes, across the board, to meet its realities.

Obama's presidency, should it happen, might even churn the cultural waters more

than calm them. The issues are bigger than Obama and his pastor, bigger than white and black alone, bigger than any of us can realize. Yet even now, win or lose, there's no going back. This isn't the 1960s or even the 1980s. This already is a new America and we must adjust our attitudes, across the board, to meet its realities.

Nor can we continue to avoid the real issues of poverty and privilege in our society.

My son's classmates, whatever their race, color or creed, are afforded a much better education than many of their peers, even some who live just a few miles down the road.

Our families, stressed as they might be by Michigan's horrid economy, still have better access — and more choices — regarding health care than do many of our neighbors, especially those who have lost their jobs.

Too many Americans continue to fall behind, too many remain isolated by race, culture or creed.

Yet when I look at my son and his classmates, I see a vision of that new America, one where all can live and learn together.

It's the kind of America to which I pledged allegiance — at least in principle — in my all-white classroom those many years ago.

Wayne Peal is editor of the Southfield Eccentric. You can contact him at [wpeal@hometownlife.com](mailto:wpeal@hometownlife.com).

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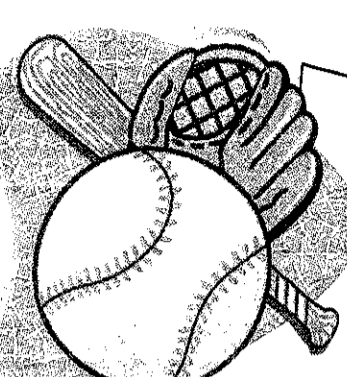
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# Can area baseball teams 'weather' the conditions?

## Warriors appear strong

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### BASEBALL PREVIEW

#### Play ball?

With the exception of Livonia Stevenson, which will hold three scrimmages before opening its season on April 11, most area high school baseball teams are scheduled to start for real next week.

But with the recent inclement weather and spring break this week, it's a good bet that many area teams will be scrambling from the start.

So what area team appears to be the most seasoned and ready to go?

It could be Division 4 school Lutheran High Westland, which posted a 16-7 record in 2007 and returns 10 of its top 11 players.

Fourth-year coach Kevin Wade's biggest loss will be replacing first-team All-Observer and All-Metro Conference infielder Chris Ake, who graduated after batting .485 with five homers and 29 RBI.

The Warriors return a slew of pitchers including seniors Derek Fleetham and Ryan Baglow,

along with juniors Micah Hausch and Sam Ahlersmeyer, and sophomore Austin Baglow.

"We have three starters back from last year who combined to throw two no-hitters, along with three others who can provide quality innings for us, and one potential closer as well," Wade said. "With the unpredictability of Michigan weather and the potential for back-to-back-to-back games, it will be nice to have extra arms."

The Warriors have also upgraded their schedule.

"It will be very challenging this year that will only help us in the long run," Wade said.

"We play inter-conference rival (Grosse Pointe Woods) University-Liggett, which is the defending conference champion and preseason No. 2 in Division 4; Homer, which is the No. 4 preseason in Division 4; and perennial Division 4 power Southfield Christian in addition to the tough competition in the Metro."

Fellow Metro Conference member Livonia Clarenceville (3-22) will feature a new coach in Dan Miller, who takes the varsity reins from Mike Korczyk.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lutheran High Westland returns catcher Dan Abbott (left) for the 2008 season.

Capsule outlook of area teams, B3.

Please see **BASEBALL, B3**

# Whalers' Terry gives assist to ALS patient

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



NATALIE SHAYER

Plymouth Whalers center Chris Terry visited 16-year-old Redford Township resident Bobby Suvoy just a few hours before the team's March 15 home game against Sarnia. Suvoy was originally scheduled to attend the game with several family members and friends, but worsening effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis prevented the trip to Plymouth.

The capital "A" that's sewn into Plymouth Whaler center Chris Terry's jersey stands for "Alternate captain," but it could just as easily have stood for "Angel" one afternoon earlier this month.

With a pivotal Ontario Hockey League game against Sarnia looming less than six hours away, Terry hopped in a car driven by Whalers Sales and Marketing Administrator Natalie Shaver on March 15 and the two made an improvised 25-minute trek to the home of 16-year-old Redford Township resident Bobby Suvoy, who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in August.

Earlier in the week, the Whalers had donated 20 tickets to that night's game to Suvoy's family and close friends. However, the paralyzing effects of the usually fatal condition — better known as Lou Gehrig's disease — prevented Suvoy from making the trip to Compuware Arena where he was to meet Terry (his favorite player) prior to the game against the Sting.

#### EMOTIONAL MEETING

When the Whalers' No. 1 scorer met his No. 1 fan that afternoon, it was difficult to say whose life was enriched more — Terry's or Suvoy's.

"I can't say enough nice things about what Chris did that day and what he's done for my son since," said Bob Suvoy, Bobby's dad. "Bobby was smiling the entire time Chris was there and he was smiling long after he left."

"Even though Chris had a game later that day, he stayed for more than an hour to visit with Bobby. Since then,

Please see **TERRY, A3**

## Sidelines

### Krug All-America

Adrian College junior Adam Krug (Livonia Churchill), who led all NCAA Division III players in scoring with 77 points, was named to the RBK second-team West All-America squad in men's hockey.

Krug, who had 30 goals and 47 assists, helped the Bulldogs to a 26-3 record in their inaugural season along with Midwest College Hockey Association regular season and playoff titles.

### Bridges saluted

Madonna University senior forward D.J. Bridges (Canton High) recently earned 2008 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics honorable mention All-America honors in men's basketball.

The 6-foot-3 Bridges, who averaged 18.9 points and 6.9 rebounds per game, was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's first-team. He saved his best game for last, setting a new career-high with 36 points in a late-season game against Cornerstone.

Bridges ended his career in the top five all-time at MU in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots.

The Crusaders wrapped up the best season in school history, posting a 19-13 record, their first winning season the program history. MU also set a new benchmark for WHAC wins with 10.

### MU golfers sixth

The Madonna University men's golf team earned a sixth-place finish Tuesday at the Bellarmine University (Ky.) Intercollegiate under difficult course conditions at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club in Louisville with a two-day total of 320-320-640 as Jono McMahon (Windsor, Ontario) tied for 10th individually with rounds of 79-76-155.

Other scorers for the Crusaders included Austin Stillman (Livonia Franklin), 79-83-162; Steve South (Franklin), 83-81-164; Elliot Oscar (Reedsburg, Wis.), 81-84-165; Aaron Cheesman (Salem), 81-86-167; Matt Talbot (Plymouth), 89-80-169.

Host Bellarmine won the nine-team field with a 603 total.

### Woods hoop champ

Angelica Woods, representing Livonia's Department of Parks and Recreation, scored 30 points to win the Girls 14-15 age division and advance next month to the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Hoops Challenge finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Christian Woods, also of Livonia, scored 44 points to place third and advance to the state finals as well in the Boys 14-15 division.

# Making the grade

## Lehigh's Schubert wrestles in NCAA tourney

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Manuel Schubert is a lesson in perseverance, whether it's on the mat or in the classroom.

The redshirt sophomore wrestler from Lehigh (Pa.) University earned his first NCAA Division I tournament berth last weekend in St. Louis, Mo., by overcoming a series of injuries and moving up a weight class.

"It's been one thing after another," the Westland native and 2005 Livonia Churchill High grad said. "I sprained my MCL (knee) and LCL (knee). In December, I tore a ligament in my ankle, chipped a bone and was out two months."

Schubert began the season at 174 pounds, but had to move up to the 184-pound class for the Mountain Hawks when he returned to the lineup in February.

"I was out until the middle of the season and it took a while to get back in rhythm,"



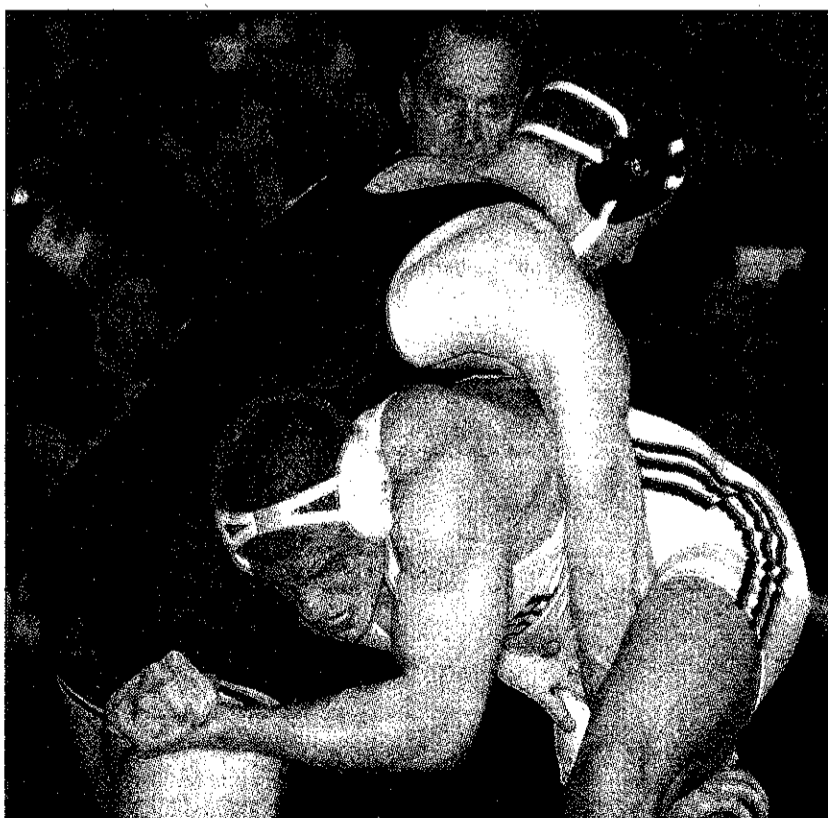
Schubert

Schubert said. "Last year, I wrestled 165 and that was a big cut for me. I was 174 at the beginning of this year, but when I got back I wasn't starting. There was a spot at 184, and it was because of that I could get to the nationals."

