

THURSDAY

March 5
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 44
Number 81

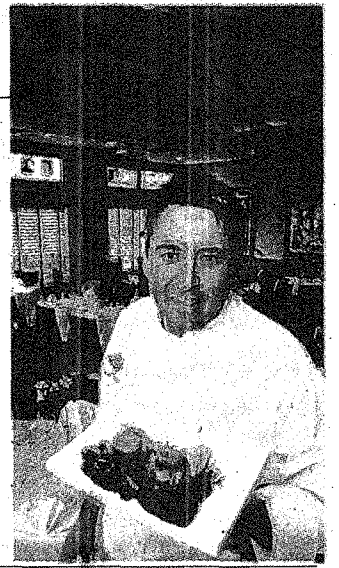
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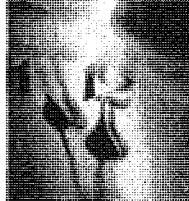
Food & Wine, B8



Around Town

Spring time!

It's that time again, daylight-saving time. Remember the adage to spring forward. Before you go to bed on Saturday night, set your clocks ahead one hour. That means the morning will be a little darker when you go to work on Monday, but the skies will stay lighter an hour longer in the evening.



Be a 1st reader

March is Reading Month and the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is looking for First Readers.

The library is once again offering its First Readers Program in which local first-grade classes come to celebrate Reading Month and learn about library service for young children.

Now in its ninth year, the interactive program is designed to welcome young children and to inform them of all that their library has to offer. They will learn to distinguish between fiction and nonfiction books and see many different literacy-building resources. Kits, foreign language materials, computer software, DVDs and audio recordings are highlighted during an informative tour.

Children also will learn how rewarding it is to own a library card and how to treat borrowed material responsibly. First Readers Program sessions are still available. Teachers can call the library at (734) 326-6123 and ask for the Children's Service Department to schedule a visit during the month of March.

Oh, so sweet

If you're into chocolate, stop by the New Hawthorne Valley Country Club on Saturday, March 7, for the Women of Westland's fifth annual Chocolate Fantasy Ball.

The ball serves as the backdrop for the presentation of the 2009 Westland ATHENA Award which honors a man or woman for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. Five women have been nominated and this year's recipient will be announced at the ball.

The Chocolate Fantasy Ball will start at 6 p.m. and includes a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, the program and the Chocolate Fantasy dessert extravaganza, or more precisely tables laden with all things chocolate. There also will be a silent auction.

Tickets are priced at \$20 each and are available by calling the Women of Westland at (734) 467-9113. They also will be available at the door. New Hawthorne Valley Country Club is at 73000 Merriman, east of Warren, Westland.

Plea ends 'troubling' child abuse case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to first-degree child abuse while mentally ill for delivering her own baby, putting it in a trash bag and placing it in her parents' garage on the city's northwest side. Valeeka Gartrell, 28, is facing a

prison sentence of five to 15 years, although defense attorney Barry Resnick is hopeful that Gartrell could spend part of her time in a psychiatric facility. Either way, she is expected to receive treatment.

Gartrell chose to accept a plea agreement rather than try an insanity defense and face trial on a more serious charge of assault with intent

to murder, which could have brought penalties up to life in prison.

"It was just too much of a gamble that she didn't want to take," Resnick said Wednesday afternoon.

