

# Reeves to speak at annual MLK Day program

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Westland celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this month, the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African-American president will serve as a momentous reminder that some progress and change have been achieved.

"It's a day I never thought I'd live to see," said Westland City Councilman Dewey Reeves, the keynote speaker for the city's observance of King's birthday at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Annapolis Park Church of Christ, on the southeast corner of Annapolis and Henry Ruff. Obama's inauguration as the 44th U.S. president will come

one day after the King holiday, marking a two-day celebration that Reeves called truly historic.

"We talk about having a dream. We talk about individuals being judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin," Reeves said. "It has come to fruition." Reeves, 55, only wishes that

his late parents, Dewey and Natherine, could have lived to see America elect its first black president.

Westland's ceremony honoring King will be open to the public. Reeves, a retired Washtenaw County sheriff deputy and wardrobe consultant/custom clothier for his business, Sartorial Impressions, was

humble in describing what his style will be as keynote speaker. "I'm not a speech-maker," he said. "I'm a conversationalist."

Reeves started his third year on the city council this month. He became only the second African-American elected to the council since Westland became a city in 1966. The city's tradition of having

King's celebration at Annapolis Park Church of Christ also is noteworthy. The church is located in a neighborhood that made the National Register of Historic Places as one of the first U.S. suburbs populated largely by African-American residents.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Jim Cook leaves the William P. Faust Public Library with books he delivers to homebound patrons.

## Volunteers bring library to homebound patrons

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eager readers are glad to see Jim Cook of Westland at their door.

A retired Livonia Public Schools administrator, Cook delivers books and other materials two days a month for homebound patrons of the William P. Faust Public Library

of Westland.

"I think it's a neat program, actually," Cook said. "I'm in favor of anybody who reads."

The Westland library has offered homebound delivery to city residents for more than five years. Books, audiobooks, periodicals, videos and DVDs, as well as CDs and cassettes are available.

"I always have fun," Cook

said of his visits while delivering library materials. "I've had some really wonderful experiences with them."

Cook likes to talk with patrons about books during his visits, as does Andrea Perez, a reference librarian and homebound coordinator for the library. There are some 30 patrons active in the program now, she said, and those inter-

ested can call her at (734) 326-6123 to arrange an interview.

"I try my best to match it up," she said about finding the right titles. "They still get all the same benefits of the library."

Perez, 29, finds it rewarding to include all in the library and larger community.

Delivery to homes follows

Please see **VOLUNTEERS, A3**

## Police seek suspects in 2 armed robberies

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are investigating two armed robberies that occurred along the Wayne Road corridor on the city's north side.

The latest incident happened about 5 a.m. Tuesday, when three young men robbed a clerk inside the 7-Eleven store at Wayne and Joy roads, police Lt. Dan Karrick said. Two of the bandits stood watch by the door while a third pulled what was described as a long gun from his coat and forced the employee to take money from the cash register, Karrick said.

The gunman also grabbed the cash drawer before all three men ran out the door and fled around the north side of the building, near the Westland-Livonia line, the lieutenant said. No shots were fired.

The clerk described the gunman as a black male, 20 to 25 years old, shorter than 5 feet, 10 inches tall and wearing jeans and a dark-colored coat with a fur collar.

The employee also said the other two men were black males of roughly the same age and height as the gunman. One of them wore a white coat with a fur collar and dark pants. The other wore a dark-colored coat, dark pants and a red knit cap.

Anyone who has informa-

tion about the robbery is asked to call Westland police at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

The other robbery happened about 9:30 p.m. last Friday when a lone gunman robbed a Westland Shopping Center store employee who was making a night deposit at the Charter One Bank at Wayne and Warren, police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

"No shots were fired. The guy turned over the money, and the subject fled on foot," Miller said.

The employee had gotten out of his car when he was approached by a lone gunman who was on foot, the sergeant said. The bandit "took a handgun out of his pocket and demanded the money," Miller said.

The victim described the man as a black male, about 25 years old and 140 pounds, between 5 feet, 7 inches and 5 feet, 9 inches, wearing a dark-colored hoodie. He also had what was described as patchy facial hair, Miller said.

Anyone who has information about the robbery is asked to call Westland police.

Moreover, anonymous tips for a possible cash reward may be made by calling Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

To learn more about how Crime Stoppers works, go online to www.1800speakup.org.

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## Repeat sex offender from Garden City sentenced to prison

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A repeat sex offender from Garden City could spend up to five years in prison for exposing himself last June to passing motorists in Westland.

Steven Brian Smith, 46, learned Tuesday that he will spend two years/six months to five years behind bars after pleading guilty to indecent exposure for an incident that



Smith

happened near a Westland intersection. Smith was sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian Sullivan. His troubles began to mount after he was released in 2006 following a 12-year prison term for second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a boy.

"We're pleased that this person with that type of deviant behavior is off the streets," Westland Police Chief James Ridener said Tuesday, following Smith's sentencing.

Smith's latest sentence came after he was arrested last June for allegations he was "standing totally naked and posing for traffic" near the busy Venoy-Cherry Hill intersection, police Sgt. Debra Mathews has said. At that time, Westland 18th

District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli set a \$1 million cash bond. Smith had a history of sex-related crimes, including allegations in December of 2007 that he masturbated beside a Westland road.

Smith also had served an 89-day jail term after he was spotted near two Garden City elementary schools. He was then released in April of last year, just two months before he exposed himself in the latest incident.

Cicirelli set the \$1 million bond because of concern that Smith had violated his probation orders by going near the schools, posing a potential threat to students.

"My concern was not only for the public safety, but especially for the safety of the children," Cicirelli said Tuesday.

With the latest sentencing, Cicirelli said, "at least now our (Westland) residents — and the residents of Garden City — will be safe for

a while." Smith had often avoided lengthy prison sentences because his crimes were misdemeanors rather than felonies. Even though indecent exposure is a misdemeanor, Sullivan was able to send Smith to prison because of his prior record.

Cicirelli said that while Smith is in prison, "I hope he gets the help that he needs."

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**Coming Sunday:**  
Intriguing innovations

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Christmas tree pickup**

The Westland Department of Public Service is collecting natural Christmas trees that are set at the curbs of homeowners on their regular rubbish day now through Friday, Jan. 16. No other compost will be accepted during this pickup. For more information regarding natural tree disposal or the organization of a special pickup, call DPS at (734) 728-1770 or go online to [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

**Essay contest**

**Essay contest**  
What does Dr. King's vision of unity look like? The City of Westland is encouraging local youth to participate in the city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poster and essay contest. Students who attend the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and/or live in Westland can submit a poster which honors Dr. King. Students should use a standard-sized poster board and include their name, address, phone number, as well as the name of their school and grade. Essays cannot exceed 500 words and must also include the contact information.

Posters and essays must be dropped off at Westland's government access channel, WLND, at 33455 W. Warren Road, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or the Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford behind Westland City Hall. All essays and posters must be received by Jan. 9. The three poster finalists and the essay winner must be available to attend Westland's Martin Luther King Day Ceremony slated for 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Annapolis Park Church of Christ, at 30355 Annapolis. For more information, call (734) 467-3200.

**Snow alerts**

WLND-TV, Westland's government access channel, along with the city's newly redesigned Web site, [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com), now has the capability to announce snow alerts and school closings. While WLND-TV (Channel 10 for Wide Open West subscribers and Channel 12 for Comcast viewers) has been broadcasting snow emergencies, the station will now include school closings for Wayne-Westland Community Schools and Livonia Public Schools. "It is imperative that we utilize each of the methods at our disposal to inform and communicate with our residents," said Westland Mayor William R. Wild.

Westland's Department of Public Service declares a snow emergency when six (6) inches or more of snow has fallen, a declaration that is also detailed in the City of Westland's 2009 City calendar which was recently mailed to more 40,000 Westland homes and businesses.

A snow emergency requires the removal of all vehicles from a city right-of-way. Failure to do so could result in a vehicle being towed and/or ticketed. Major roads are plowed first, followed by subdivision streets.

For additional information, please call (734) 728-1770 or go online to [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

**Coffee Hours**

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the Westland Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month. Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576.

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

For more information, call LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or send an e-mail to [richardleblanc@house.mi.gov](mailto:richardleblanc@house.mi.gov).

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Jan. 12. He will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at [SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov).

**Surplus food**

The day, times, and locations that Westland residents can obtain surplus federal food have been set for the month of January.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan

Avenue and south of Palmer.

The pickup time and location for Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 12, or the second Monday of each month, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Their direct telephone number is (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers may collect their food at Taylor Towers and must contact their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of January, distribution will include carrots, peaches, red kidney beans, rice, frozen beef and at least one more item. This program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. All food allocations, distribution sites, and dates of distribution are determined by that agency.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

**Spaghetti dinner**

The monthly spaghetti dinner is back at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert for \$6 as well as entertainment. Dinner is being served 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23. The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020. The center also has bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

**Glow Skate**

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

**Preschool**

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

**Support Group**

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free ongoing support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For more information, call Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail [hope4healing@rocketmail.com](mailto:hope4healing@rocketmail.com).

**LPS trustee's husband hired for temporary energy manager role**

The husband of the Livonia Public Schools board of education president has been tapped to fill in as energy manager for the next year and a half.

Eric Markarian, a 22-year employee with the district, will take over the role for Joe Harvey, a reservist who has been called for active duty in the armed services.

Markarian was the district's second choice from a pool of applicants for the \$65,000 a year job. The position was created earlier this year when LPS contracted with consultants Energy Education Inc. to look at ways to save on utility bills.

The district's energy manager visits schools and buildings at all hours to perform energy audits, tracks data to pinpoint equipment malfunctions that could lead to overconsumption and works with staff to create a culture of energy savings.

Harvey, who was to be deployed this month, expects to return from Iraq in mid-2010. He would then resume his job.

Markarian was next on the list among the initial candidates, said Supt. Randy Liepa. He said the district did not repost the job because the replacement would be only temporary.

The appointment was administrative; it was not brought to the school board for a vote.

Energy Education Inc. re-interviewed and recommended Markarian. "We felt, without question (he) was the best qualified to meet the job responsibilities," Liepa said.