Schubert surpassed his own expectations and those of his coach.

"He wasn't seeded at our (EIWA) conference tournament, but he beat two seeded guys (No. 8 and No. 5) to place fourth, and with it, an automatic bid to go to the NCAAAs," Lehigh coach Greg Strobel said. "He's a very hard worker. He has an amazing ability to stay focused and on task. He follows a game plan and never gives up. He's also in very good shape, so he wins matches because his opponent is too tired to resist."

Please see **SCHUBERT, B3**



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

Lehigh sophomore Manuel Schubert (right), a graduate of Livonia Churchill, competed in last week's NCAA Division I wrestling tournament.







# Whalers on brink of elimination in series vs. Kitchener Rangers

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By the time you read this article, the Plymouth Whalers have either: A) set the groundwork for a dramatic comeback in their Ontario Hockey League first-round playoff series against Kitchener; or B) unlaced their skates for the last time until training camp in August.

Heading into Wednesday night's Game 4 at Compuware Arena, the Whalers' backs were against the proverbial boards as they trailed 3-0 in the best-of-seven series against the No. 1-seeded Rangers. (Wednesday night's results can be found on www.hometownlife.com.)

If a Game 5 is necessary, it will unfold Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Kitchener. Game 6 — again, if necessary — would be played 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena Saturday.

A climactic Game 7 would be played Monday on the Rangers' home ice.

Last Monday before 5,659 at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium, the Whalers dropped a 7-3 decision to the Rangers as Matt Halischuk

tallied two goals — his fourth and fifth of the series — for the winners.

The Rangers surged to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals from Mike Duco and Mikkel Boedker, and never looked back to secure a 3-0 series advantage.

Kitchener led 4-2 after 40 minutes.

Chris Terry paced the locals' offensive attack with a pair of goals. The high-scoring center also assisted on Joe McCann's second-period net-finder.

Nazem Kadri, Justin Azevedo and Mike Mascioli found the back of the net for the Rangers, who received solid goal-tending from Josh Unice, who stopped 20 of the 23 shots he faced.

Jeremy Smith made 25 saves for the Whalers, who were outshot 32-22.

On Saturday in Plymouth, Kitchener prevailed 6-4, in game that was highlighted by missed opportunities by the Whalers.

Plymouth failed to capitalize on a pair of golden second-period scoring chances — a two-minute, two-man advantage situation and a penalty shot — that ultimately led to the two-goal defeat.

The Whalers outshot their foes 40-38, making it just the fifth time all season the Rangers had been outshot.

Terry gave the hosts a 1-0 lead 8:14 into the contest off assists from Andrew Fournier and Jozef Sladok.

Kitchener defenseman Yannick Weber knotted things up at 1-1 with a blast just inside the blue line at the 14:36 mark of the first stanza.

The Rangers took the lead for good when Kadri and Halischuk scored successive goals late in the first period and mid-way through the second, respectively.

A.J. Jenks banked home a rebound past Kitchener netminder Steve Mason 15:16 into the team to within 3-2, however, Duco, Weber and Kadri netted three straight to put the decision on ice.

Christian Steingraber (from Ryan Hayes) and Patrick Lee (from Fournier) tallied third-period goals for the Whalers, but it proved too little, too late.

Mason kicked away 36 Whaler shots while Smith smothered 22 Ranger attempts.

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## TERRY

FROM PAGE B1

he's given out shouts to Bobby when he's been interviewed on TV during and after games. I'll tell you what, it brings tears to my eyes thinking about it."

### TWO-WAY INSPIRATION

Terry, the Ontario Hockey League's sixth-leading scorer during the regular season (101 points), said the visit was a life-changing experience for him.

During the meeting in Suvoy's sports-themed bedroom, Terry pledged to try to score a goal for Bobby and — for further inspiration — he wrote the following phrase on the stick he used that night: "Do it 4 Bobby."

"Meeting Bobby helped show me how valuable life is and how we should cherish it," said Terry. "It helped me realize how good I have it and how fast things can change."

Life changed at an alarmingly fast pace for the Suvoy family late last summer when the popular, athletic teenager started experiencing symptoms of ALS, which usually strikes individuals two to three times his age.

Before too long, Suvoy, who would be a sophomore at Redford Thurston High School, was bed-ridden. He is currently receiving hospice care and is reliant on a breathing machine.

The grim diagnosis proved unbelievable for those close to Suvoy as well as many of the most knowledgeable neurologists across the country.

"We talked to a lot of doctors all over and only one — a doctor at Johns Hopkins in Maryland — had ever seen someone as young as Bobby with this disease," said Bob Suvoy. "We've taken him everywhere we can and tried everything we can, but ..."

### TYPICAL TERRY

The act of kindness Terry exhibited March 15 surprised no one who knows the personable 18-year-old native of Brampton, Ontario.

"Chris is not only a great player, he's a great kid," said Pete Krupsky, the team's director of communications. "Nothing he does in a charitable way off the ice surprises anyone that knows him."

A fifth-round pick of the Carolina Hurricanes in the 2007 National Hockey League draft, Terry enjoyed a breakout regular season for the

Whalers, registering 44 goals and 57 assists. He also notched a number of key points during the team's run to the OHL title in 2006-07.

"Last year, playing with guys like (Tom) Sestito, (Evan) Brophy and (Jared) Boll, I was a member of the supporting cast," said Terry. "This year, with those guys gone, Andrew Fournier and I knew we needed to raise our games up a bit."

"Team-wise, I think we've exceeded a lot of people's expectations. Some of our critics were saying we'd be lucky to make the playoffs, so we've proven them wrong. We were in the fourth or fifth slot until the last weekend of the season."

Although Terry couldn't deliver Suvoy a goal on the night of March 15, he plans on delivering something just as meaningful to his devoted fan once the Whalers' season is over.

"I still have the stick that I used that night in my locker," said Terry. "I'll keep it for inspiration until the season's over, then I'd like to give it to Bobby."

Of all the meaningful assists Terry records this season, that one may rank No. 1.

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## SCHUBERT

FROM PAGE B1

Schubert took a modest 9-10 record into the NCAAs, held at the Scottrade Center, where he lost a pair of close matches. In the opening round, he fell 6-4 to freshman A.J. Kissell of Purdue, followed by a 3-2 setback to Air Force's Jacob Devlin.

"It was a real good experience and it was great to get out there and see what I could do," Schubert said. "The matches did not go my way, but it shows I can compete at this level."

"It was cool being out there and experience all that."

At Churchill, Schubert was an All-Observer standout in wrestling and football.

During his junior year he went 50-3 and captured the 171-pound Division 1 state individual state crown. As a senior, he went 49-6 and placed fourth.

Schubert, who excelled academically at Churchill, was looking for a university that suited both of his needs and he found his way to Bethlehem, located an hour north of Philadelphia.

"I was talking with one

of the referees at one of our tournaments, Eric Hebestreit, and he put me in contact with coach Strobel," Schubert said. "I don't know if I'd be here without him (Hebestreit). It was my number one choice in college because it's a great school both for academics and wrestling. He (Strobel) is known for developing wrestlers who aren't necessarily the blue-chippers. He's done a good job."

Schubert redshirted his first season (2005-06) while competing unattached in open tournaments.

His inaugural season (2006-07) was definitely a learning curve, as he finished 7-20.

But it's his marks in the classroom is where the biology major sets himself apart. In four of his first five semesters, Schubert pulled off a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and now carries a 3.98.

"It's pretty demanding academically and you have to work for everything, but it's all worthwhile," Schubert said. "Aside from school and wrestling, there's not a lot of time for anything else. You do what you have to get things done. You just have to prioritize."

Schubert enjoys the academic experience as much as

the wrestling.

"There's only about 4,700 students," Schubert said. "It's small, but it's personal. You get to know the professors on a one-on-one basis and when you're going through campus you know a lot of people."

Schubert's goal is to return next year to the NCAAs, possibly moving back down to 174.

"Ideally I'd be 174, but 184 is fine because I've never had trouble with weight," he said. "Staying at 184 takes off the stress. It all depends what's best for the team and how things go this summer."

Schubert's ultimate destination is to attend medical school, working in orthopedics related to sports injuries. This summer, he'll be working wrestling camps and doing a research lab internship sponsored by Lehigh.

The future looks bright for Schubert.

"Manuel has a burning desire to be the starter and do the best he can be," Strobel said. "That desire propels him to do what it takes to accomplish his goals. I know he'll be working hard all spring and summer to be ready for next season."

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## PREP BASEBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

**LIVONIA CHURCHILL**  
Head coach: Ron Targosz, fifth year.  
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).  
Last year's overall record: 17-18.  
Titles won last year: Division 1 district champs.  
Notable losses to graduation: Bryon Niemczak (first-team All-Area); Kirk Ciarrocchi (second-team All-Area); Mike O'Keefe, Matt Lunsack, John Rodeman.  
Leading returnees: Vince Carozza, Sr. P-OF (captain); 4-2, 2.28 ERA; Shea Dwyer, Sr. P-OF (423 ave.); Brian Runge, Sr. P-OF (3-1, 4.62 ERA); Tyler Cotter, Sr. P-Inf. (captain); 323 hits; 972 fielding ave.; Steve Jones, Sr. C-1B (15 RB); Jimmy Tyler, Jr. P-Inf. (300 ave.); Josh Meligian, Sr. P (3-3, 3.42 ERA).  
Promising newcomers: Ricky Scully, Jr. Inf.; Andy Szymanski, Jr. Inf.; Josh Payzant, Soph. P.  
Targosz's 2008 outlook: "We have a very good mix of veteran leaders and talented underclassmen. The key for us is to continue to work hard in order to improve our baseball skills. Winning the district title last year gave our team some confidence and showed them that their hard work will and does pay off. The important thing is not to be satisfied and to want to become an even better team. If this group decides to do that, then we'll have another successful season."