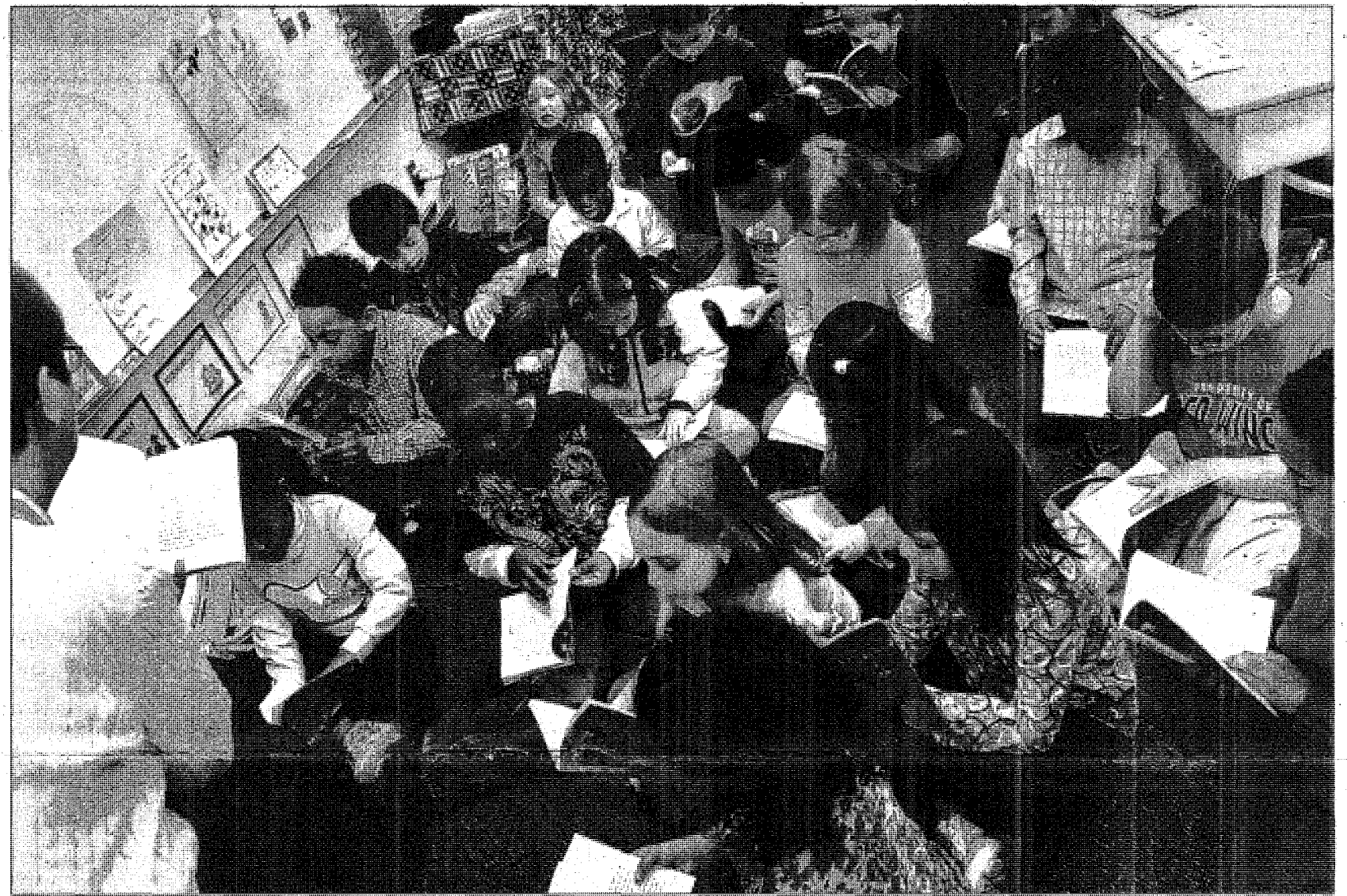
Gartrell gave birth on April 23, 2007, in her parents' house. Family members noticed she was bleeding but didn't realize she had delivered the baby boy until they took her to

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. They returned home and found the newborn alive in the garage.

Police Chief James Ridener called the outcome of the case appropriate.

"I think due to the tragic nature of this whole case that justice has been served," he said. "She had to have

Please see PLEA, A3



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Edison Elementary first-grade teacher Mary Jo Dreffs reads the first page of "Because of Winn Dixie" to students as part of the One School, One Book reading activity at the Westland school.

1 School, 1 Book: Edison gets reading

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ashley Taylor has already read Kate DeCamillo's *Because of Winn Dixie*, but that doesn't matter to the 6-year-old who wrote her last name in the inside cover of the book. She's

going to read it again with her family.