Markarian most recently served as building supervisor for the Western Wayne Skill Center. His wife, Cynthia Markarian, is in her fifth year on the school board, and is its president this year.

"It obviously raises some questions, which is understandable," said Cynthia Markarian. But, she added, "it would be unfortunate if my husband was held back because I was board president."

In response to resident Lloyd Romick's comment at the Nov. 24 board meeting that "this just reeks of back door deals," Liepa said that is not the case. "It was certainly no behind-the-scenes back door deal," Liepa said.

Eric Markarian has worked in a number of buildings, has experience working with electricity, and heating and cooling systems, and is adept with computers, said Rod Hosman, director of administrative ser-

vices for LPS. As Harvey was, Markarian is being trained through Energy Education.

The district made good progress in its energy conservation program, Hosman said. He gave a rough estimate of \$100,000 in savings thus far, but said actual amounts have not yet been calculated. The shift to a new energy manager should not be a setback, he said. "We hope not," Hosman said.

Harvey, Hosman said, made it known during the application process that he was in the National Guard and could be called to serve. It's unfortunate for the district, he said, but good for the country. "He's a great guy," Hosman said.

When Harvey returns, Markarian would then go back to his former job classification, retaining seniority, though his building assignment may change, Hosman said.

Cyndi Markarian had voted against hiring the energy consultant, in a 4-3 vote this March.

She said until she sees documented savings, she hasn't changed her mind on the decision, which she said makes for interesting conversations around the dinner table.

**Energy manager amped up about savings so far**

A single light bulb left on during Thanksgiving break was all energy manager Joe Harvey found in the 26 schools he visited that weekend, during his time in that role for Livonia Public Schools. Fifty-one computers were left running, of 6,000 in the district.

When he started the job five months prior, Harvey said, "If I found one room with the lights off, I was happy."

The district has reduced energy consumption by 787,590 kilowatts from July to October 2008 over the same

period the year before, Harvey reported to the school board last month.

Harvey, a reservist who has since been called for active duty in the armed services, gave a progress report Dec. 8.

As energy manager, he met with staff to explain how they could do their part. Now, classroom lights and computers are turned off. After school, only a few hall lights are used. Afternoon custodians, as a group, have been "outstanding," he said.

Minimizing the lighting

can cut a typical electric bill by one-sixth, he said. That is a significant savings, he said, when you consider that Churchill High School has a \$21,000 electricity bill per month, one-third of that due to lighting.

"We've made huge improvements," Harvey said. "As a whole, I'm incredibly happy with the results."

Costs savings have not yet been calculated. The board will get another update with kilowatt and dollar savings later this year.

**2 men charged with breaking into home**

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two men have been arrested for breaking into a home on Arcola Dec. 30. Dustin Barnhart of Wayne and Andre Goupill of Westland, both 21, were arraigned Jan. 2 in 21st District Court on a charge of second-degree home invasion. Both remain in custody after not posting a \$500,000/10-percent bond. Not guilty pleas were entered for both men, who are scheduled for preliminary examination Jan. 12.

On Dec. 30, police were called to a home in the 6900 block of Arcola after witnesses reported seeing two men apparently breaking in through a side door. One witness told police the men had knocked on his door and told him they were looking for a lost dog. The homeowner reported jewelry, valued at nearly \$1,100, had been stolen. Officers developed information that led them to Barnhart at his Westland home, where they recovered 11 pawn slips for assorted jewelry.

Based on their interview with Barnhart, police obtained a search warrant for 28228 Warren in Westland. Goupill had been staying at a home on the property, which is the site of a landscaping company. Police reported recovering jewelry hidden in a landscaping company truck after they interviewed Goupill. The investigation into a number of recent residential break-ins is continuing, police said.

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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, January 13, 2009, 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 NUMBER
1991 Hyundai	Excel	KMHVD12J1MU126867
1991 Toyota	Corolla	1NXAE91A5M2215210
1997 Plymouth	Breeze	1P3EJ46C3VN562884
1994 Oldsmobile	2 Door	1G3WH15M2RD303789
1992 Ford	Ranger	1FTCR14X6NPA84016
1995 Chevrolet	Cavalier	1G1JC1246SM108029
1994 Chevrolet	2 Door	1G1LV15M1RY152974

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<b>9 PIN - NO TAP - DOUBLES &amp; SINGLES</b> Prize \$ Mystery Game Lucky Strike Every Friday @10:30 pm	<b>BUMPER LEAGUE</b> Ages 4-8 Saturdays @12:30 Starts Jan 10th and Tuesdays @6:00 pm Starts Jan. 13th

Ask About Our Birthday Party Packages!

# VOLUNTEERS

FROM PAGE A1

a personal interview, which Perez does in person at the patron's home. There are no overdue fines, she automatically renews titles unless there's a hold.

Perez is in touch with coordinators at local senior homes, and some adult children call for their senior parents.

She's in good shape right now for volunteers, but people can call if they're interested in being a coordinator.

"I think it's because it's individualized," Perez said of the program's popularity, noting that patrons can get just what they want.

She finds homebound patrons like nonfiction now, including current events and biographies — "They still want to be challenged and keep up with what's going on" — and one reader wants large print new books, which are costly.

"I always look forward to home delivery days," said Perez, who delivers materials to a few patrons. A couple are in their 50s, but there are also two in their 90s, and she admires their continuing to read.

"We come to them," said Perez, who enjoys hearing old Detroit stories. One avid Hillary Clinton supporter would watch CNN during the recent presidential race and share her views.

"Just everything they've experienced, that's fun to listen to," Perez said.

It can be sad. She's only had one patron pass away, but Perez finds the emotional connection greater than working the reference desk.

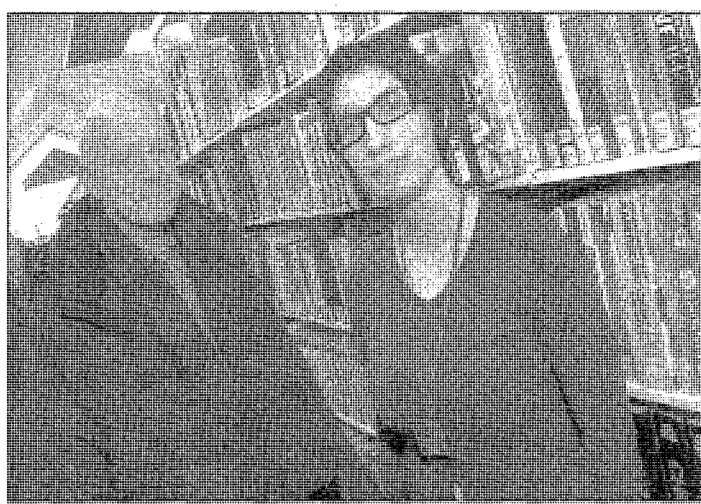
At 78 and retired, Cook also enjoys that challenge. He and wife Elizabeth, a retired registered nurse, were volunteering at the Westland library when it opened in the 1990s. They helped with checking in materials and later shelving them. He'd had a call from former library staffer Joe Burchill asking for help with the homebound program.

Arthritis has slowed Cook down, but he still enjoys the homebound delivery and will do it as long as he's able. When visiting library patrons, Cook talks about books, how they're doing "and sometimes stick my nose in to see how I can help." He also volunteers two days a month at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"I absolutely love it, it is so much fun," he said of the DIA. "I get to talk to everybody."

He and Elizabeth are busy with their grandchildren, but agree the volunteer work is rewarding for retirees. They're pleased Westland can offer homebound delivery.

"It's very popular," said Marilyn Kwik, department



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Perez, homebound coordinator/reference librarian, works with volunteers like Jim Cook of Westland to get books delivered to homebound readers.

head for adult services at the Westland library. "They get individualized care. It's a very well-received program."

Materials are dropped off and picked up every second Wednesday. You don't have to be a senior, she said, to use it. The service is available for

people with a temporary disability like a broken leg that leaves them homebound.

"A lot of times if you're homebound you have limited people you interact with," Kwik said. "It's just a service we're really happy we're able to provide."

# City names library board president technology director

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Bourdeau

An appointed official credited with helping to restore calm to a Westland public library once clouded by controversy has been hired to lead the city to a more technologically savvy future.

Westland Library Board President Daniel Bourdeau has been chosen for a \$75,690-a-year job of manager of information systems, putting him at the helm of the city's computer and technology efforts. He has held similar positions in the private sector, most recently with Comerica Bank.

"I think his experience will serve the city well," Mayor William Wild said Monday, on the night his pick won sweep-

ing approval from the seven-member Westland City Council.

Bourdeau plans to resign his volunteer post on the library board, which has calmed after a series of controversies that included the firing of two library directors and allegations that an ex-board member sexually harassed a former administrative assistant.

Bourdeau was among the board members who hired current Director Cheryl Napsha in May 2007. He has been involved in such efforts as developing a long-term strategic plan for the library on

Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren.

With Bourdeau as board president, Napsha said, "I think the library has really grown and improved in the last year and a half."

City officials decided a few years ago to eliminate the manager of information systems post and bring in an outside firm to handle the duties. However, they now believe the city's technology needs warrant a full-time director.

Councilman James Godbout, who has helped steer the city's technology committee, lauded Bourdeau's credentials.

"He's very capable, and I'm sure he will be doing a great job for us," Godbout said.