**LIVONIA FRANKLIN**  
Head coach: Matt Fournier, second year.  
League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).  
Last year's overall record: 7-22.  
Notable losses to graduation: David Leins, Tyler Canoyck, Matt Mills.  
Leading returnees: Garrett Gumm, Jr. P-Inf. (second-team All-Area); Jesse Carpenter, Sr. P-Inf.-OF; Jeff McCullough, Sr. P-Inf.; Anthony Andrus, Sr. P-OF; David Muller, Sr. C-OF; Derek Leblanc, Sr. OF; Michael Basner, Jr. P-Inf.  
Promising newcomers: Ryan Matthey, Sr. Inf.; Mark McRobb, Jr. P-Inf.; Tyler Barnes, Jr. P-Inf.; Josh Weigand, Jr. OF; Brad Alderman, Jr. OF; Frank Hinius, Jr. OF; Wayne Hawkins, Soph. C.  
Fournier's 2008 outlook: "As a program we look to make strides in 2008. As a very young team in 2007 we competed in a lot of ballgames, but just could not get over the hump. We have a core group of players that now have a year of varsity experience under their belt. We will combine those student-athletes with a nice influx of talent off of our JV team from a year ago."

**LIVONIA STEVENSON**  
Head coach: Rick Berryman, fourth year.  
League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).  
Last year's overall record: 20-12.  
Titles won last year: Livonia City champs.  
Notable losses to graduation: Luke Knochel (first-team All-Area); Matt Tuttle (first-team All-Area); Nick Plinka (second-team All-Area); Matt Loney, Andy Jones, Larry Klemczak, Dan Rozek.  
Leading returnees: Grant Campbell, Sr. P (5-0); Eric Krauss, Sr. Inf.; Jeff Sorenson, Soph. P-Inf. (302 ave.); Matt Tuttle, Jr. P; Sam Vomastek, Sr. C-2B (302 ave.); Jake Wilson, Jr. C-3B; John Samaan, Sr. P-OF.  
Promising newcomers: Bob Smith, Jr. OF; Josh Strautz, Jr. P-Inf.; Giovanni Cairo, Jr. Inf.; David

Niesyto, Jr. P-Inf.; Zeb Bacigal, Jr. OF; James Bowley, Jr. P-OF; Daniel Sager, Jr. Inf.; Nathan Eroh, Jr. P-Inf.; Chris Summers, Sr. OF.  
Berryman's 2008 outlook: "The Spartans should be competitive once again in the Lakes Division and in Western Lakes crossover play. Pitching depth is a plus and several have worked hard in the off-season and shown much improvement. The hitters have also worked hard in the off-season and have improved greatly. Stevenson's big test will be replacing the left side of the infield and outfield. We have several players looking forward to passing the test and having a fine season on the left side of the infield and in the outfield."

**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN**  
Head coach: Tom Wakefield, first year.  
League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).  
Last year's overall record: 14-18.  
Notable losses to graduation: Alan Slepierki (second-team All-Area); Jake Murawski, Jerry Smith, Jeff Girgen, Nate Cover, Justin Reid, Ryan Wakefield.  
Leading returnees: Chris Kangas, Sr. P-1B (second-team All-Area); Robert Fraser, Sr. P-SS; Jon Gillis, Sr. P-OF; Andrew DeLuca, Jr. P-OF; Kevin Lafave, Sr. Inf.; Don Brady, Sr. OF.  
Promising newcomers: Steve Wakefield, Soph. Inf.; Anthony Vettriano, Jr. Inf.; Nathan Bovia, Jr. Inf.; Steven Hickson, Jr. Inf.; Jerome Scales, Jr. OF; Jase Paciocco, Sr. OF; Jon Lada, Sr. Inf.; Kyle Acuna, Sr. Inf.; Mike Johnson, Sr. P.  
Wakefield's 2008 outlook: "We're looking to build on tradition. The veteran leadership and work ethic has already impacted the promising newcomers. Our diverse knowledgeable coaching staff, in combination with team chemistry, will be key in creating a winning attitude."

**WAYNE MEMORIAL**  
Head coach: Paul Cavanaugh, first year.  
League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).  
Last year's overall record: 9-21.  
Notable losses to graduation: Michael Green, Clint Cavanaugh, J.B. Harris, Trey Raynes.  
Leading returnees: Tim Siegfried, Jr. C-OF (second-team All-Area); Ryan Collop, Sr. P-1B; Brent Patterson, Sr. 2B-P; Jon Bryant, Jr. SS-P; Jesse Borow, Jr. 1B-P; Zack Lloyd, Soph. 3B-P; Dominik Corredino, Soph. C-OF.  
Cavanaugh's 2008 outlook: "Believe that we have a good mix of seniors and underclassmen this year and a team that can be in every game if we field the ball. I really like our depth that we have in pitching this year, which is something we have not had in recent years. Our overall team speed should help us on both sides as well this year since speed is one of the things that you really cannot teach. It helps when you have players that naturally have it to help take the extra bases and also get to balls on defense. We play in a tough division with a lot of talent throughout, but with some breaks I think we can be very competitive this year."

**LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE**  
Head coach: Dan Miller, first year.  
League affiliation: Metro Conference.  
Last year's overall record: 3-23.  
Notable losses to graduation: Nick Garant, Andrew Abbott, Allen Mazur, Brad Schwartz, Mike Robles, Thad Bilik.

Leading returnees: John McAlpine, Sr. OF-P; Leven Go, Sr. OF; Mike Schiffman, Soph. Inf.-P; Ramsey Haddad, Sr. OF.  
Promising newcomers: Darryl Whitaker, Jr. Inf.-P; Phil Strachan, Soph. C; Danny Schiffman, Soph. Inf.; Jacob Bilik, Jr. OF-P; Tyler Hendrickson, Fr. Inf.-P.  
Miller's 2008 outlook: "Without a JV program, we are very young with 15 freshman and sophomores on the roster. Those young players are competitive and have a lot of potential, and are pushing some of the upperclassmen for playing time. Our pitching staff is deeper, but inexperienced with only McAlpine having game experience at the varsity level. He, Mike Schiffman, Whitaker and Hendrickson have been able to throw strikes and mix their pitches indoors, and if that transfers outside, they'll keep us in ballgames. We look for McAlpine, Danny and Mike Schiffman and Whitaker to be the leaders of our offense, getting on base and putting pressure on the opposing defense. If we can find some more hitting to go with them, and combine that with pitchers that throw strikes, we'll certainly improve on last year's record, and build a foundation for years to come."

**LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND**  
Head coach: Kevin Wade, fourth year.  
League affiliation: Metro Conference.  
Last year's overall record: 16-7.  
Notable losses to graduation: Chris Ake (first-team All-Area).  
Leading returnees: Dan Abbott, Sr. C; Nate Baglow, Sr. 1B; Aaron Dermier, Sr. 2B; Austin Baglow, Soph. SS-P; Sam Ahlersmeyer, Jr. 3B-P; Billy Meier, Sr. LF; Adam Zehel, Sr. CF; Micah Hausch, Jr. RF-P; Ryan Baglow, Sr. P-Utility; Derek Fleetham, Sr. P.  
Promising newcomers: Trevor Vosmik, Jr. 1B; Eric Shoats, Jr. 2B; Ryan Rakovalis, Jr. 3B-P; Nick Yancy, Sr. C; Tony Cioppa, Soph. OF; Chris Barnaby, Jr. OF; Matt Bartus, Sr. OF.  
Wade's 2008 outlook: "We're very excited about this season and the potential we have — at least on paper. This year's senior class started as freshmen and took their lumps their first two years. Last year we turned the corner and we're hoping for more of the same this year. They have a lot of lofty goals that should be fun to try and achieve. One thing you need for success in pitching, and this year is the deepest we have been in that department, which is very exciting."

**WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN**  
Head coach: Matt Schaeve, seventh year.  
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).  
Last year's overall record: 5-12.  
Notable losses to graduation: Kurt Metzger, Scott Hoff, Jeremy Elias.  
Leading returnees: Ryan Jones, Sr. P-SS; Aaron Howell, Sr. P; Richard Press, Sr. Inf.; Robert Russ, Sr. Inf.; Richie Mamo, Soph. C.  
Promising newcomers: Andy Barber, Fr.; Sean Schaffer, Fr.  
Schaeve's 2008 outlook: "We lost three seniors (to graduation), but we have six starters back. We have two very strong pitchers in Jones and Howell. I think the conference (MIAC) will be pretty tough, but with a little more experience we hope to do pretty well."

## BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

"Our team this season has more depth as far as athleticism goes than we have had in the last five seasons," Miller said. "If we can develop our baseball skills to match our athleticism, we can be very competitive."

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-12), returning six of nine starters from a year ago, will rely on the arms of seniors Ryan Jones and Aaron Howell in its quest to move up the ladder in the Red Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Both Westland John Glenn (14-18) and Wayne Memorial (9-21) will have new coaches in the dugout as well.

Former Wayne varsity coach Tom Wakefield takes over at Glenn. He guided Wayne to a 100-67 record in six seasons with the Zebras (2000 to 2005), including a pair of

Division 1 district crowns and two Western Division titles in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Rockets return second-team All-Area pitcher-outfielder Chris Kangas.

Meanwhile, Paul Cavanaugh takes over at Wayne for Frank Garcia, who posted a 19-36 mark in two seasons.

The Zebras return four veterans including seniors Ryan Collop, Brent Patterson and Tim Siegfried (second-team All-Area), along with junior Jon Bryant.

Livonia Churchill (17-18) captured a Division 1 district title and lost first-team All-Area pick Bryon Niemczak and second-teamer Kirk Ciarrocchi to graduation.