March is Reading Month, and the first-grader will be joining her fellow students at Edison Elementary School in Westland in the schoolwide One School, One Book event.

"It's really good, it's going to be fun to read it again," said Ashley. "My

mom read it to me the first time."

Teachers at the school used their classroom Scholastic book sales bonus points to help buy 290 copies of the book that were given to the youngest student or only student in a family to take home to read and to keep. A Hats Off to Reading Day

later this month, in which youngsters will pay \$1 to wear a hat, also will help defray the cost of the books, said Principal Barbara Hastings.

Hastings got the idea for the mass reading on the www.readtothem.org

Please see READING, A3

Neighborhood watch program helps combat crime

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Troubled by a spike in crime, some Westland neighborhood groups have decided to help local police in their efforts to make the city safer.

Neighbors are watching out for each

other's property and reporting to police any suspicious activities or crimes like home invasions, stolen cars, street gangs and suspected drug houses.

It's all part of Community Watch, an emerging program that has stirred interest in places like Willow Creek Apartments, on Newburgh south

of Ford; Woodcrest Villa, a rental complex on Wayne south of Joy; and Westland Woods, a residential subdivision on Cherry Hill between Newburgh and Carlson.

"We're not looking for groups to go out and be vigilantes," said police Sgt. Jeff Jedrusik, who has been steer-

ing the program with Officers David Archambeau and Eric Rodriguez. "We're not asking them to patrol streets at night with flashlights. We just want them to be the extra eyes and ears for the police."

Please see WATCH, A2

Ex-con's story shows teens 'path to take'

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Timothy has been shot, stabbed and had his teeth knocked out. A 49-year-old father, his seven children grew up while he spent most of his life in prison, serving 30 years, altogether, for crimes like attempted murder, felonious assault and attempted extortion.

He became involved in gangs and organized crime. He sold guns and once tried to shoot and kill a man who owed \$22,000 in gambling debts.

"I thank God every day that I missed," Timothy told a group of Westland teens and parents who gathered last Thursday inside the alternative education Tinkham Center.

Timothy, now living in a half-way house, could only allow his

first name used for this story, but he hopes his mistakes will be a deterrent to troubled teens he addressed during a program sponsored by the Westland Youth Assistance Program. He and Barbara Logan, a Wayne County Juvenile Detention supervisor, talked to a crowd of nearly 70 youngsters and parents.

"I wanted to do what Tim wanted to do, and I didn't care who I hurt along the way," Timothy said, in hopes of reaching youngsters who have gotten into trouble for stealing, skipping school, vandalism and other problems that, left unchecked, can lead to bigger crimes with harsher penalties.

Timothy told of seeing killings and rapes in prison, which he described as "a lonely place where you don't want to go. You can't even kiss your mother."

Timothy has been out of prison for two months, and he said he will never again do anything to lose his freedom. He has found work as a dishwasher and assistant manager as he struggles to rebound.

Logan told the teens how she ended up in a juvenile facility when she was a young child. At age 9, she ran away from home repeatedly because her parents fought.

Logan advised teens and parents, alike, to put aside whatever is happening in their lives to communicate with one another and talk through their problems. She told parents that "the worst thing you can do to your children is lie to them."

On her job, Logan encounters youngsters who have been involved in carjackings, setting

Please see YOUTH, A2

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YOUTH
FROM PAGE A1

fires, selling drugs, prostitution and assaulting their own parents. "They all look like you," she told the Westland group, urging them to make good decisions that will keep them out of trouble. For teens who might think misbehaving is cool, Logan reminded them that in a juvenile facility, they can't pick their own clothes, choose the foods they want or decide when they want to do certain activities. Logan also warned the teens not to become involved with the wrong crowd. She told them that if they catch a ride with a friend who has stolen a car and

who causes a fatal accident, "you're connected to that." Before Timothy and Logan told their stories, Youth Assistance Program Director Paul Motz told the youngsters he hoped they learned from the experience. "I don't want any of you ending up incarcerated." One 14-year-old Westland male said the program helped him. "It shows you the path not to take, but it shows you the path to take as well," he said. One parent who brought her 15-year-old daughter to the program described it as "really helpful." She said her daughter, who got into trouble for shoplifting, has done "really well" in the Youth Assistance Program, "and I think it's good for the parents, too."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