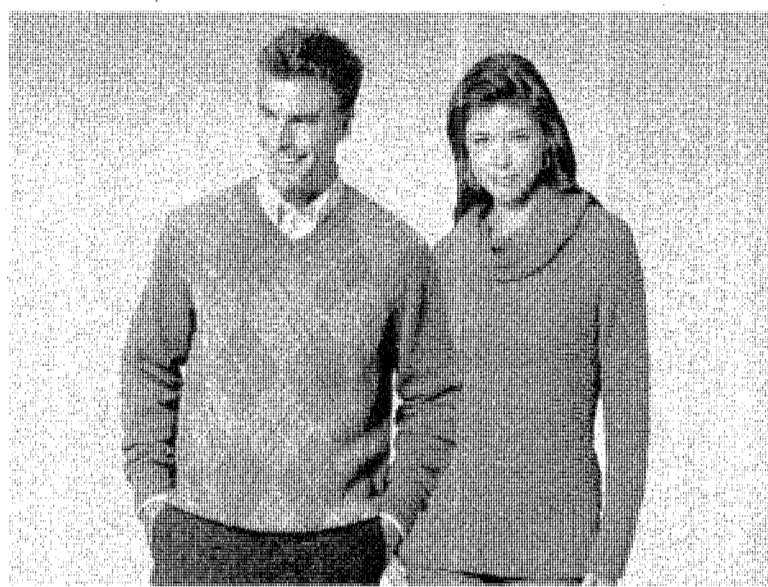
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

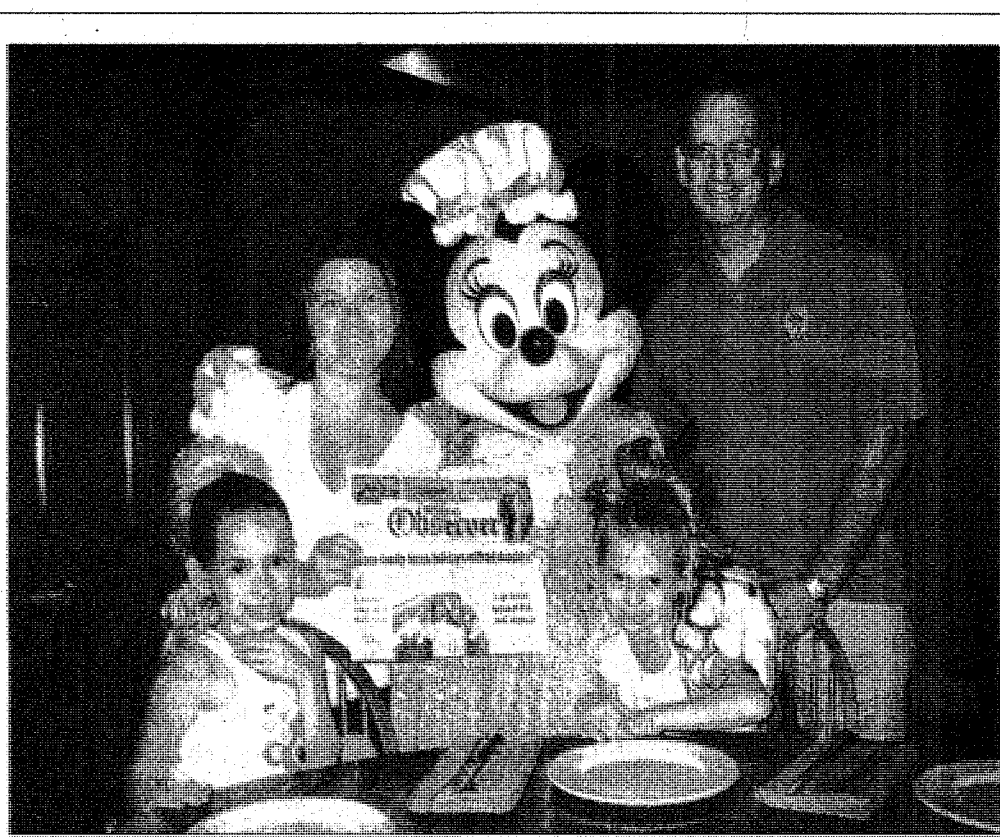
**Elvis night**  
Elvis Presley will be highlighted when the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave. in Wayne, hosts a classic movie night Jan. 8, which would have been Elvis' 74th birthday. The night will feature two showings of the 1964 classic film "Viva Las Vegas" starring Elvis and Ann Margret, at 6:15 p.m. and 9 p.m. At 8 p.m., there will be a special performance by Fred Wolfe, an Elvis tribute artist. All tickets are \$5, and includes both shows. For more information, call the theater at (734) 326-4600 or visit the Web site at [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us).

**Railroadiana**  
Ss. Simon and Jude Church's Ushers Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, in the church hall at 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available. Parking is free. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

**Men's retreat**  
Men are invited to participate in a spiritual retreat weekend at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center March 6-8. For details and reservations, call (734) 261-5321 or (734) 425-5144.

**Getting organized**  
Join the National Association of Professional Organizers Southeast Michigan Chapter in getting organized at a free event noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at IKEA, 41640 Ford, Canton. "Getting Organized Is Easier Than You Think!" will feature presentations by NPO-SE-MI members, including informative sessions on organizing principles. Or buy lunch in the café and sit with a professional organizer to ask all of your organizing questions. Go online to [www.NAPOMICHTIGAN.com](http://www.NAPOMICHTIGAN.com) for more information. NPO-SE-MI can help you keep your New Year's resolution and find a professional organizer near you.

**Prison Family Support Group**  
Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through. Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church,



Wish you were here

Minnie Mouse joined the McConnell family - Mark, Sherry, Allison and Grace - of Westland pose with their Westland Observer during a recent visit to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer newspaper and e-mail it to Sue Mason at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail [hope4healing@rocketmail.com](mailto:hope4healing@rocketmail.com).

**Open houses**  
St. Dunstan Catholic School is having an open house 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, to kick off Catholic Schools Week, "Celebrate Service." St. Dunstan Catholic School is a fully accredited prekindergarten-grade 8 school that offers a challenging curriculum, smaller class sizes and competitive tuition rates. Students participate in many academic and extra curricular activities and consistently score well on standardized tests and the high school placement test. St. Dunstan is at 1615 Belton in Garden City. For more information, call the school office at (734) 425-4380 or visit it on the Web at [www.school.saintdunstan.org](http://www.school.saintdunstan.org).  
St. Sebastian Catholic School will have an open house 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Tour the school, meet the teachers and see the F.A.S.T. reading program demonstrations throughout the day. The school, located at 20700 Colgate St., Dearborn Heights, offers a preschool through grade 8 program, childcare before and after school, all-day and half-day kindergarten, affordable tuition and financing options, sports, scouting and chess club and Spanish language instruction. For more information, call (313) 563-4460 or visit the Web site at [saintsebastiancatholicsschool.org](http://saintsebastiancatholicsschool.org).

**Friends of Rouge**  
The Friends of the Rouge are looking for people interested in helping with two programs taking place in 2009. The first is the Rouge Winter Stonefly Search 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Join a team to search Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonely. The program takes place at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Preregistration required. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mail at [monitoring@therouge.org](mailto:monitoring@therouge.org). For more information and a flyer, go online to [www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic\\_Monitoring%20events.html](http://www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic_Monitoring%20events.html). Petrella also is accepting sign-ups for the Rouge Frog and Toad Survey training workshops. Volunteer to survey wetlands for frogs and toads by listening for their calls. Surveys are done independently on warm damp evenings March through July. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at Southfield Parks and Recreation, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield; 7-9 p.m. March 4 at Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton; 10 a.m. to noon March 14 in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, and 10 a.m. to noon March 21 at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth. Sign up to attend one workshop; preregistration required. For more information or to obtain a and a flyer, go online to [www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog\\_and\\_toad\\_Workshops.htm](http://www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog_and_toad_Workshops.htm)

**Charity casino**  
If you are looking for a place to show your skills at Texas Hold 'Em, the hottest game in town, the Canton Charity Casino, Western Wayne County's only charity poker room at the Shark Club on Ford in Canton every Thursday through Sunday. The Canton Charity Casino offers nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games and a venue for players of all skill levels. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the State of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. The hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.) and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.) The Shark Club is at 42070 Ford, just west of Haggerty in Canton. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend can call (734) 502-7033 or send an e-mail to [spokertb@gmail.com](mailto:spokertb@gmail.com).  
**Free workshops**  
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, will guide you through a workshop on Holistic Health 6-8 p.m. Jan. 14, at Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Fischer will present "Eat Your Way Thin," a natural approach to a healthier, new you. There is no charge for the workshop, however, seating is limited. Reservations are required. Call (734) 756-6904 or go online to [www.TLCholisticWellness.com](http://www.TLCholisticWellness.com).

**Class reunion**  
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at [www.gardencity89.com](http://www.gardencity89.com) or by contacting Paula at [gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com).

**Fish Dial-A-Ride**  
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

**Higher Rock Cafe**  
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at [www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com](http://www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com) or call (734) 722-3660.

VOLUNTEERS

**Karmanos Institute**  
The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

**First Step**  
First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

**Drivers**  
Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

**VNA Hospice**  
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort

and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org).

**Seasons Hospice**  
Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. For more information please call Ruth at (800) 370-8592.

**Literacy Council**  
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

**Heartland Hospice**  
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

ORGANIZATIONS

**Friends of Eloise**  
The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

**Writing Group**  
Story Circle Women's Life Writing Group meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free. For more information about story circle, go online to [www.storycircle.org](http://www.storycircle.org) or send an e-mail to [shepy@yahoo.com](mailto:shepy@yahoo.com).

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**ACHIEVERS**

the program founder, William Stafford. It raises money for the Stafford Memorial Dinner Scholarship Fund. Last year 11 students to receive scholarships.

The daughter of David Mog and Lillian Russell of Westland, she is a junior at Northwood University in the marketing/management program and has an associate's degree in hotel, restaurant and resort management.

While at Northwood, Mog has been involved in Northwood University Hospitality Enterprise, the Stafford Memorial Dinner and other extracurricular activities. She is currently the treasurer of NUHE and served as the decorations chair for the 33rd Stafford Memorial Dinner.

After graduation in 2010, Mog plans to enter the hospitality industry with a focus on marketing.

Samantha Barber has been accepted for admission at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn. The daughter of John and Jane Barber of Wayne, she is a senior at Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

**Mog**

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Prior to enrollment in the CPFR research registry, volunteers will be asked to complete a screening appointment.

Candidates who meet screening criteria will then be advised of up-coming studies and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research projects to be conducted over the next 1-3 years.

Compensation is provided for completion of the screening assessment and for participation in all research studies.

To view information regarding current studies, visit "ENGAGE", the UMHS research study web-site\* at: [www.umENGAGE.org](http://www.umENGAGE.org) \*(search by condition under "Pain Studies")

For information about the research candidate pool and/or to schedule a screening appointment contact the CPFR at: 1-866-288-0046 or (734)998-7110

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# Be prepared, guard against financial scams

The holiday season is behind us and we're all getting back to work and our normal routines. Unfortunately, the problems of 2008 are still here.