The 2008 Chargers, with eight solid returnees, will rely on first-team All-Area junior catcher-infielder Tyler Bledsoe, who batted .340 with 33 hits; senior lefty Vince Carozza, who went 4-2 with a 2.28 ERA; and senior pitcher-outfielder Shea Dwyer, who hit

.423 and led the Chargers in pitching appearances.

Livonia Stevenson (20-12) will try and ride senior pitcher Grant Campbell, who went 5-0 last year, along with promising sophomore pitcher-infielder Jeff Sorenson, who hit .302.

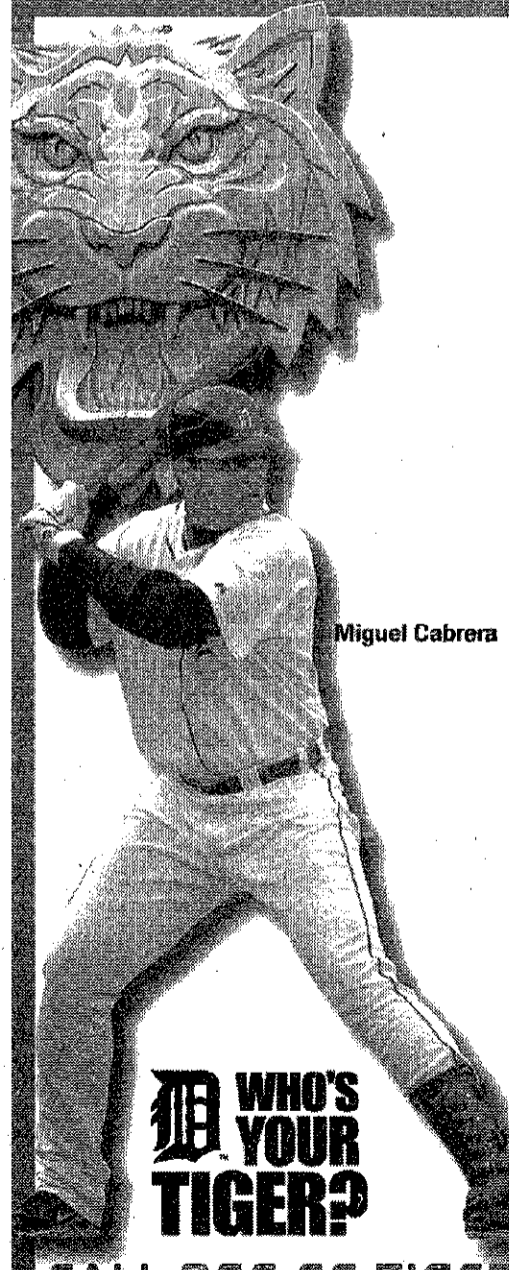
The Spartans lost three-year starting outfielder Luke Knochel, a first-team All-Area selection who hit .426 and set numerous school records. Also lost to graduation is three-year starter Matt Tuttle, who went 8-1 w. year ago and made the East All-Star team.

Also gone is third baseman Nick Plinka, who hit .354 and now plays at Madonna University.

One area team looking for marked improvement is Livonia Franklin (7-22), led by second-team All-Area pitcher-infielder Garrett Gumm.

"As a staff we're pleased with what we have seen so far out of our team, but we also know there is still a lot of work ahead of us," Franklin second-year coach Matt Fournier said.

## TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR APRIL GAMES



**Tigers vs Royals**  
Wednesday, April 2, 1:05  
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Comerica Bank.

**Thursday, April 3, 1:05**  
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of McDonald's.

**Tigers vs White Sox**  
Friday, April 4, 1:05  
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of McDonald's.

**Saturday, April 5, 3:55**  
FREE Tigers Calendar to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Red Robin.

**Sunday, April 6, 8:05**  
Sunday Kids Day.

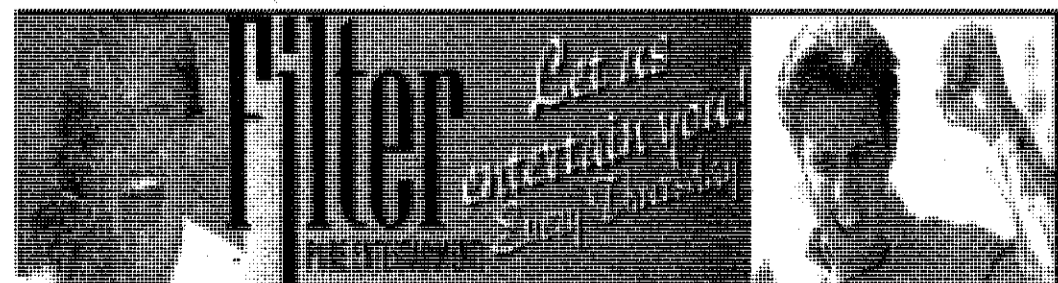
**Tigers vs Twins**  
Monday, April 14, 7:05  
FREE Ordoñez Batting Title Mini-Bat to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Little Caesars.

**Tuesday, April 15, 7:05**  
FREE Verlander No-Hitter DVD to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Chevrolet.

**Tigers vs Rangers**  
Tuesday, April 22, 7:05  
Wednesday, April 23, 7:05  
Motown Night  
Thursday, April 24, 1:05

**Tigers vs Angels**  
Friday, April 25, 7:05  
Saturday, April 26, 3:55  
FREE On-Field Pre-Game Clinic (weather permitting) courtesy of Red Robin.  
Sunday, April 27, 8:05  
Sunday Kids Day.

**WHO'S YOUR TIGER?**  
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### St. Michael champs

The Livonia St. Michael junior varsity squad recently took first place at the 2008 Catholic Youth Organization winter cheer competition. St. Michael has established a three-year run in its division with back-to-back fall and winter first-place honors. Among the coaches (from left) are Angie Walsh, Sabrina Pollock, Marianne Grima and McKenzie Murphy. Team members include Lauren Lupinski, Tricia Cox, Haley Vogrin, Maggie Crum, Hannah Gove, Kristin Karwan, Elise Pollock, Kiersten Walsh, Jenna Bekkala, Taylor Mazurek, Allison Paulus, Kaelah O'Brien, Danielle DeHetre, Kelly Rouen, McKenzie Cronin, Katherin Chimelewski and Sarah Jabbour.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Sisters lift Broncos

The Western Michigan University women's tennis team, ranked No. 74 in the latest NCAA Division 1 poll, is off to a 2-0 start in the Mid-American Conference following identical 5-2 wins Friday and Saturday at the University of Toledo and Eastern Michigan University, respectively.

At No. 6 singles, WMU freshman Amanda Moccia (Livonia Stevenson) defeated Joanna Woo of EMU, 6-2, 6-3, to even her overall record to 12-12. Amanda Moccia also defeated Jessica Azoulay of Toledo, 6-2, 6-0.

WMU junior Ashley Moccia won both her doubles No. 2 flight matches in MAC action teaming up with Noriko Saruta to beat Sandra Wikstrom and Aleksandra Stankovic of EMU, 8-3, and Ashley Frey of Nadia Zoubareva of Toledo, 8-3.

Ashley Moccia and Saruta are now 9-7 on the year. Ashley Moccia is 9-20 overall in singles.

WMU is 8-7 overall heading into MAC action Friday in Kalamazoo against Northern Illinois.

#### Waza U13 wins Cup

The Waza FC under-13 boys soccer team, based out of Livonia, captured the Elite

Division of the Jefferson Cup, March 15-16 in Richmond, Va.

Waza FC finished 2-1 in preliminary play and qualified as a wildcard with wins over teams from Maryland (4-0) and North Carolina (3-1), while losing to Virginia (3-2).

Waza FC defeated Connecticut, 3-2, in overtime in the semifinals before defeated Maryland in the finals, 4-1.

Members of the Waza team include Matt McAuliffe, Livonia; Aleksandar Isaevski, Westland; Ronnie Basin, Brent Winkler, Tommy O'Connor and Alex Arlin, all of Farmington Hills; Connaugh McLaughlin, Bloomfield; Nick Yang, Sterling Heights; Aaron Krupa and Justin Cohen, Ann Arbor; Matt Wilson and Trevor Nessel, Novi; Dominique Hajdu, Brownstown; Colin Warner, Northville; Rickie Carter, Commerce; Donald Payne, Ypsilanti.

The coaches are Dan and Alex Diac.

#### Speed, agility training

A four-day speed and agility training session will be from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, March 31-April 3, at Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer Road, Westland.

The four-day session will focus on proper form, flexibility, isometric drill, quickness and agility based on exercise

by specific sport.

The cost is \$25 (includes T-shirt to all participants). Checks should be made payable to the Westland Comet Boosters. Registration will be at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford).

For more information, e-mail WestlandComets@gmail.com; or call Mark Simkow at (734) 732-1176.

#### Storm needs players

Tryouts (weather permitting) for the Livonia Storm 12-and-under girls softball will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, at Bicentennial Park, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

You age must be as of Jan. 2, 2008 and under to qualify.

For more information, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109; or e-mail kjewell@livonias-torm.com. You can also visit www.livonias-torm.com.

#### Livonia adult softball

Registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation 2008 adult softball season (April through July) on opens at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 for all divisions.

The entry fee is \$375 per team.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

## Ignition wins, sets club mark

Unlike the weather, the Detroit Ignition is heating up.

The second-year Major Indoor Soccer League squad netted a franchise-record number of goals in its 29-12 triumph Saturday night over host California Cougars.

The Ignition's seventh-straight victory improved

its record to 19-7 while the Cougars slipped to 9-18.

Defending league scoring titleist Jamar Beasley ignited the goal-rush with a two-pointer 17 seconds after the opening kick. It was the slick-dribbling Beasley's first of five netfinders.