WATCH
FROM PAGE A1

Westland police and Mayor William Wild decided to initiate Community Watch as a way to curb crime and help residents feel safer in their own homes. Groups may form to watch just one block, an entire neighborhood, an apartment complex, a park or a business area. Jedrusik said police ask that 50 percent of an area's residents or business owners get involved to formally start a Community Watch group. "It will only be as successful as the people in the neighborhood want it to be," he said. To get involved, organizers should e-mail Archambeau at communitywatch@wlpd.net or call (734) 467-3547. Police will

send out a packet of information. "This is a good way for the police to get to know the community better, and it's a way for people in the community to get to know their neighbors better," Archambeau said. To get started, Community Watch groups are expected to contact neighbors, set up an organizational meeting and invite Archambeau to attend. Residents may decide to meet inside someone's home, in a back yard or at a recreation center, a local park, a school, a church or a business. A police officer will advise the group how to make a Community Watch program a success. Groups are expected to choose leaders who will stay in touch with local police about neighborhood problems, but Jedrusik said any crime in prog-

ress should always be reported immediately to Westland police by calling (734) 722-9600. After a group is established, it is encouraged to seek permission from the Wayne County Road Commission to erect Community Watch signs at neighborhood entrances, warning would-be criminals that suspicious activity will be reported to police. However, groups are expected to remain active or they may lose their signs. Group leaders also are encouraged, if possible, to develop a newsletter to communicate with neighbors and to maintain enthusiasm for the program. Archambeau said Community Watch members don't merely report crimes. Sometimes, he said, residents might notice a loud party at a

neighbor's house while the parents are away. "If the parents are out of town and Johnny is having a party, I'll go walk right up to that party, shut it down and write tickets or whatever I need to do," Archambeau said. Mayor William Wild announced last fall that Community Watch was being started. "At its core, the Community Watch program is about neighbors looking out for one another while serving as the extra eyes and ears of the Westland Police Department," he said. "But it's deeper than that — it's also about maintaining clean, safe neighborhoods and building community pride while creating an open forum to address community issues."

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

**CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

City of Westland Weed Cutting

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: March 5, 2009

CE0864844-2x3

**CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 20, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Demolition Services

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at <http://www.cityofwestland.com> or from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: March 5, 2009

CE0864822-2x3

ABANDONED AUTO AUCTION

Wednesday, March 11
At
Sparks Towing
31797 Block St
Garden City, MI 48135
10am

| | | | |
|-----|------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | 1991 | Acura | JH4KA7674MC055055 |
| 2. | 1987 | GMC | 1GTFFK24K9KE501812 |
| 3. | 1984 | BUICK | 1G4AM47A4EH601074 |
| 4. | 1994 | BUICK | 1G4CU5217R1632212 |
| 5. | 1991 | PONTIAC | 1G2JU14T0M7530487 |
| 6. | 1990 | HYUNDAI | KMHVD32J6LV009523 |
| 7. | 1995 | CADILLAC | 1G6KD52B6SU270857 |
| 8. | 1997 | CHEVROLET | 1GCC51446VK217252 |
| 9. | 2000 | FORD | 1FAFP55S9YA103653 |
| 10. | 1999 | FORD | 2FMZA5145XBB58809 |
| 11. | 2000 | PONTIAC | 1G2HE52T3YM811991 |
| 12. | 1994 | BUICK | 1G4CU5218RH607911 |
| 13. | 1998 | PONTIAC | 1G2NE52T4WC749312 |
| 14. | 1994 | FORD | 1FAFP31X3RK196143 |
| 15. | 1997 | MERCURY | 1M2DV1114VDJ24900 |