Southeast Michigan faces an uncertain economic future, particularly with the condition of the Big Three. Most of what is happening in the global economic crisis is beyond your control and mine.

**Money Matters**

Rick Bloom

However, there are certain things that we can control and in those areas we must be more vigilant than ever.

At the end of 2008, a major financial scam unfolded. By now, most have heard about the Madoff scandal. Bernard Madoff instrumented one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in the history of Wall Street.

Typically, these schemes are set up by flimflam artists who promise unrealistic returns and who cook the books to fool investors. According to published reports, Madoff scammed some of the wealthiest individuals in the world, as well as businesses and charitable organizations, out of a reported \$50 billion.

Although much of the information about how the scam was perpetuated for years is still being discovered, it is clear investors let their guard down enticed by unrealistic returns.

The average investor seems to believe that the wealthy are more sophisticated, immune to fraud. They can hire investment professionals who are supposed to be able to detect fraud. In my experience, the wealthy are just as susceptible as the rest of us. Investors, no matter what level of the ladder they are on, must be aware of unscrupulous individuals.

In reality it is impossible

to completely shield oneself from an investment fraud. However, there are some steps to minimize your risk.

1.) Don't invest in anything that cannot be checked independently. I like using mutual funds because I can look at a variety of independent sources regarding the fund. Investors with Madoff could not check out his investments independently. It has been reported his investment policy was a mere few lines.

2.) Don't invest in anything that does not have a track record. Three, five and 10 years are relevant.

3.) Don't invest in anything you don't understand. When it comes to an investment, take time to know how you can make money, how you can lose money and how to get your money out. One of the ways scam artists are able to perpetuate fraud is by convincing investors that the investment strategy is too complex to explain.

4.) Before investing, know the costs — what it costs to buy, hold and sell. One common thread that runs throughout every investment scam is fees.

5.) If something is too good to be true, it generally is. In the Madoff situation, investors were told that in good times, bad times, no matter what, they would get a 12-percent return. That should have raised a big red flag.

It is our responsibility to protect our money. We can't be influenced by what other people are doing or fooled by what fast-talking sales people want us to believe. Be proactive and protect yourself and your hard-earned money by doing your homework.

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

# Zoo's a delight, even in winter

When the weather outside is frightful, the Detroit Zoo's Wild Winter Weekends are sure to be delightful. The annual series of events will be held on the second weekends in January, February and March, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Ford Education Center.

Wild Winter Weekends offer entertainment for the entire family and are a fun way to experience the magic of the Detroit Zoo in the wintertime. Visitors can enjoy their favorite animal habitats, both indoors and out, as well as activities such as children's music, keeper talks, games and crafts. All activities are free with regular zoo admission.

Wild Winter Carnival — January 10 and 11. Wild Winter Carnival kicks off the series of weekend events with face painting, carnival games, ice carving demonstrations by Henry Ford Community College and the roaming entertainment of Zeemo's One Man Circus.

Wild Winter Mardi Gras — February 7 and 8. Celebrate Mardi Gras the Detroit Zoo way. Live entertainment, storytelling and a colorful parade are just a few of the fun activities. Kids can create a special

Mardi Gras mask for the parade and collect a few prizes, too.

Wild Winter Zoobilee — March 7 and 8. Come celebrate the animal kingdom at Wild Winter Zoobilee. Enjoy animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities and talks by the zoo's expert keepers. Live performances by Gemini both days round out the weekend's festivities.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic exhibits, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717, or visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

# Boike elected Wayne County Commission chair

The Wayne County Commission Tuesday unanimously elected Commissioner Edward A. Boike, Jr., D-Taylor, as chairman of the commission. The election took place at the commission's organizational meeting for the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Boike will serve a two-year term as chair of the 15-person legislative body, and will be responsible for the commission's 72 employees and its \$11.3 million annual budget. The commission provides fiscal and legislative oversight of Wayne County's \$2.25 billion budget.

"It is truly an honor to be selected chairman," Boike said in his acceptance speech. "I will work to uphold the Wayne County Charter, set policy and provide financial accountability for the taxpayers of Wayne

County." His agenda for the commission includes streamlining the organization and finding ways to make it work more efficiently and effectively.

With Wayne County facing its worst economic downturn since the Depression, Boike said the challenge facing the commission is to minimize the reduction in services and programs the county provides its citizens and its communities.

"Our task is to balance the needs and resources available for all 43 communities and be attuned to their needs," he said. "We must seek additional funding sources to improve roads, maintain drains, fight foreclosures and redevelop underutilized properties."

A common denominator for all 43 communities is

the need for jobs, and Boike pledged that the commission would work in partnership with County Executive Robert Ficano to diversify Wayne County's economy, create new employment and generate additional tax base.

Boike said Wayne County would emerge from the current economic storm by being strong and united. "We are not a county of city and suburb. We are one Wayne County," he said.

Boike is the longest-serving member of the commission. He was first elected to his seat in 1988, and has been re-elected 10 times by the voters of district 15. His district includes Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Huron Township, Rockwood, Romulus, and Taylor.



Edward Boike

At the meeting today, commissioners also elected Keith D. Williams as vice chair of the commission and Ilona Varga as vice chair pro tempore.

**Who put the MOCK in Democracy?**

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Map showing location at intersection of Sheldon Rd and Lilley Rd, near Ford Road and I-275.

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OUR VIEWS

## Anderson right in pursuing bill

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, can't help being disappointed. Since 2006, he has been working on getting an anti-bullying bill passed in the state legislature. Named "Matt's Safe School Law," the bill would have uniformly defined bullying and harassment and required that all schools adopt a policy that clearly outlines the consequences of such behavior.

But all his work on it came to a screeching halt last month when state Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-Dewitt, refused to allow a Senate vote on two House-approved anti-bullying bills even though they were on the Senate calendar.

Anderson first introduced his "Matt's Safe School" bill while serving in the state House in 2006 and introduced a similar version with extended protections to Internet activity in the Senate in 2007. The legislation would have required all districts to provide a copy of their policies to the Michigan Department of Education, which would then report to the legislature on the status and quality of the policies throughout the state.

Anderson saw the legislation as strengthening the law protecting children in the classroom and the chat rooms, but some lawmakers apparently believe that school districts already have adequate measures to protect students from violence and bullying.

It's safe to say that school districts in the state do have some sort of anti-bullying initiatives, but the bill would have required their policies be based on a definition outlined in a state Board of Education. The "Matt's Safe School Law," bill would have brought uniformity in policies dealing with bullying. School officials often blast the state's attitude that one size fits all as with the Michigan Merit Curriculum, but in the case of bullying, there is no difference. Whether it's online, in the classroom or in the school yard, bullying is hurtful to the students like Matt Epling for whom the bill is named. An East Lansing eighth-grader, he committed suicide in 2002 after a hazing incident.

This is the closest Anderson has come in getting his bill passed, and we are glad to see that he isn't giving up. He has said that the legislation will again be introduced at the committee level, and we hope its journey to becoming law is quick. We also hope that when it's time for a vote, we will have lawmakers in place who can see the benefit of the bill and approve it.

Our youth are our future. It is our responsibility to keep them safe and that's what Matt's Safe School bill is all about.

## Legislature has to begin work on holdover issues

The state Legislature has no time to waste as it digs in for a session that's bound to be both complex and controversial.

While the budget will be an ongoing struggle, there are other issues for legislators to address immediately, without waiting for the governor's State of the State address. Consider the following three holdovers from last year.

■ **Smoking ban:** If ever there was ample evidence of the influence of lobbyists, it was found in the struggle over whether to ban smoking in all work places. But there are two clear facts that legislators need to focus on.

First, smoking and indirect smoke kills people; and, second, other states have found that prohibiting smoking doesn't kill business.

Obviously, exceptions need to be made for such businesses as smoke shops, but this isn't rocket science.

■ **Absentee voting:** The concept is clear — namely, to increase voter participation by making voting more accessible to all through absentee voting.

Given today's technology, there is no logical reason why people have to stand in line, sometimes for hours in heated contests, to vote. Voting should not be a test of fortitude, but a commitment to democracy.

■ **School aid:** State funding for education is like buying a car and not knowing whether you'll have enough to pay for it. Here's why: School budgets uniformly run with a budget year that begins July 1. State school aid, however, isn't approved until October and even then there are sometimes cuts made mid-year.

The problems have been exacerbated by the poor economy and a Legislature that can't make up its mind, but the real solution is to pass legislation requiring that districts be given solid numbers before their new budgets go into effect.

All it will take is leadership, good common sense and the right attitude to resolve all three issues.



LETTERS

### Saying thank you

As the year, and a 13 1/2-year career as an assistant city attorney and prosecutor ends, I feel the need to publicly say thank you to the people that have helped make those years great.

Thank you to Angelo Plakas for employing me as an assistant city attorney and prosecutor. During the last 13 1/2 years, you have challenged me to be the best attorney and person that I could be, and done so with high morals and integrity. I cannot say thank you enough for my personal and professional development under your care. You are my "second father."

Thank you to the great staff and attorneys that I have worked with during that 13 1/2 years, namely, Kathy Holden, Barb Snow, Kathleen Cole, Mike McNamara, Joanna Bennett, Judge Jim Plakas and Keith Madden. You have been like family.

Thank you to Mayors William Wild, Sandra Cicirelli and Robert Thomas for retaining Angelo Plakas as city attorney, so that I could have the opportunity to represent this great community. Thanks also to the members of the City Council and administration for their professional and personal friendships, encouragement and support over the past 13 1/2 years. I truly enjoyed working with all of you to make Westland a wonderful place to live and work.

Thank you to Judge C. Charles Bokos, Judge Gail McKnight and Judge Cicirelli for their mentoring of me. They have all helped mold me for the position I am as of Jan. 1, 2009. Judge Bokos has taken unlimited amounts of time to train me as a prosecutor and now as his replacement. My gratitude for his years of support cannot be expressed in words, and he will be sorely missed in the court.