Detroit rookie Leo Gibson

scored a pair of goals in the first quarter to help give his team a 9-2 edge after the opening 15 minutes.

Detroit led 21-8 at the intermission on a Jonathan Greenfield goal.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, the Ignition will host the New Jersey Ironmen (13-14) at Compuware Arena.



Northville Hills Golf Club

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Add Spouse \$3,095

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## ACCENTS



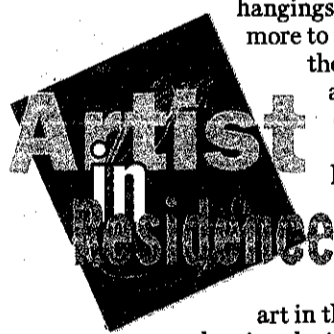
# Creative space

turn basement into their fun place

BY LANA MINI  
O&E STAFF WRITER

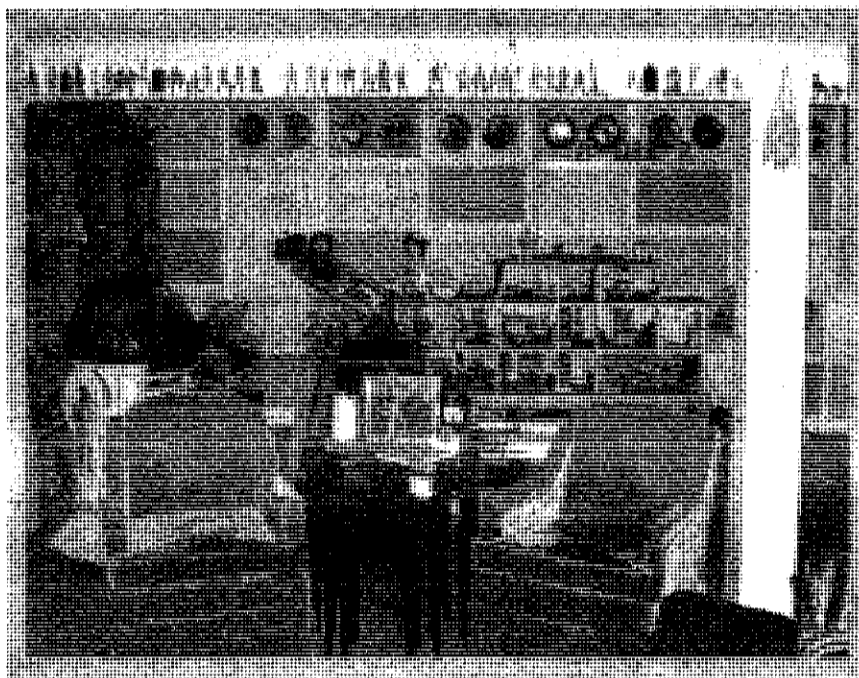
The decor on the main level of Mike and Heather Johnstone's home, for the most part, seems like your "normal" Plymouth suburban family house.

But look at a few of the wall hangings and realize, there's more to this family past their regular day jobs and raising two children.



Not every home has a Hammer Horror Dracula print hanging over the fireplace - or Mexican folk art in their bedroom celebrating the important Day of the Dead Mexican holiday.

"It's not until you get downstairs that you see who we really are," said



The lower level of Mike and Heather Johnstone's home brings guests into a completely different world. On top, from Paul Wasterberg posters to a Sesame Street lunchbox - the basement is about fun. Above, color is as important as the collection.

Heather Johnstone.

The lower level of the home brings guests into a completely different world that's all about fun - cartoons, film, music and comic book collectibles. It's not just what they have, it's how they display it that shows their creativity.

Lined perfectly along the perimeter of the room and on shelves are countless miniature comic and movie figurines collected over the years from *Spider-Man*, *Star Wars*, *Planet of the Apes* and more.

The walls are bright pink and green in some areas, and squares of orange and golds in others. Hand painted chairs, paper Oriental lights, a collection of Pez dispensers. . . gazing at the

collection seems endless.

His favorite items are anything from *Star Wars*. "We wanted a room that was fun to hang out in and a place where we could keep all of the toys and other fun things that we had," Heather said.

Mike Johnstone is in retail management, Heather's career is in purchasing and direct marketing. Together they're raising their kids and with the little spare time they have, they try to use their creative skills to transform their basement into something that represents their personalities. He loves music, film and toy collectibles. She loves music, dancing, sewing and art

Please see **SPACE, D2**

# Taste the bubbles in this popular Asian drink

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Within minutes Margaret Yee can whip up a whimsical beverage that she claims is more popular among Asians than that ever-present cup of Starbucks coffee.

It's caffeinated and can be creamy or slushy, icy or steamy - all without an ounce of carbonation. Bubble tea is a Taiwanese beverage that often blends sweetened red tea and cream with chewy tapioca pearls. Fans know it's the sort of drink you also chew - and it requires an extra-wide straw.

Around since the '80s, it's most common to find bubble teas at Thai restaurants. Remy's Bangkok Cuisine in Royal Oak serves a host of such bubble beverages, from the original chilled variety to a smoothie to a bubble drink blended with ice. Flavors include Thai tea or coffee, fruity varieties like mango, strawberry, lychee or honey dew, and the even sweeter stuff from almond to chocolate, mocha to coconut.

But an extensive menu can be found at Kim's Restaurant in Troy, too. While it's rather unusual to find bubble tea at a

### ORDER UP: WHERE TO FIND BUBBLE TEA

**Kawaiian Café:** Asian Village, 200 Renaissance Center. Call (313) 259-0025.  
**Kim's Restaurant:** 102 E. Long Lake Rd. Troy. Call (248) 524-9207 or visit [www.kimsrestaurant.com](http://www.kimsrestaurant.com).  
**Remy's Bangkok Cuisine:** 30923 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak. Call (248) 288-0002 or visit [remysbangkokcuisines.com](http://remysbangkokcuisines.com)  
**Tiki Tea:** Twelve Oaks Mall, 27500 Novi Road, Novi. Call (248) 348-9400.

traditional Chinese restaurant, this family-owned establishment started cooking up the tapioca treat more than a year ago. Yee said her customers at Kim's began inquiring about where to find bubble tea in the metro Detroit area. She researched recipes and makes a truly authentic Taiwanese variety right inside the eatery in Troy.

Customers can order bubble tea with a meal or just grab a quick drink to go. Kim's bubble teas come in traditional,

Please see **TEA, D2**



Cool off with a bubble drink, like this one made at Kim's Restaurant in Troy.

### HONEYDEW GREEN BUBBLE TEA

1/2 to 1 cup tapioca pearls, cooked according to package directions and soaked in honey or sugar syrup for a few minutes

4 teaspoon Sencha green tea  
1 1/2 cups water  
2 tablespoon sugar  
a few small slices of fresh ginger  
2 cups fresh honeydew chunks

Bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and let sit for 2 minutes. Pour water over green tea. Steep for 3 minutes. Strain tea. Add ginger slices to tea. Dissolve sugar in tea. Chill. Remove ginger slices from tea.

Place as many tapioca pearls as you like in the bottom of each glass. Put tea and honeydew into blender with some cracked ice (about six cubes) Blend until smooth. Pour into glasses. Insert wide straws.

Makes 2 bubble teas.  
Recipe courtesy of [bobafind.com](http://bobafind.com)

### POOL AND SPA SHOW

Homeowners who want to purchase a pool, spa or hot tub can check out the Novi Backyard, Pool & Spa Show March 28 - 30 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

Hot tubs made in Michigan from standard to luxury styles complete with waterfalls and foot and neck jets will be on display. Vendors who carry vinyl pools in several sizes and colors and custom gunite, steel wall or fiberglass inground pools and spas will set up booths at the show. Some products offer solar powered lights and multiple water jets shooting to the center of pools along with music systems.

Patio furniture that can be customized with hundreds of fabrics, finishes, sizes and models will be on display.

The show is sponsored by the Michigan Pool & Spa Association, member of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals. Rock Financial Showplace is located on Grand River Avenue between Novi and Beck Road in Novi. Show hours are from 3 - 9:30 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8. For more information, visit [www.NoviPoolShow.com](http://www.NoviPoolShow.com) or call (800) 328-6550.

### HEALTHY LAWN CARE

Do you have questions about lawn maintenance? Learn about proper care from Gary Eichen, turfgrass specialist, who discusses mowing, fertilizing, watering, and weed management with the environment in mind. The session is free and begins at 7 p.m. tonight at Oak Park City Hall, 13600 Oak Park Blvd. Call (248) 288-5150 or e-mail [LFDean@aol.com](mailto:LFDean@aol.com) to register in advance. The event is sponsored by Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority for the Clinton River Watershed.

### PASSION FOR SPRING

Spring will be in full bloom through March 31 in the Conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. In the lobby, visitors can view displays created by Runciman Landscapes and receive a coupon for 10 free tulip bulbs from Downtown Home & Garden. The gardens are open daily, except Mondays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$3 is the suggested admission, but free for Matthaei Botanical Garden members.

### DESIGNING TABLE

Ginny Newman, master flower show judge, will demonstrate how to design a functional table and an exhibition table at 7 p.m. April 1 at the monthly meeting of the Livonia Garden Club. The club meets at the Livonia Senior Center (Five Mile and Farmington roads). Visitors are welcome.