Publish: March 5, 2009

CE08647100-2x3.5

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ORDINANCE # 09-004

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND §154.032, STANDARDS FOR TRASH DUMPSTERS OF CHAPTER 154 OF TITLE XV OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, P.A. 110 of 2006, as amended, authorizes a City Council to adopt and amend zoning ordinances that regulate the public health, safety and general welfare of persons and property; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Garden City held a public hearing on February 12, 2009 to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of Garden City, to amend Section 154.032, Standards for Trash Dumpsters; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission transmitted a summary of the comments received at the public hearing and its recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined at its meeting of February 23, 2009 that enacting said Zoning Ordinance Text amendment is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the City residents;

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

That Section 154.032, Standards for Trash Dumpsters of Chapter 154 of the Code of the City of Garden City be amended to read as follows:

Section 154.032 STANDARDS FOR TRASH DUMPSTERS

- (A) Location. Dumpsters shall be permitted in the side or rear yard, provided that no dumpster shall extend closer to the front of the lot than any portion of the principal structure, and provided further that the dumpster shall not encroach on a required parking area, is clearly accessible to servicing vehicles, and is located at least ten feet from any building. Dumpsters shall comply with the setback requirements for the district in which they are located. Dumpsters shall be located as far as practicable from any adjoining residential district.
- (B) Concrete Pad. Dumpsters shall be placed on a concrete pad. The concrete pad should extend a minimum of three feet in front of the dumpster enclosure.
- (C) Screening. Dumpsters shall be screened from view from adjoining property and public streets and thoroughfares. Dumpsters shall be screened on three side with a permanent building decorative masonry wall similar in material and/or color of the main structure, not less than six feet in height or at least six inches above the height of the enclosed dumpster, whichever is taller. The fourth side of the dumpster screening shall be equipped with an opaque, lockable, metal gate that is the same height as the enclosure around the other three sides. Commercial grade slats are required for a chain link gate.
- (D) Bollards. Bollards (concrete-filled metal posts) or similar protective devices shall be installed at the opening to prevent damage to the dumpster enclosure.
- (E) Site Plan Requirements. The location and method of screening of dumpsters shall be shown on all site plans and approved by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission encourages the sharing of dumpsters by businesses.
- (F) Exception. The Planning Commission may modify or waive the requirements of this section upon a determination that the location, screening, or removal of refuse will be handled in a manner acceptable to the Planning Commission. If the Planning Commission waives the requirement for a dumpster on the site, the site plan shall show a future dumpster location to be built when or if the use of the building changes prior to occupancy.

REPEAL:
All Ordinances or parts of other ordinances in conflict herewith and the same are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY:
This Ordinance and the various parts, sentences, paragraphs, sections, and clauses it contains are hereby declared to be severable. Should any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by any court for any reason such judgment shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance in whole or in part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Furthermore, should the application of any provision of this Ordinance to a particular property, building, or structure be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the application of said provision to any other property, building, or structure in the City, unless otherwise stated in the judgment.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE**

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the City Council of Garden City at a regular meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2009.

Published: March 5, 2009
Resolution #09-02-037

CE08646474_2x1.5



ORDINANCE # 09-005

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND §154.240, R-3, MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENT DISTRICT, SECTIONS § 154.241 PERMITTED USES AND STRUCTURES, SUBSECTION (6) AND §154.242, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, SUBSECTION (A) OF CHAPTER 154 OF TITLE XV OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, P.A. 110 of 2006, as amended, authorizes a City Council to adopt and amend zoning ordinances that regulate the public health, safety and general welfare of persons and property; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Garden City held a public hearing on February 12, 2009 to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of Garden City, to amend Section 154.240, R-3, Multiple-family Resident District; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission transmitted a summary of the comments received at the public hearing and its recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined at its meeting of February 23, 2009 that enacting said Zoning Ordinance Text amendment is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the City residents;