My last thank you goes to the 19,405 Westland residents who voted for me for judge of the 18th District Court. I feel obligated to work hard to live up to your expectation that I will continue the great work done by Judge Bokos.

I look forward to serving the citizens of Westland for many years to come. Again, thank you, and here's to a magnificent 2009.

**Mark McConnell**  
judge, 18th District Court

### Don't force special election

After viewing the Dec. 1 Westland City Council meeting, we feel compelled to react to the continued "recall" effort affecting some of our elected city officials.

Since the recall group does have another avenue by which they can attempt to achieve their goals, namely the regularly scheduled elections, we find it upsetting to think that a possible special election would take place at the expense of all taxpayers. At this very critical economic time of our country, we see that the expenditure of thousands of our taxpayer dollars on a special election would be extremely wasteful.

The recall group can still pursue their campaign during a regular election cycle. So, please, do not spend our taxpayer dollars unwisely. Though we don't agree with your issues, we do agree that you have the right to recall. All we are asking of you is to run your campaign during a regular election rather than add an unnecessary financial burden on our city to achieve your goal.

We oppose the expenditure of additional thousands of dollars on an issue that can be resolved through a regular election. And being a democracy, a majority of the voters put our elected city officials into office and again, a majority voice will be heard at a regular election.

In the spirit of Christmas, please consider the extra tax dollars that you would spend and leave them in the city coffers. You can still pursue your cause without the additional expenditure of city tax dollars. Thank you!

And, at this time, we would like to thank our mayor and City Council members for all that you are doing for our city. You keep the city moving forward despite these tough economic times. Thank you!

Merry Christmas!

**Jim and Mary Murphy**  
Westland

### Restoration of science

On Feb. 12 the world will observe the 200th anniversary of the birth of two of the most remarkable humans of the past 1,000 years. One of them, Abraham Lincoln, became America's greatest president, and how ironic it is that the bicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birth comes just after the merciful end of the very worst American president's pathetic reign of arrogance and error.

Also on Feb. 12, 1809, the incomparable Charles Darwin was born, a man whose contributions to science and our human understanding of the evolution of all living species on planet earth ranks him with Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein in terms of historic significance. Indeed, little else in science makes sense without an understanding of the established realities of evolution.

Irony again abounds as the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth approaches, as America has just been subjected to eight years of appalling attacks and censorship on science in the name of ignorant conservative political ideology and creationist religious nonsense. Fortunately, Barack Obama has already taken steps to restore science to its place of privilege in America, clearly recognizing the critical importance of science and technology to our nation's political, economic and military security.

No more will climate science be censored to benefit corporate polluters, no more will medical research be censored to benefit drug company profits and to appease backwards looking religious naysayers. Unfortunately, it will still take awhile to rid our public schools

of incessant conservative attempts to teach religion in science classes. Dressing up the fraud of creationism as "intelligent design" or making phony claims of alleged "academic freedom" merely masks their true agenda. Christians who are secure in our faith have no need to impose literalist biblical interpretations on others. We understand that the facts of evolution and of God as Creator are entirely compatible.

In so many ways our America has been grievously harmed by decades of wrong-minded conservative political, cultural, social, and educational policies. The restoration and celebration of the empirical truths of science in this bicentennial year of Charles Darwin's birth will do much to repair the damage in this and future years.

**Joe Golonka**  
Westland

### Thanks for the support

I would like to start this by saying thank you to Krazy Kops Rentals. What a way to support the community. At a time when everyone is having financial troubles, they are helping out many local organizations in Westland.

When I was first approached I thought, this is a no-brainer, how could you not do it. They offered to meet with us, so I invited a few other organizations to become involved.

I have been with Westland Youth Athletic Association for many years, in fact, I am a lifetime board member, and I can tell you this is the best fundraiser by far I have ever been involved with, this along with what Red Holman Pontiac has done. What a great bunch of people in our city, they are all greatly appreciated.

For all you do, all of our groups that I invited, we thank you. We have had a great time and made some money. For all the kids involved in our programs, we thank you, and from the adults, too. From all of us, we salute you. We are fortunate to have worked with you and are looking forward to doing so for a long time.

**Bud Somerville**  
Westland

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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### QUOTABLE

**"We talk about having a dream. We talk about individuals being judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin. It has come to fruition."**

— City Councilman Dewey Reeves, who will speak at the city's annual observance of King's birthday Monday, Jan. 19

WESTLAND  
**Observer**

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

# Salvation Army grateful for help in tough year

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This was a tough year for fund-raising, but local Salvation Army officials are grateful for the support. The goal was met in Wayne-Westland. However, efforts fell short elsewhere.

The Red Kettle Campaign missed its \$175,000 goal for the Dearborn Heights Citadel, which serves Livonia, Redford, Garden City, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. Kettles brought in \$146,706.63, said Capt. Steve Merritt, corps commander. Last year, some \$168,000 was raised from ket-

tles for the Dearborn Heights Citadel.

"That's very generous. The goal itself wasn't an extravagant goal," Merritt said of this year's effort. "We helped nearly 500 families with food, toys, gift certificates."

An additional 67 families were adopted out through the Dearborn Heights facility for holiday assistance, which Merritt described as "fantastic."

Merritt is particularly grateful toward the Dearborn and Dearborn Heights Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, as well as Ford Motor Co. employees who volunteered and Entertainment

Express Limo in Dearborn Heights.

"Historically, it's been very giving," Merritt said of area residents, who've responded to Hurricane Katrina relief and that for the Asian tsunami several years ago. "That just speaks to the community here. People step up and help one another. That's fantastic."

For the Wayne-Westland Corps, final counting took place Jan. 5 and the \$130,000 goal was slightly surpassed.

"So we made it, which is wonderful. Definitely the community has stepped up to the plate," said Capt. Joanna Rose, Wayne-Westland corps com-

mander. "It's just great to see those who do have step up. You could just feel their heart when they came by the kettle."

Her husband and fellow corps commander Capt. Derek Rose was equally grateful for the \$130,419.45 raised. There's a mail appeal of \$29,000 continuing through the end of January in Wayne-Westland.

"We are hopeful we'll meet that goal as well," Derek Rose said. "I would definitely say we have a generous community. We were expecting not to make our goal."

Derek Rose thought the tough economy and automaker problems would have a greater

impact, but with the donations from the Wayne-Westland community, help was given to more than 700 families through the toy store and Adopt-a-Family efforts.

The Roses are grateful to the local Goodfellows for \$5,000 support, along with the Westland Jaycees, who did a Breakfast With Santa and provided toys. The Wayne and Westland Rotary clubs did bell ringing, as did the Wayne Lions. Ford Motor Co. volunteers helped to distribute toys and food, as well as setting up for distribution days.

Other helpers in Wayne-Westland were the American

Legion Post 251 of Westland, Westland Civitans, North Brothers Ford of Westland with food and transportation help, the Westland Community Foundation with a toy drive, Westland's Texas Roadhouse with a food/toy drive and Brownie's Diner in Wayne with a toy drive.

Salvation Army leaders added that money raised at Christmas supports efforts to help the needy all year. People can continue to give to the Red Kettle Campaign of the Salvation Army through Jan. 31, online at [www.salmich.org](http://www.salmich.org) or by calling (877) SAL-MICH.

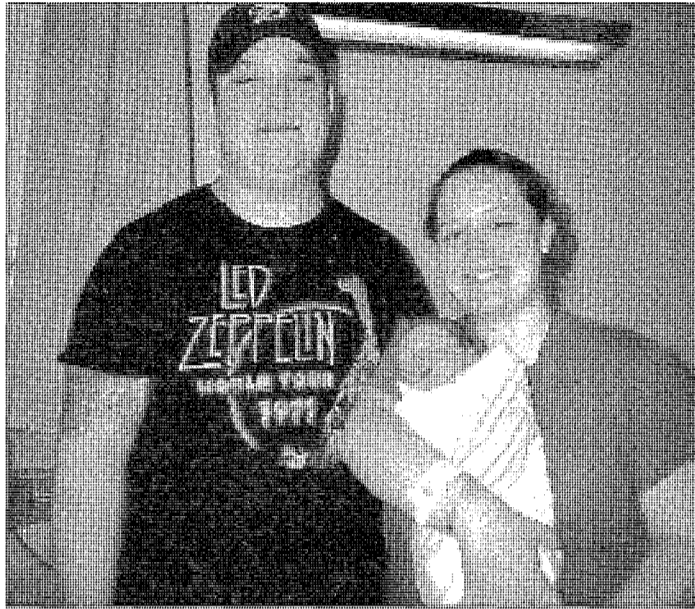
## H&R Block recognizes last baby born in '08

Robert Kemp and Shelby Sedlar of Westland have plenty to celebrate with the birth of their son Austin Kemp, on Dec. 30 at Garden City Hospital.

While the couple missed the hoopla of having the first baby born in the new year, they did meet the midnight deadline to get a tax deduction for 2008.

"It's traditionally the first baby born in the new year that grabs the media headlines, but it's the last baby of the year that yields the tax deduction of \$3,500 and possibly more," said Esther Strohmmer, H&R Block community outreach coordinator for the Westland district. "Babies born before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve can save their parents thousands of dollars on their 2008 return."

In a spin-off of a first baby event, Strohmmer presented Kemp and Sedlar with a gift



Richard Kemp and Shelby Sedlar of Westland hold their new baby, Austin Kemp, the last child born in 2008 at Garden City Hospital.

basket and a free tax return as a way of congratulating the couple before they left Garden

City Hospital. Waiting for them at home was Austin's big sister, Hailey, 3.

## Grant lets Starfish aid challenged teens

Starfish Family Services has received a \$100,000 grant from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation to aid teens facing mental and behavioral challenges through the implementation of a Family Psychoeducation program. The program is geared to adolescents ages 13-17 who are under the care of Lifespan Clinical Services at Starfish Family Services. Starfish is one of the first provider agencies in Wayne County to implement FPE with this age group.

Family Psychoeducation is a nationally-recognized program that originated in the late 1970s. It recognized that resources were lacking for patients and family members living with a mental illness. FPE evolved into a program that empowers clients and family members with information and coping skills, helping to strengthen family support and create a greater chance for improvement for the client.