### GO GREEN

A series of classes dedicated to the greening of America, issues and solutions for improving the environment, are scheduled as follows: Going Green, (native plants, water saving principles, lower pesticide use), 7:30-9 p.m. April 15 or 10-11:30 a.m. April 17; Landscaping for a Healthy River, 7-8 p.m. April 17; Nature Near You, 1-2:30 p.m. April 21; Spending Lean on Building Green, 7-9 p.m. April 23; Residential Rain Gardens, 7-8:30 p.m. May 1. Classes will be held at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, in Birmingham. Call (248) 644-5832 to register, or visit online at [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

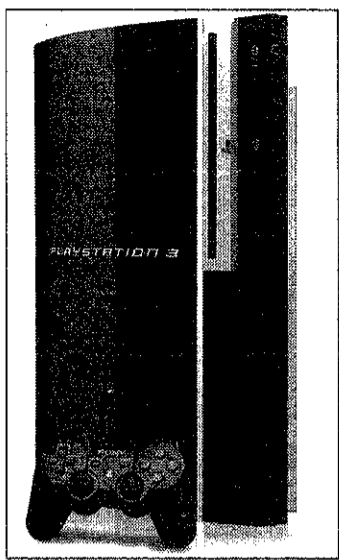


# For a world-class Blu-ray player, look to the Sony PlayStation 3

**Question:** Now that the high-def DVD wars are over, which Blu-ray player should I buy?

**Answer:** Believe it or not, my top choice is the Sony PlayStation 3 game system. It may sound crazy, but hear me out.

The PS3 includes a Blu-ray drive, meaning it can play Blu-ray movies just as well as a standalone player. (Better,



Sony's PlayStation 3 game console doubles as a Blu-ray movie player, and a state-of-the-art one at that.



Tech Savvy

**Rick Broida** If you're not a gamer, you're probably thinking, "Same difference, I'll go for the player." But as it turns out, an upcoming PS3 update will give the console an advantage: support for Blu-ray Disc Profile 2.0, a.k.a. BD-Live.

That technology affords benefits like picture-in-picture and downloads of bonus material. Current Blu-ray players don't support Profile 2.0, and they can't be upgraded to add the newer capabilities.

Plus, let's not forget, the PlayStation 3 is arguably the most advanced game system on the planet — quite the bonus for your \$400.

**Question:** How can I keep files in sync on two or more PCs without manually copying them all the time?

**Answer:** This is a common wish for folks who have a PC at home and another at work, and need to access the same files on both.

FolderShare (foldershare.com) makes the process a piece of cake. Just sign up for a free account, then install the FolderShare program on your computers. Choose the desired folders and/or files and presto: FolderShare keeps them synchronized on the selected PCs.

You can also use the program to share files with friends and access files remotely. Point of interest: FolderShare is Microsoft product, so think about this great freebie the next time you're bad-mouthing the company (I do).

**Question:** How can I protect the data on my thumb drive in case it gets lost or stolen?

**Answer:** Thumb drives are great for transporting data, but they're also easily misplaced or snatched up by thieves. That could create problems if you're carrying sensitive information like financial data or work documents.

Your best bet is to encrypt the data so that no one but you can access it. Try TrueCrypt (truecrypt.org), a free utility that works on-the-fly, meaning it encrypts and decrypts data as you access it.

The software also works with individual files and entire hard drives. If you don't supply the correct password or encryption key, your data stays locked up tight. And I mean tight: TrueCrypt supports a variety of high-grade encryption algorithms.

Thankfully, it's pretty easy to use and totally transparent once it's up and running. Check out the handy beginner's tutorial (<http://tinyurl.com/2uw6bu>) before getting started.

TrueCrypt is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux systems. It's open-source, meaning it costs nothing to use.

**Rick Broida** writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheapskate blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheapskate). He welcomes questions sent to [rick.broida@gmail.com](mailto:rick.broida@gmail.com).

# Think about traffic before building walls

**Cleo of Canton asks:** "My husband and I are planning on finishing our basement. What things should I consider when deciding where to place the walls?"



Design Solutions

Terri Guastella

When finishing a lower level, often homeowners will just finish the perimeter walls and install carpeting, a suspended ceiling and fluorescent lights.

This approach does not maximize the potential of the space.

Sit down with your husband and decide how you want to use this area. Will this be a play-

room for children, a place to entertain or play cards?

Do you need a lot of storage, a home theater area, a craft room, or a second kitchen? Weigh out the importance of each area you require in this new space. I

also must stress that you purchase a back-up sump pump to ensure protection of this

investment.

Once you have decided which areas will be included in the new lower level, think about traffic flow between the rooms. For example, if someone is watching TV in the new home theater, how far will they have to travel to the bathroom or to get a can of soda?

Try your best to bury as many of the support columns inside the new walls. This helps to eliminate the "basement" feeling of the lower level. It also creates more openness and can alleviate some of the dilemmas faced with furniture

placement.

Lastly, make sure your contractor gives you a detailed drawing of how the new lower level will look.

Keep in mind that you will want cable hookups and outlets placed in convenient locations. Consider all of your lighting options, too.

Pendants, wall sconces, and recessed lights are great choices, even when mixed with fluorescent fixtures. Using multiple types of lighting will give you maximum control over creating a specific mood for a particular event.

## SPACE

FROM PAGE D1

projects. Heather Johnstone says she's not an artist (even though she has a degree in fashion, creates clothing and costumes and also paints).

Their homage to music includes a Freddie Mercury (frontman of Queen) statue, several original posters from bands like The Ramones and The Rollins Band and a pink Johnny Lydon wall clock that Heather Johnstone made herself from a vinyl record back in

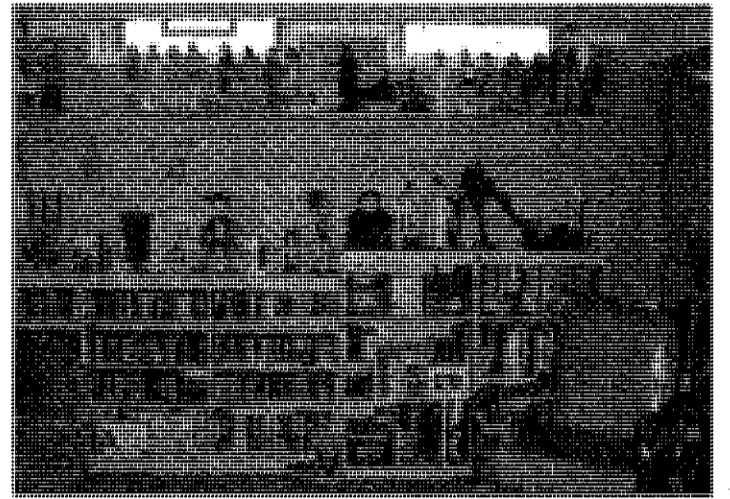
her high school days.

Their basement is a collection of items found at antique shops and thrift and toy stores.

And maybe the saying is true that a couple who plays together, stays together.

"It is definitely a work in progress," Heather said. "We've always had an interesting collection, most of what we have are things from our childhood.

"Unfortunately we don't get to spend as much time as we would like to down there, and usually when we are down there it is to work on decorating it."



Mexican folk art blends is displayed with other pieces the family has collected over the years.

# Do residents with disposals dump more grease?

A story written by Adam Hochberg of NPR in Raleigh, N.C. dated March 17 recently caught my eye. The story informed readers that new garbage disposals were to be banned in Raleigh, N.C.

Officials said the appliances allow grease to accumulate in sewers, leading to sewage spills. Many homeowners, and a company that makes the kitchen appliances, consider the ban misdirected and invasive.

City crews use a special truck to flush away grease with water and chemicals in an attempt to prevent environmentally damaging sewage spills. That truck works on every sewer line in Raleigh twice a year.

Raleigh's mayor said the annual maintenance costs millions. He blames much of the problem on garbage disposals, which he says encourage bad kitchen habits.

The mayor believes that residents with garbage disposals increase the dumping of grease by about 20 percent. Across that city it means thousands and thousands of gallons, he believes.

So as of now, new garbage disposals are outlawed in Raleigh. While people who already have them can keep using them, no new ones can be installed.

The mayor hopes residents will start composting their food scraps. But it's clear that many aren't ready to give up their disposals. One council member heard so much outrage about the ban that he's reconsidered his support for it.

David MacNair, a vice president of InSinkErator, the world's largest maker of what it calls "household food waste disposers," says his company's appliances are good for the environment because they reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. He says disposals shouldn't be singled out as the only source of sewer grease.

InSinkErator and other industry groups successfully lobbied New York City to repeal a similar ban on garbage disposals

11 years ago. Now, MacNair says they'll try to do the same thing in Raleigh.

This story brings to mind some very interesting questions for all of Detroit and surrounding suburbs. I for one do not remember ever reading or seeing articles on the subject of grease buildup in our sewer systems. Do we spend millions of dollars cleaning up all our sewer lines twice a year? Has this problem contributed to the many sewage backups that have occurred in different neighborhoods?

I have read stories about how old the sewer pipes are and how they fail at increasing rates. Maybe, this grease factor has some strong merit to it.

I would certainly like to hear from you if you have information on this topic. Stay tuned.

**Joe Gagnon** can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. His phone number is (734) 971-1600 Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or have a problem with one? E-mail it to [kabramcz@hometownlife.com](mailto:kabramcz@hometownlife.com) and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

## TEA

FROM PAGE D1

served hot or cold, or can be blended with milk or cream, ice for a slushy or vanilla ice cream for an even sweeter treat.

Bubble teas come in two sizes, 12 or 16 ounce. Milk tea, made with red tea, is the most authentic of the bubble varieties but Yee will substitute green or Oolong tea by request. Add flavors to any variety, like a cranberry-pineapple Aloha or apple-pineapple Hawaiian. Or, if you're adventurous, attempt to make your own bubble tea at home.