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

That Section 154.240, R-3, Multiple-family Resident District, §154.241 Permitted Uses and Structures, Subsection (6) and §154.242, Development Standards, Subsection (A) of Chapter 154 of the Code of the City of Garden City be amended to read as follows:

§ 154.241 Permitted Uses and Structures

- (A) *Principal uses and structures.* In all areas zoned R-3 Multiple-Family Resident District, no building shall be erected, used, or structurally altered, nor shall the land or premises be used in whole or in part, except for one or more of the following principal permitted uses:
 1. Single-family attached dwellings or townhouses, as defined in § 154.005.
 2. Multiple-family dwellings, including apartments, terrace apartments, and townhouses.
 3. Two-family dwellings
 4. Publicly-owned and operated parks, parkways, and recreational facilities.
 5. Private parks owned and maintained by a homeowners association or the proprietor of a housing project.
 6. State licensed residential facility which provide resident service for six or fewer persons such as family day care homes, adult foster care family homes, foster family homes, or foster family group homes, subject to the regulations in § 206 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006 being MCL § 125.3206, as amended.

- 7. Essential Services, subject to the provisions of §154.034.
- 8. Uses and structures accessory to the above, subject to the provisions set forth in §154.022, including, but not necessarily limited to the following
 1. Private swimming pools for the exclusive use of the residents and their guests.
 2. In a new housing development, temporary use of a residence as a model during the period of construction and selling or leasing of homes in the development.
 3. Private garages, carports, community garages, or parking lots.
 4. Signs, subject to the provisions of Chapter 153.

(B) *Special land uses.*
No changes to remainder of this sub-section.

§ 154.242 Development Standards

- (A) *Site plan review.* Site plan review and approval is required for all uses except detached single-family residential uses and a two-family dwelling, in accordance with §§ 154.401 through 154.404.
No changes to the remainder of the Section.

REPEAL:
All Ordinances or parts of other ordinances in conflict herewith and the same are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY:
This Ordinance and the various parts, sentences, paragraphs, sections, and clauses it contains are hereby declared to be severable. Should any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by any court for any reason such judgment shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance in whole or in part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Furthermore, should the application of any provision of this Ordinance to a particular property, building, or structure be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the application of said provision to any other property, building, or structure in the City, unless otherwise stated in the judgment.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE**

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the City Council of Garden City at a regular meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2009.

Published: March 5, 2009
Resolution # 09-02-038

CE08646475_4x3



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Edison Elementary students learn a few dance moves to kick off their reading challenge.

READING

FROM PAGE A1

Web site which offered a list of suggested titles and even trivia questions. DeCamillo's book, a Newbery Award for children's literature, was among them.

"It's our first attempt at doing this, it's really to encourage reading at home," she said.

Winn Dixie is the story of a young girl who goes "to the grocery store to buy a box of macaroni and cheese, some rice and two tomatoes and comes back with a dog." According to first-grade teacher Mary Jo Drefts, it's a family story in which kids can relate to pets. It goes well with a collection that the school did in December for the Michigan Humane Society. The agency will be stopping by this month to talk to students about homeless pets like Winn Dixie.

"It ties it all together," she said.

Drefts read youngsters the first page of the story, then advised her students to only read one chapter at a time, so they will be able to answer the weekly quizzes.

No problem for Ashley, she already knows the story and offers a bit more of the plot than the one page her teacher read.

"She and her father put up signs, but nobody comes to get the dog, so she gets to keep it," said Ashley. "You know her mother left when she was 3."

As part of One School, One Book, a Winn Dixie Museum will be set up in one of the

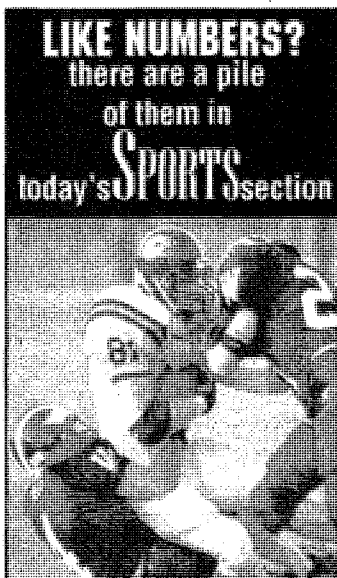
classrooms. Drawings or anything students bring in related to the book will be displayed in there. Some teachers also will decorate their doors for the month, Drefts said.