The implementation of the Family Psychoeducation practice into the Intensive Home Based program at Starfish Lifespan Clinical Services, with offices in Livonia and Westland, will assist in the

goal of decreasing admissions into hospitals, residential settings and other out-of-home placements. Currently, there is a gap in services which is evident by the family members' low level of involvement in the treatment process.

With the population of children and adolescents with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorders and psychotic disorders, the involvement of the family is imperative to the successful recovery of clients. Lifespan will utilize a tracking system that is already in place for its clients to provide the data needed to measure the success of the FPE implementation.

Lifespan is a division of Starfish Family Services and provides behavioral, emotional and mental health services to children and families throughout Wayne County. It is a leader in children's mental health services in western Wayne County.

Lifespan clinicians, psychologists and psychiatrists specialize in diagnosing and treating all kinds of emotional difficulties, working with children, teenagers, adults and entire families. Therapy is offered at clinics in Livonia

and Westland as well as in the home.

Starfish Family Services offers programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in western Wayne County, including free preschool programs, a crisis shelter for teens, after-school and summer programming, an organic children's garden and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services.

The agency serves more than 7,600 children and their families at its numerous service sites each year. More information can be found online at [www.starfish-online.org](http://www.starfish-online.org). Starfish Family Services is funded in part by Gateway Community Health and Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

The Flinn Foundation is a Detroit-based private foundation established in 1976 by Ethel "Peggy" Flinn and her brother James H. Flinn Jr. and committed to improving the scope, quality and care of services for individuals with mental illness in southeast Michigan. Since inception, more than \$13 million in grants have been awarded.

### MILITARY NEWS

Spec. Michael Haley of Westland has been awarded the Adjutant General of Michigan Sliver Certificate for reenlisting in the Michigan Army National Guard for six years.

Haley is an Automated Logistics Specialist assigned to the 1776th Military Police Company in Taylor. He has served with the Michigan National Guard for six years.


Haley received a \$15,000 bonus for reenlisting.

Haley is employed as a security officer by IPC International. Married, he and his wife Jessica have daughter.



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100% White Ground Chicken Breast.....	Only \$3.39 lb.
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# SPORTS

**B**

(LW)

Thursday, January 8, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

## Churchill works OT in victory

### Glenn nips Novi

You couldn't describe Livonia Churchill's 55-54 overtime win Tuesday over Walled Lake Western a work of art.

But the host Chargers overcame a total of 25 turnovers and 22-of-51 shooting from the field for the boys basketball triumph and even their overall record at 2-2.

"You could tell both teams hadn't played in a couple of weeks," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "It was pretty good defense on both ends, but we were able to stay with it and keep fighting, and get the win."

**KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL** Adam Bedell, a 6-foot-6

junior forward, scored 14 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for the Chargers, who were tied at 47-47 with the Warriors at the end of regulation.

Junior guard Tony Frezzell added 13 points, including a clutch 3-pointer with 45 seconds remaining in OT. Senior forward Alex Bay added 10 points.

Senior guard Ryan Woods then put the Chargers up by four by making the front end of a one-and-one free throw with 16 seconds remaining, but Western senior guard Blake Hunter made it a one-point game when he nailed a triple with just six seconds to go.

The Warriors then got the ball back and missed a last-second attempt for the win.

Senior center Edison Vushaj scored 21 for the Warriors, who drop to 1-2 overall. Hunter chipped in with 16.

**JOHN GLENN 66, NOVI 64:** Jon Swagerty made a clutch basket and split a pair of free throws — all in the final nine seconds — to give Westland John Glenn (3-1) the pulsating win Tuesday over the visiting Wildcats (4-1).

Chris Bellamy's runner-up with only 10 seconds remaining gave Novi a 64-63 lead before the Rockets stormed back behind Swagerty.

Bellamy scored 14 of his game-high 27 points in the final period.

Austin Anderson, a senior guard, paced Glenn with 18 points.

Three other Rockets scored in double figures, including Dorian Prather (14), Derrick Crosby (11) and Jeremy Langford (10).

Glenn was 16-of-23 from the foul line, while Novi connected on 15-of-19.

**STEVENSON 68, EDSSEL FORD 58:** On Tuesday, Livonia Stevenson (3-1) captured its third straight victory behind center Kendal Snow's 17 points in a non-conference encounter at Dearborn Edsel Ford (1-3).

Snow, a 6-foot-4 senior, scored 15 of those points in the opening half as the Spartans led 33-28.

Junior guard Bobby Naubert, who

Please see **KLAA, B2**



John Glenn's Alysson Kassab attempts to make the strike during Monday's nonconference match against Howell at Town 'N Country Lanes in Westland.

PHOTOS BY TOM HANLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Easy does it

### 5-0 Wayne boys bowlers surprise of the early season

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bob Jawor takes a laid-back approach when it comes to coaching the boys bowling team at Wayne Memorial High.

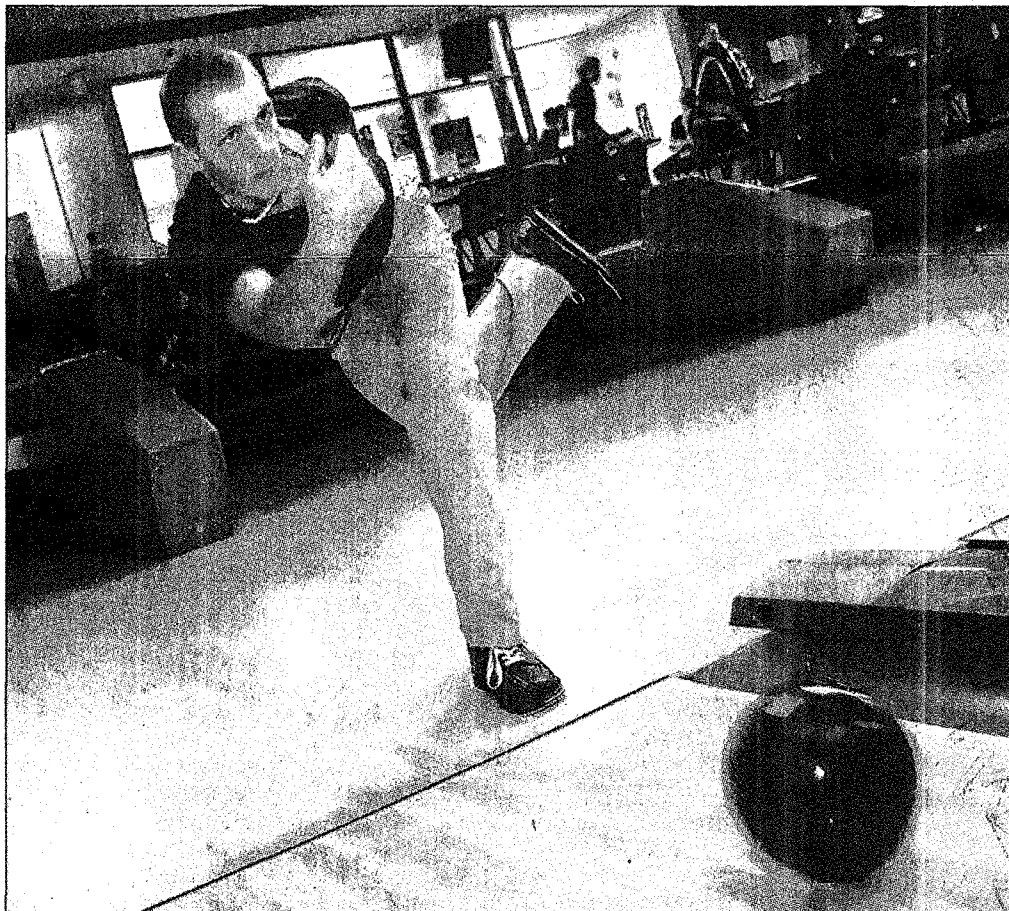
"I try to make it as stress-free as possible," the third-year coach said. "If there's something we need to work on ... sure. But there's not as much regimen here because it's different than other sports. As long as they're trying to make good shots, I'm happy."

So far this season, Jawor is more than pleasantly surprised despite losing three key performers to graduation, including state individual singles champion Cory Harden, along with Zak Kyle and Eric Robertson.

Wayne is off to a 5-0 dual-match start following Monday's 25-5 win over Hartland at the Zebras' home venue — Westland's Town 'N Country Lanes — where Jawor has been the manager for the past five years.

"These guys throw a huge amount of strikes," Jawor said. "But sometimes we take spares for granted, which is not a good thing."

The Zebras feature five seniors, including varsity returnees Ryan Gabriel and Kellen Collison, along with Jesse English, Mike Wilson and Josh Vojtkofsky off the



Wayne's Ryan Gabriel had a two-game set of 435 in the Zebras' 25-5 victory Monday over Hartland in a non-conference match held at Town 'N Country Lanes in Westland.

JV squad.

Freshman Elliott Arnold has been the biggest surprise. He rolled a two-game set of 411 in the win over Hartland and has been averaging in the low 220s for the Zebras' first five matches.

"I had seen him bowl before and he's unflappable,

nothing seems to bother him," Jawor said of the ninth-grader. "He's clutch. Today he needs to throw a double to win the first Baker game (alternating shots) ... and he did it. He was quiet when he first came out and now he's getting to be a voice among his teammates. His

confidence is growing."

Sophomore T.J. Lave, who rolled a team-best two-game set of 436 in the win over Hartland, gives Jawor another high-quality newcomer.

"He came out for tryouts

Please see **BOWLING, B3**

## Sidelines

### SHS alumni hockey

The second annual Livonia Stevenson alumni hockey game will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Following the alumni game, the Stevenson varsity hockey team will take on Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Cost is \$25 for players and \$15 for goaltenders. Included in the cost are refreshments, T-shirt and a ticket to watch the game.

Space is limited. For more information, call Kyle Zagata at (248) 924-0789; or e-mail him at k.zagata@yahoo.com.

### Swartz recognized

Eastern Michigan University red-shirt sophomore Jennifer Swartz (Westland John Glenn) recently earned 2008 Academic All Mid-American Conference honorable mention in women's volleyball.