[scasola@hometownlife.com](mailto:scasola@hometownlife.com) | (248) 901-2567

Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

## "NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS" CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPANT OR ANY PERSON OR PERSONS, FIRM OR CORPORATION HAVING CHARGE OF ANY LAND IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON:

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the Charter Township of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan must be cut and destroyed on or before the first day of May, the first day of June, the first day of July, the first day of August, and the first day of September in each year and/or as needed and as often as may be necessary to prevent same from going to seed. Any owner, occupant, or person having charge of any such land must notify the Township that such weeds have been destroyed within three (3) days of such cutting. Any person failing to comply with this notice shall be liable to the imposition of the penalties set forth in Noxious Weed Ordinance, Chapter 34, Article III of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Canton, Wayne County, Michigan and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the Township in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the Owner or occupant, shall be spread against the property on the next County and State tax roll or the next general Township tax roll and/or place a lien upon the property to secure the collection of such expense. The Township of Canton may notify by certified mail with return receipt requested, the owner, agent or occupant as shown on the current County and School tax roll, of any lands on which said noxious weeds are found growing. Such notice shall contain a summary of the provisions of this section of the Ordinance. Failure of the Township to give such notice shall not, however, constitute a defense to any action to enforce the payment of any penalty provided herein or any debt created hereunder.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

TERRY G. BENNETT CLERK

Publish: March 27, 2008



JOHN STORMZAND STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margaret Lee, of Kim's restaurant in Troy, serves up a refreshing mango bubble tea drink.

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# Dolphins create a happy scene

As I watched my wife get a ride across the lagoon from a dolphin named Nate, a woman seated on the rock next to me spoke up.

"Research has shown that being around dolphins causes people to be happier," she said. "Something about their voice,



Dr. Brad Davis

or their aura, just makes people feel happy." She smiled, watching her kids frolic with another dolphin named Diego.

While I had (and still have) no idea if what she was saying is true at a scientific level, none of the faces of the 30 or so people in the water lacked a smile.

While swimming with the dolphins in the ocean is illegal, theme park Discovery Cove of Orlando, Fla., makes it possible in dolphin lagoons.

Located practically across the street from its sister park, Sea World, Discovery Cove offers clientele unique hands-on experiences with the animals. The park features three lagoons in the dolphin area, each having their own selection of dolphins. A beach area rolls into the water, creating a comfortable, natural feel.

Before the dolphin experience, groups go through a brief orientation in a cabana, then are taken out into the chilly water for their interaction periods. After touching, petting, and learning about dolphins from a trainer, each person gets the highlight of the experience, being towed by a dolphin across the lagoon.

You don't have to know how to swim to get this amazing memory, as life vests — and alternative interactions — are available.

Along with trainers who give a "dolphin talk," a photographer and a videographer film every moment of the dolphin fun. Photos and DVDs of the dolphin experience can be purchased later in the day.

I opted to sacrifice my turn so that my wife could have two turns, which would a) make me a hero, and b) keep me dry and warm.

Even without experiencing the dolphins, visitors can have an outstanding theme park

## DISCOVER COVE

**Hours:** Opens at 9 a.m. but check-in begins as early as 8 a.m. The park closes at 5:30 p.m.

**Admission:** \$269, includes food, parking, etc. at the park, and also includes admission to SeaWorld Orlando or Busch Gardens (located in Tampa, about 90 minutes from Orlando) for a week.

**Other notes:** The park also offers a Trainer-for-a Day package, which gets you even closer to the dolphins. See the Web site for more information. During the summer, the park has evening programs, giving opportunities for twilight dolphin swims and twilight snorkeling.

Don't forget to bring grooming supplies (for after the end of the day shower), your swimsuit, and water socks/water shoes, which makes walking around the park more comfortable than going barefoot.

**More information:** Visit [www.discoverycove.com](http://www.discoverycove.com), or call the reservations department at (877) 557-7404.

experience, different than anything else in central Florida.

Anyone who visits the larger parks knows that crowds can be a huge big negative. Long lines limit the available activities.

For visitors to Discovery Cove, the number of people allowed in the park is limited and entry is by reservation only, usually booked well in advance.

Also, the park is all-inclusive...just walk up to the snack bar and ask for a pretzel, cookies, even a beer (remember, Sea World properties are owned by Anheuser Busch), and there's nothing to pay.

That's not to say the visit is free. The cost for a reservation could give anyone some sticker shock. Once you arrive, however, you can leave your wallet in your locker until it's souvenir time.

Arrival at the park begins at about 8 a.m. Workers check you in by computers and set up your dolphin interaction time. Park workers then take

groups on a short orientation tour, ending at the tent where you get your wet suit, snorkeling gear and sun tan lotion that's safe for swimming with the animals within the park.

If you have glasses, you can go to guest services, where they will try to give you a mask that matches your prescription.

Walking from one end of the park to the other takes only a few minutes, so you're never far away from your locker, and you don't need to carry everything with you.

Though the dolphins are the stars of the show, the park does have a lot more to offer, and it's separated from the dolphin lagoons by a blue bridge, which serves as a park landmark.

Crossing over the blue bridge takes you to another beach area. To the left are the Manta Ray Pool, and the Coral Reef. The Ray Pool allows visitors to wade in and see these creatures up close, even petting them as they zip by. They are friendly, and all but harmless, although one did swim into my leg pretty hard as I walked around the pool.

Pulling on your snorkeling gear, you can then enjoy the great Coral Reef area. This area simulates being in the ocean to snorkel. The pool is full of fish, including rays. One area within this pool allows visitors to look in at a barracuda.

Lunch is also included with the park admission, and looks like any cafeteria line in any theme park, except with more impressive food.

Lobster salad, fried chicken plates, vegetarian plates...there were eight to 10 choices available, and the outdoor dining area had a live steel drum band performing throughout the meal time.

Although expensive, Discovery Island delivers bang for the buck, and makes sure that your day will be memorable.

For anyone who's a dolphin lover, a day at Discovery Cove should not be missed.

It's almost certain the dolphins will make you happier.

Dr. Brad Davis is the medical director for the VCA of Garden City, 2085 Inkster Rd., Garden City and a host on the Animal Talk radio show. Visit the Web site at [www.AnimalTalkradio.com](http://www.AnimalTalkradio.com).

# Feeding a wine passion

Nowadays, many college students strap on a backpack and head for Europe.

During his sophomore year on summer break, Robert "Bobby" Kacher did just that.



Ray & Eleanor Heald

While backpacking in France, he discovered a lifestyle of wine, food, family, vineyards and cuisine. These grew to be his all-consuming passion which he began to fulfill by first working in a retail wine shop and eventually becoming a retail wine consultant in Washington D.C.

## KNOW THE GROWERS

The best importers of small-production wines strive to know the growers and producers intimately. To do this during the first 20 years of Robert Kacher Selections, Kacher spent half of each year in France, traveling from region to region with a hands-on approach, working side by side with growers and producers to ensure the quality and authenticity of wines in his collection.

Today, Kacher is aided by the president of his company, Antoine Songy, who respects his owner's passion and knows the background of each wine in the Kacher portfolio. Recently, Songy introduced us to the following wines which we highly recommend that you seek out at your favorite wine shop because they are available and affordable.

## WHAT TO BUY

If you're looking for a light-bodied dry white, they don't get better than 2006 Domaine de Pouv, Cotes de Gascogne (\$9.75) in the foothills of the Pyrenees, near the appellations of Madiran and Jurancon. It's 60 percent

## WINE PICKS

Peak oyster season ends next month. If you like oysters, here are your sauvignon blancs (they're good with sushi, too):

Outstanding:  
2007 Sauvignon Republic Marlborough, NZ \$18

Excellent:  
2006 Dry Creek Vineyard Fume Blanc Sonoma County \$15

2007 The Crossings Marlborough \$16

2007 Kim Crawford Marlborough, NZ \$17

2006 Kenwood Reserve \$20

2006 Joseph Phelps Napa Valley \$32 -- fermented sur lie 10 months in combo of new and season French oak.

Sophisticated rendition.  
Very Good:  
2007 New Harbor Marlborough, NZ \$11

2006 Benziger Family North Coast \$13

2006 Flora Springs Soliloquy \$25

2006 Benziger Family Casey's Block Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc \$29

Wallet Friendly:  
2007 Sebeka South Africa \$9

2007 Man Vintners South Africa \$10

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor, or if it's a domestic wine, order it direct from the winery.

ugni blanc (known as trebbiano in Italy) and 40 percent columbard with an intense green apple and ripe pear skin fruit profile that is refreshingly crisp. Great with sushi.

It's peak oyster season, so make a perfect match with 2005 Benjamin de Vieux Chateau Gaubert (a 50/50 blend of sauvignon blanc and semillon) from the Graves region (\$18). White peach fruit and fresh fig notes are accompanied by a wet stone minerality and intriguing textural components.

Seeking a new red wine taste experience at a great

price? Domaine de Gourmier is located in the Cevennes region of France, between the cities of Avignon and Nimes. The 2006 Grenache Noir (\$10.50) from this producer is a 100 percent stainless steel production to focus on the purity of grenache fruit. Cherries and spice notes dominate both the aromas and flavors of the well-structured wine that's hard to beat at the price.

So, you're still bashing merlot? You won't after you taste the 2004 Domaine de Gourmier Merlot (\$10.50) with dark cherry-berry fruit elements in and easy-drinking value wine.

Wines from the southern Rhone Valley of France are among the hottest wines in the marketplace. Showcasing attractive red fruits, cherries and currants with a hint of spice, 2005 Domaine Andre Brunel Cotes du Rhone (\$13.50) is a blend of grenache, syrah and cinsault. It's food-friendly with a rich finish.

If that style appeals to your taste buds, here's a real bargain: 2004 Domaine Sainte-Eugenie from the Corbières region (\$11). It's generously fruited from nose to finish as a blend of carignan, grenache and syrah.

Jumping in price a little, but worth every penny are two other red Rhone varietal blends: From Domaine de Gourmier, 2004 Domaine (\$15.50), a blend of syrah cabernet and mourvedre is full, rich and generous; and 2005 Domaine Santa Duc Cotes du Rhone Les Vieilles Vignes (\$15) with splendidly ripe, rich fruit and a delicious finish as a blend of grenache, syrah and mourvedre.

Go wine shopping. You won't see French wines at these prices much longer.

The devalued U.S. dollar against the Euro is making it nearly impossible for producers to sell to the U.S. at moderate pricing since they can get top prices from consumers in China and Russia.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at [focusewine@aol.com](mailto:focusewine@aol.com).