To qualify, a student must have a 3.20 grade-point average and participated in at least 50 percent of the matches.

### Waza wins in OT

The Detroit Waza Flo Pro is back in the win column with a 11-10 overtime victory Sunday over host West Virginia Quantum Force at the Quantum Soccer Center in Hurricane, W.V.

Blake Ordell had a massive night with four goals, including the game-winner in OT, to go along with three assists.

Darrel Quinn (Madonna University) chipped in with a hat trick as Waza improved 2-7 in the PASL-Pro circuit.

Head coach Dominic Scicluna, who also doubles as the Madonna University men's coach, enjoyed his return to action with three assists.

Waza returns to action 10:30 a.m. this Sunday against the St. Louis Illusion at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

### MU softball camp

The Madonna University women's softball program will stage two sessions of fundamentals camps from 9 a.m. until noon each Saturday, Jan. 10, 17 and 24 (Session I); and Sunday, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

The cost for each session is \$150.

For more information, or to register, call MU coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or visit www.madonnacrusaders.com.



RENA LAVERY

Schoolcraft College's Tayler Langham, a Salem alum, dribbles past Jessica Stevenson of St. Clair County Community College during Saturday's Eastern Conference matchup.

## Lady Ocelots stay in the groove

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eight is more than enough for Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team, which methodically breezed to Saturday's 79-50 victory over visiting St. Clair County CC.

Sparking the No. 7-ranked Lady Ocelots (10-2, 3-0 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association) to another conference victory were sophomore forward and Plymouth Salem product Tayler Langham (17 points) and freshman center April Goins, who tallied a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

They were augmented by sophomore point guard Brittany Collins' 14 points (along with five boards, five assists and five steals) and sophomore forward Sheray Brown (10 points, 11 rebounds).

"We lost some people, so everybody

was tired," Langham said, referring to ineligible players reducing the team's 12-player roster (as listed on handouts at Schoolcraft) to eight. "But we just did what we always do. It was a good game."

Langham — fresh off a 42-point performance Dec. 21 against Glendale in Arizona — is one of the major reasons why Schoolcraft head coach Karen Lafata is very optimistic that the Lady Ocelots can take care of the conference and regionals and qualify for the national tournament.

"Our style of play is perfect for her," Lafata noted. "She's like the Energizer Bunny, she just goes, goes, goes. You know, when we get a rebound and our point guard gets the ball, she (Langham) is our first look."

Having just eight players, meanwhile, isn't an issue with Lafata, who isn't worried about fatigue setting in.

"I have eight players that are in great shape, they love to run and

that's what we're going to do. ... At the JUCO level, a lot of teams only have eight or nine players."

Against St. Clair (7-6, 1-2), Schoolcraft's speed, toughness and defensive pressure all over the floor sparked an early surge that the Skippers had no answer for.

The 6-0 Goins, who Lafata said can "jump out of a gym," scored 10 points over the final eight minutes to help Schoolcraft take a 45-26 halftime lead.

"I think our first half really set the tone," Lafata said, listing speed, defensive pressure "and our ability to get out and finish and get the ball to where it needs to be" as factors.

The closest St. Clair could get the rest of the way was 18 points (49-31) with about 17 minutes left.

Chanahl Putnam led the Skippers with 14 points, five rebounds and six steals.

Please see **OCELOTS, B2**



PREP BOWLING

**BOYS BOWLING RESULTS**  
**Jan. 5 at Town 'N Country Lanes**  
**WAYNE MEMORIAL 25, HARTLAND 5**  
**Wayne individual scorers:** T.J. Lave, 204-232-436; Ryan Gabriel, 203-232-435; Elliott Arnold, 203-208-411; Jesse English, 193-189-382; Josh Vojtkofsky, 192-186-383. **Team totals:** 1,000-1,047-2,047 (17 points).  
**Hartland individual scorers:** Brad Santo, 180-236-416; Miles Frazier, 176-213-389; Andrew Kujawa, 168-216-384; Stefan Jones, 195 (second game); Phil Szerlag, 167 (second game); Dan Bock, 145 (first game). **Team totals:** 784-10,271-811 (3 points).  
**Baker games:** Wayne, 186-190-376 (6 points); Hartland, 186-161-347 (2 points).  
**Dual match records:** Wayne, 5-0 overall; Hartland, 1-4 overall.  
**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 20, HOWELL 10**  
**Glenn individual scorers:** Kyle Hamlin, 206-258-464; Josh Herzog, 203-232-435; Derrick Ammons, 214-203-417; Chris Harper, 191-224-415; Thomas Brusseau-John Cleavenger, 177-187-354. **Team totals:** 1,026-1,053-2,079 (14 points).  
**Howell individual scorers:** Matt Robson, 279-193-472; Kaleb Rice, 194-216-410; Alex Drew, 211-177-388; Cameron Nedzlek-Trevor Smith, 172 each (first game); Ron Bergman, 237 (second game); Corey Wilson, 179 (second game). **Team totals:** 1,027-1,002-2,029 (6 points).  
**Baker games:** John Glenn, 200-182-382 (6 points); Howell, 209-140-349 (4 points).

**GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS**  
**Jan. 5 at Town 'N Country Lanes**  
**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 26, HOWELL 4**  
**Glenn individual scorers:** Alyson Kassab, 187-203-390; Natalie Brown, 199-163-362; Victoria Eisey, 165-183-348; Katy Harris, 174-156-330; Amber Krzyzaniak, 117-137-254. **Team totals:** 843-842-1,685 (16 points).  
**Howell individual scorers:** Danielle Robson, 171-202-371; Heidi Maxwell, 155-196-351; Melissa Gonia, 173-133-311; Cheylyn Wilson, 145-151-296; Janet Pellerin-Mariah Douglas, 137-120-257. **Team totals:** 786-802-1,588 (4 points).  
**Baker games:** John Glenn, 205-146-351 (10 points); Howell, 128-128-256 (0 points).  
**Glenn's dual match record:** 4-2 overall.  
**WAYNE MEMORIAL 25, HARTLAND 5**  
**Wayne individual scorers:** Stephani O'Harris, 227-160-387; Ashley Odum, 158-161-319; Chelsea Preiss, 137-170-307; Sam Bawcum, 138-132-270; Rebecca O'Harris, 118-135-253. **Team totals:** 778-758-1,536 (15 points).  
**Hartland individual scorers:** Alicia Miedler, 202-171-373; Sam Moesta, 159-147-306; Mary Schmitz, 158-139-297; Amy Sencchak, 122-124-246; Victoria Beauchamp, 102-119-221. **Team totals:** 743-700-1,443 (5 points).  
**Baker games:** Wayne, 178-157-335 (10 points); Hartland, 174-139-313 (0 points).  
**Wayne's dual match record:** 3-2 overall.

BOWLING

FROM PAGE B1

last year, but then he stopped because he preferred to bowl in his (coach) league," the Wayne coach said. "We're glad he made the move (this year). He practices hard and loves his bowling. He's been bowling a lot of games and his parents back him up."  
 Gabriel, meanwhile, went 203-232-435 against Hartland and has been a mainstay so far along with Vojtkofsky.  
 "Both Ryan and Josh have bowled well," Jawor said. "I knew Ryan would have a good

year. He did not bowl much before because he played baseball on the JV team. I've seen them both work hard months before the season started."  
 Wayne begins its Central Division schedule in the Kensington Conference on Jan. 12 at home when it faces intra-district rival Westland John Glenn (4-2) at Town 'N Country Lanes.  
 Glenn, which calls Westland Bowl home, also took a liking to Town 'N Country on Monday with a 20-10 win over Howell as four bowlers — Kyle Hamblin (464), Josh Herzog (420), Derrick Ammons (417) and Chris Harper (415) — helped the Rockets come up with a

two-set team total of 2,079 (beating Wayne's 2,047 total).  
 Talk may be premature to compare this team with the Wayne squad that reached the 2007 Division I state semifinals.  
 "All I can say is that I'm very pleased," Jawor said. "If we keep getting better, we have chance to make a run at things."  
 And bowling at Town 'N Country has been a real bonus. "When you know the characteristics of the lanes, it's somewhat of an advantage," Jawor said. "Our owner (Bob Goike) is been real cooperative. He's very supportive of the program."  
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LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

								
<b>Mason</b> WGPR Radio	<b>Jon Bond</b> WVMV Radio	<b>Gator</b> <b>Anderson</b> 97.1 Radio	<b>Jeff Lesson</b> CBS Radio	<b>Keith Lang</b> Tennyson Chevrolet	<b>Bob Faust</b> Jack Demmer Ford	<b>Ronnie Williams</b> Perfect Floors	<b>Tom Flory</b> Shelton Pontiac Buick GMC	<b>Ron Fruciano</b> Friendly Chrysler Jeep
<b>2-2</b> <b>145-83</b>	<b>2-2</b> <b>138-90</b>	<b>2-2</b> <b>143-85</b>	<b>2-2</b> <b>143-85</b>	<b>1-3</b> <b>147-81</b>	<b>4-0</b> <b>151-77</b>	<b>3-1</b> <b>152-76</b>	<b>2-2</b> <b>146-82</b>	<b>2-2</b> <b>141-87</b>
Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Baltimore	Tennessee	Tennessee
Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants	New York Giants
Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh

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**WEEK #19 GAMES DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009**

Baltimore at Tennessee  
Arizona at Carolina

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009**

Philadelphia at New York Giants  
San Diego at Pittsburgh





# Garden City/Westland Strictly Business

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Grand opening

2Chefs Carry Out Xpress will have its grand opening Tuesday, Jan. 13. The new carry out business, located inside the Marquis Foodservice Catering building at 172 S. John Hix, just south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. 2Chefs is the newest Krispy Krunchy Chicken franchise, but in addition to chicken there's fresh made panini sandwiches and made-to-order entrée salads. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days per week. For more information, call (734) 722-4006 or send a fax to (734) 721-9536.

#### Collecting coats

Taxfaster of Westland has partnered with One Warm Coat to hold a coat drive now through Jan. 31. People can drop off items at Taxfaster, 38950 Cherry Hill at John Hix in Westland. Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and any winter weather wear for adults and children are needed. Donations are

tax deductible and receipts will be provided. For more information about the coat drive, visit the Taxfaster Web site at [www.taxfaster.com](http://www.taxfaster.com).