## Pet of the Week

Tabitha is a lovable pit bull terrier mix looking for a home. She's 2 years old, weighs 45 pounds, and has a beautiful brindle coat. Tabitha is spayed, completely housebroken and does not chew on things. She has a sweet disposition and prefers to spend time with people. Her favorite spot is next to family members on the couch while watching TV or taking a nap. She requires a fenced yard because she loves to play outside. Tabitha doesn't like other dogs but she does like cats and older kids. If you're interested in meeting this friendly girl, call Metro Area Animal Adoption (313) 571-2985 or e-mail [metroaaaa@aol.com](mailto:metroaaaa@aol.com) Fill an application for adoption at [www.metroaaaa.petfinder.com](http://www.metroaaaa.petfinder.com).

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# pink

## pink picks

- Face It! Aveda Nourish-Mint Sheer Mineral Lip Color
- See It! Madras bucket bag from American Eagle
- Bra bulge
- DVD It! Enchanted
- TVO It! Dirt
- First Step necklace by Dearborn-based Solstice Designs @ etsy.com



TOMS shoes — for every pair sold, a pair is donated to a child in need

Experience It! GOLD at MOCAD, 7:30 p.m. Saturday night

## Spring makeup contributes to your serving of five fruits a day

When it comes to makeup and beauty products, fruit is now ripe and in season. The Spring lines of brands from Tarte to Aqua Dessa to Juice Beauty have incorporated not only the fresh colors of pomegranate, black current and apple, but the beneficial fruit extracts too. Sure products infused with natural boosters like soy or green tea



Stephanie Casola

have been around for years. And it's easy to feel good about looking good when your daily beauty routine includes natural, organic ingredients — the sort that are easy to pronounce. But that's just the beginning when it comes to these warm weather must-haves.

As the temperatures start to rise, Tarte Cosmetics unveils a new line of anti-aging, skin-restoring products that give back to the environment. The brand's new t5 complex, a blend of superfruits that are rich in nutrients and minerals, can be found in a new Full Blossom Cheek Stain and a collection of ultra-shiny Double Dose Berry Boost lip glosses. With the purchase of either, Tarte pledges to support the Amazon Rainforest and help improve living conditions through the Sambazon's Sustainable Acai Project.

At \$21 each, the glosses blend high shine with lush fruit extracts that fight free radicals (acai), reduce redness (pomegranate), soothe skin (maracuja) and more. To get a perfect blend of pigment and shine, be sure to squeeze the tube from the top. For more color, squeeze from the middle.

There's a shade to suit any skintone from raspberry to peach, blush to red. Your lips

won't just look dazzling, they'll feel the spark of peppermint and benefit from the conditioning agents of shea butter. It's the perfect way to move from winter's chill to the heat and humidity of summer, a switch that can wreak havoc on your lips.

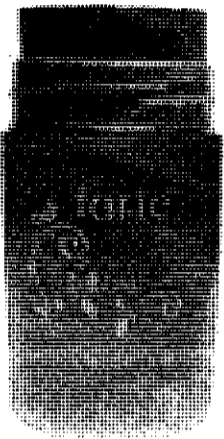
And once the weather begins to swelter, give your cheeks a punch of color without the pinch. At \$28, Full Blossom Cheek Stain is best applied with your fingers. It harkens back to the days of real rouge with a sheer rosy glow that's sure to last all day long. Made with carnauba and candelilla wax, you'll get natural protection from the environment, along with the moisturizing power of safflower seed oil.

Sun protection is a must and these days it's easy to find a go-to daily moisturizer with a helpful SPF boost. For \$38, Juice Beauty's Green Apple Moisturizer carries an SPF of 15 and it's made from organic apple and lemon juices to offer a skin brightening effect and anti-aging protection.

To keep skin looking fresh and feeling balanced, try Aqua Dessa's

Lychee Tea Refresher Facial Toner for \$25. Made with green tea, and fruit extracts like lychee and black current, it's meant to diminish the effects of previous sun damage and protect against environmental toxins. Like all the products listed above, it's fruit-fortified. Find these and more at [makeup.com](http://makeup.com), [sephora.com](http://sephora.com) or area Sephora locations at Troy's Somerset Collection or Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola loves her lip gloss, even if she forgets to reapply mid-day. She writes about beauty, fashion and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Have an idea suitable for Dollface? Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or [scasola@hometownlife.com](mailto:scasola@hometownlife.com).



Tarte's new swirly-Spring cheek stain in Full Blossom is a universally flattering shade of sheer rose pink. Its moisturizing formula makes for the perfect blush in warm weather.



Femilia will debut its first collection for sale on Saturday night during Detroit Fashion Week.

## Local fashion label Femilia featured at DFW

BY WENSY VON BUSKIRK  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Fotoula Lambros and Emily Thornhill are committed to helping Detroit become a fashion hub.

The pair will present a high-energy runway show of their clothing line, Femilia, on Saturday night during Detroit Fashion Week's hottest time slot.

Lambros, 25, of Ferndale, and Thornhill, 22, of Milford, met at International Academy of Design & Technology in Troy, where they both studied fashion design. They remained close through their senior internships, but after graduating in 2006 found themselves floundering to create fashion

design careers. Lambros believed in their ability, and decided to rally her friend to start a clothing line.

"I literally sat her down and said 'We're so talented,'" Lambros explained. "We live in Detroit and we're not going anywhere, so let's go somewhere here."

They combined their first names to create "Femilia," and launched their business in January, 2007.

The pair spent a year designing a sample collection, promoting themselves and building a professional portfolio. DFW marks the debut of their second collection, for Spring/Summer 2008.

"We didn't allow the sale of our first collection, but this is the one we're pushing to sell,"



Fotoula Lambros, of Ferndale, and Emily Thornhill, of Milford, are the talent behind Femilia clothing.

said Lambros, a graduate of Ferndale High School. "Now we're ready to get our buyer's kits out there and see what we can do."

Although the Detroit area has produced many talented designers, it is notoriously difficult to maintain a high fashion business here. Tracey Reese, Anna Sui and Peter Soronen, for example, achieved their success and notoriety in New York City.

That's something Brian Heath, organizer of Detroit Fashion Week, hopes to change.

Detroit Fashion Week began in 2005 at 4731 Gallery, and was staged at the St. Regis Hotel last year. This year, the week's worth of action is taking place at Asian Village of Detroit.

"So often at local runway shows, designers will show their collections but there will be no buyers in the audience. That's what a fashion show is traditionally for, to show buyers your new clothes for the season," Heath said. "We want to bring people in the industry together to show professionals they don't have to leave to have

a career." Lambros said Heath has been very supportive, and that's part of the reason Femilia has high hopes for Detroit.

"I think drive, dedication and passion don't discriminate. It's not where you are, it's really where you take it," she said. "We're happy to be settled here for now, home-based. Our company is still in the beginning stages, but I think we've come pretty far in a year. We're quite blessed."

Femilia's inspiration often starts with fabric, Lambros said, and they create 80 percent of their garments by draping directly on dress forms. Their clothing — mainly dresses, skirts, blouses and bustiers — feature ruffles and plenty of feminine details.

"We try to strike a balance between the strong woman of today, but with the class and poise of the 1930s woman," Lambros said. "They were a little more reserved. Today's woman is more focused and driven than ever before."

For more information, visit [www.femiliastreetcouture.com](http://www.femiliastreetcouture.com).

### DETROIT FASHION WEEK

**Tonight:** Infinity Talent Group Launch — 6 p.m. VIP Reception; 8 p.m. Runway Show with St. Pucchi bridal gowns; 9 p.m. Frequency 54 live band; fashion industry after party.

**Friday, March 28:** 6:30 p.m. VIP Reception; 8 p.m. Runway Show featuring four designers; After Party.

**Saturday, March 29:** 2-6 p.m. Accessories Marketplace; 5-7 p.m. Jazz with Jesse Palter; 6:30 p.m. VIP Reception; 8 p.m. Runway Show featuring five designers; After Party.

**Designers:** Jill Robertson, Ferndale; Buelah Cooley, Detroit; Femilia, Ferndale; Brandi Wade, Ypsilanti; Angela McBride, Royal Oak; Tanya Seals, Atlanta, Ga.; Michael Humphrey, Detroit; Rani-St. Pucchi, NYC; Jovani and Sherry Couture-Viper Apparel, Saginaw; Kristine Ferguson, Midland.

**Where:** All events at Asian Village, 521 Atwater, Detroit

**Tickets:** \$20-\$35 for individual events; \$75 for all-access pass Saturday; \$120 for weekend pass.

**Call:** (313) 888-1121 to reserve dinner at Asian Village, or visit [www.detroitfashionweek.com](http://www.detroitfashionweek.com).

## Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to [Wensy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com](mailto:WensyVonBuskirk@hometownlife.com).

Parisian Partridge Creek, (586)226-0621 or Parisian Rochester Hills, (248) 276-6705.

**Macy's Hosts Nubian Heritage Founder**

**SOUTHFIELD** — Macy's Northland will host Nubian Heritage Founder Richelieu Dennis, Founder and Chief Experience Officer of Nubian Heritage, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Mr. Dennis will share information about his 100 percent organic products, as well as his inspiring story. Customers can sample Nubian Heritage products, enjoy complimentary mini hand massages and receive a free gift with a purchase of \$25 or more. RSVP today by calling (248) 443-4323.

### Sole Sisters Shopping Frenzy

Someone in the room has to have the cutest shoes; it might as well be you! Gather your sole sisters for Parisian's Salon Shoe Preview Event Saturday, 8-10 a.m. Saturday March 29. Attendees may enjoy coffee and sweets while snatching up all their favorite Spring/Summer shoes. Guests will save 30 percent on their entire Salon/Better purchases during the event. Call Parisian Laurel Park, (734) 953-7500;

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