#### Casino nights

The Westland Chamber of Commerce along with Krazy Kopz Rentals will be hosting Casino Nights 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 8-10, and 5-10 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Town n' Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road. Specials include a \$500 free roll at 7 p.m. on Thursday, a \$20 Hold'em Tournament starting at 7 p.m. Friday, a \$50 Hold'em Tournament starting at 7 p.m. Saturday. Every night will have Hold'em, blackjack and cash games. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222. For more information about Krazy Kopz Rentals, visit the Web site at [www.krazykopzrentals.com](http://www.krazykopzrentals.com).

#### Semiannual sales

Stop by Victoria's Secret at the Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren at Wayne Road in Westland, now through Monday, Jan. 12, and stock up on your favorite items. The

store is holding its semiannual sale. Ditto for another mall business. Bath & Body Works is offering up to 75 percent off on selected items now through Jan. 25.

### ONGOING

#### Good sports

Thankfully, the Detroit Lions' dismal season has ended, but if you're a diehard fan or if you favor the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings or Pistons, stop by Fanatic U in Garden City. The store is chock full of jerseys, T-shirts, hats, memorabilia and novelty items to make a sports nut's heart flutter. You'll find it at 30409 Ford, Garden City. But also check out the Fanatic U Outlet store at 7349 Middlebelt, Westland, where you'll find up to 90 percent off on select merchandise. For more information, call (734) 266-0893.

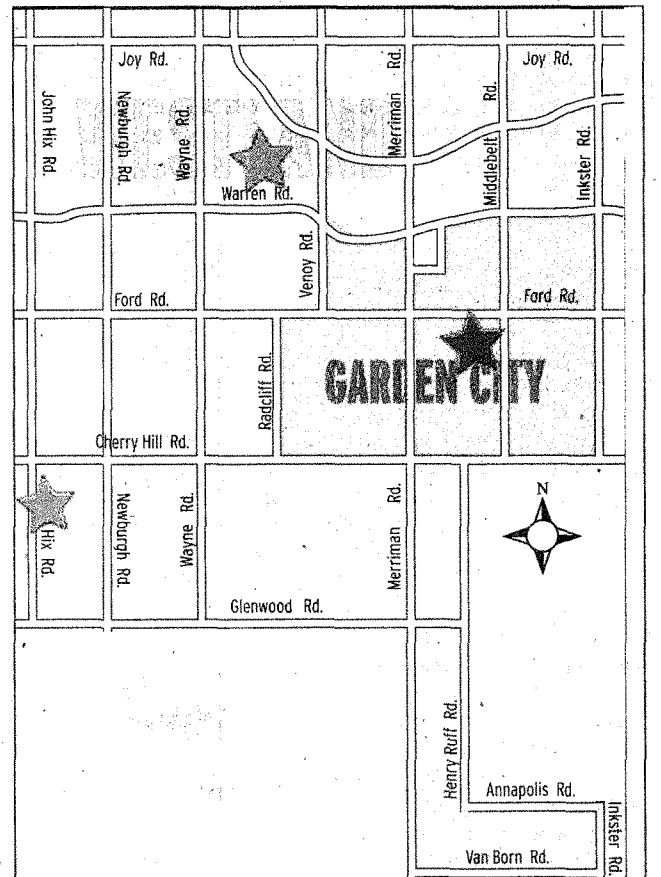
#### Sweet relief

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe at 8036 N. Wayne Road in Westland, is offer-

ing a selection of gourmet desserts for only \$1. Desserts for the price of a dollar will include cupcakes topped with French buttercream, cinnamon crumb cakes, cake slices, coffee, yesterday's fresh muffins, fun-sized bars, cookies (3 for \$1), and the sliced off top of a cake, oddly named, cake butts. For more information visit [www.marydenning.com](http://www.marydenning.com) or call (734) 261-3680.

#### Blues buster

Winter blues got you down? Materials Unlimited can help brighten your day. Materials Unlimited is holding a 30 percent off sale on its entire stock of lighting Jan. 17-24 at its store at 2 W. Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti. Materials Unlimited has the Midwest's largest collection of restored antique lighting, from Victorian to modern and everything in between. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call (734) 483-6980 or shop online at [www.materialsunlimited.com](http://www.materialsunlimited.com).



## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A pair of Garys - Gary Wrigley (left) and Gary Bulson - are the owners of Men on the Move moving company.

## Moving with a personal touch

**Observer:** Tell us about your business, including the types of service and/or products you feature.

In 1991, Gary Wrigley, who is now my partner, called me for an interview for a manager position with his company that he was trying to get off the ground. Well, not only was I the manager, but the first employee as well. I hired a couple more guys and we were off and running. In 1995, we became partners and I retired from the moving truck. Since then we have seen our ups and downs like most small business owners. We have had as many as eight trucks and 25 employees in the best of times. Currently, we have six trucks and 13 employees. We offer a full line of boxes and packing supplies. We can come out and do the packing and moving for you or we can just sell you the supplies to do it yourself.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

I think what makes the moving business unique is that we get to help people start over. What I mean by that is moving is such a big burden and very stressful. We can come in and help out and relieve a lot of the stress and aggravation associated with moving. We can even help you just load your truck, if you're moving out of state, if that's what you want.

**Observer:** How did you decide to open your first business?

My partner, who also owns Nankin Hardware and Hobby,

was trying to expand and wanted to open another business for himself. He looked into pizza franchises and then he read a story about a moving company that was doing well and decided to look into that. He saw a need in the metro Detroit area for a good local mover and here we are. **How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?**

Being that Gary had Nankin already we decided it would be a good spot to park our first truck, and we answered the phones out of my apartment. I would pick up the truck in the morning and move a person or two, then go home and return phone calls that were left while I was out. From there, my wife and I decided to purchase our first home in Westland in 1993 and have lived there ever since.

**Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business?**

I just want to say that owning a business has been a great experience for me as a person. I have been able to get so involved in the community being a business owner. I'm not sure I ever would have stepped out as much as I have without this experience. I've been humbled in the past with such awards as Business Person of the Year, Citizen of the Year and First Citizen. I owe a lot of that success to being a business owner and to my great staff and partner for allowing me to have the time to do so.

### MEN ON THE MOVE

**Business name:** Men on the Move

**Address:** 446 S. Newburgh, Westland, MI 48186

**Name and Title:** Gary L. Bulson of Westland and Gary L. Wrigley of Livonia, owners

**Business Opened:** In 1991 in Westland

**Number of Employees:** We have anywhere from 12-18 employees depending on the time of the year.

**Business Specialty:** Our business specialty is moving people locally and providing them with that personal touch a lot of companies lack today. Although we do also move people out of state, 90 percent of our business is locally based.

**Hours:** We provide our service seven days a week and we can arrange to work around your schedule, meaning we will move you any day anytime.

**Business phone and Web site:** Our main office number is (734) 729-6683, fax number is (734) 722-6683. Visit our Web site at [www.michiganmovers.com](http://www.michiganmovers.com) where you will also find an online quote form to get a basic idea of the cost for any move local or long distance.

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### Marcy Sieggreen

The Detroit Zoological Society has appointed Marcy Sieggreen to the position of curator of amphibians. She is responsible for overseeing all amphibian department operations, including animal care, conservation programs and research at the Detroit Zoo's National Amphibian Conservation Center. Sieggreen joins the Zoo from the Michigan Humane Society (MHS), where she served for 12 years in a variety of positions, most recently as facility director of the Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland. During her tenure at MHS, she opened and staffed the flagship operation and taught an animal sheltering class through the State Animal Response Team (SART) and



Red Cross. "Marcy has a strong academic background in science and impressive managerial experience. She brings significant strength in management and leadership to

the Amphibian Department and is a great addition to the animal management leadership team," said Scott Carter, director of conservation and animal welfare. Sieggreen earned a master's degree in biological science from Wayne State University and bachelor of science degrees in earth science, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and geography from Eastern Michigan University. She is currently enrolled at EMU for a second master's degree in geographical information systems. The Detroit Zoological Society is a non-profit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak and Belle Isle Nature Zoo in Detroit. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).



### Courtney Macavinta

Courtney Macavinta, award-winning youth development author and advocate for girls, will keynote the fifth annual Girl Developers Summit, presented by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Bronson Gilmore Center, Kalamazoo. The Summit is designed to help parents, mentors and role models give girls the tools they need to resist confusing media images, peer pressure and demands to "fit in." The Girl Developers Summit is sponsored by Bronson, the Ladies Library Association of Kalamazoo, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and Girl Scouts of the USA. The conference is open to all adults who are interested in helping

girls develop courage, confidence and character. Cost is \$50, \$40 for currently registered adult Girl Scout adults, and \$25 for college students. Participants who register before Jan. 23 will receive a \$5 discount. Macavinta is founder and CEO of Respect Rx, a social entrepreneurial organization that advocates for girls and women. She is the author of *Respect: A Girl's Guide to Getting Respect and Dealing When Your Line Is Crossed*. Macavinta has been featured on CNN, NPR, Teen Vogue and COSMO Girl!. She co-created the *Uniquely ME!* Guide for facilitators with the Girl Scouts of the USA and has also worked with Girls, Inc., Girls For A Change and the Dove Self-Esteem Fund.



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## CHAMBER CHAT

### Garden City Chamber

The membership of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce has elected three new directors to the board: Michelle Cline, Clarity Patton and Laurie Correll. Their three-year terms began Jan. 1. Michelle Cline has been in education for 23 years. Her background is elementary education and special education currently is the president of the Garden

City Public Schools. She previously owned her own nonprofit educational institute.

Clarity Patton serves as business development and quality improvement manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, one of the nation's largest Lincoln Mercury dealerships. Her responsibilities include marketing and advertising, brand development and public relations.

Laurie Correll is the owner

of Sports Venue Bar & Grill. Laurie's background is in education, and she is a recent resident of Garden City. She has been self-employed for more than five years and enjoys being active in the community.

The current directors would like to welcome Michelle, Clarity and Laurie to the board and they look forward to working with each of them.

Amelia Oliverio  
director