Students who read the book and met reading goals for January and February also will get to attend a school dance. Teacher Tim Sullivan introduced youngsters to dancing at an assembly last week and even showed a video clip of 8-year-old ballroom dancers.

Back in Drefts' room, she was explaining what she wanted the youngsters to do with the book, including keeping it at home.

"What I want you to do with your family tonight is read together," she said. "Everybody in the school will read this book. It will be like we have an Edison Book Club."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751



Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is hosting an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. Willow Creek is accepting enrollment into our Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3 year and 4 year programs. Willow Creek is at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Coffee Hour

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, March 9, at the at the William P. Faust Public

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. 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.

AROUND WESTLAND

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 9, 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.

League meeting

The League of Women

Voters of Northwest Wayne County is inviting the public to their meeting at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Michigan Room of the Livonia Civic Center Library on Five Mile east of Farmington Road. Hugh Gallagher, managing editor of the Observer Newspapers, will speak about the changes in print journalism, including the recent changes at the Observer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI, March 21, 2009 @ 1:05 PM.

#245 Terry Kucharski
#250 Teresa Schoolcraft/Sandra Stothers
#307 John McRoy
#354 Crystal Sandel
#422 M. Nunez
#509 Arnold Winters
#1232 Willie Booker
Units contain: boat - misc household items.

Publish: March 5 & 12, 2009

DQ OF GARDEN CITY

\$2.00 OFF
Any Frozen Cake

-or-

\$1.00 OFF
Any Waffle Bowl

Hey, everybody...the Garden City Dairy Queen is Open...
So Spring must be coming soon!

28825 Ford Road • (1/4 mile E. of Middlebelt)
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**CITY OF WESTLAND
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
2009 SCHEDULE FOR
BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS**

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Monday, March 9 | 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon | 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. |
| Tuesday, March 10 | 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. | 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. |
| Wednesday, March 11 | 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon | 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. |
| Thursday, March 12 | 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. | 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. |

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CITYOFWESTLAND.COM
<http://www.cityofwestland.com/> & GO TO ASSESSMENT.
IF NEEDED, CALL (734) 467-3160
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.**

Board of Review Meetings will be held at Westland City Hall
2nd Floor - Council Chambers
36601 Ford Road
Westland, MI 48185

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 12, 2009

Publish: March 5, 2009

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE**

**ORDINANCE # 09-003
PURCHASING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 35.02 - 35.08, Purchasing, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Garden City.

- 35.02 PURCHASES OR CONTRACTS OVER \$8,000.00.**
Any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, or equipment, the price of which exceeds, or is estimated to exceed, \$8,000.00 in value, shall require approval of the City Council after receiving sealed bids in accordance with this chapter. Products and services available only from a single source will not require sealed bids. The City Manager shall determine available source(s) for a product or service.
- 35.03 PURCHASES OR CONTRACTS BETWEEN \$5,000.01 AND \$8,000.00.**
Any purchase or contract for supplies, material, or equipment, the price of which is, or is estimated to be, of a value between \$5,000.01 and \$8,000.00, shall require the approval of the City Manager after receiving sealed bids in accordance with this chapter. Products and services available only from a single source will not require sealed bids. The City Manager shall determine available source(s) for a product or service.
- 35.04 PURCHASES OR CONTRACTS BETWEEN \$2,000.01 AND \$5,000.00.**
Any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, or equipment, the price of which is, or is estimated to be, of a value between \$2,000.01 and \$5,000.00, shall require the approval of the City Manager after receiving three quotes or diligently attempting to obtain three quotes from qualified suppliers. Products and services available only from a sole source will not require three quotes. The City Manager shall determine available source(s) for a product or service.
- 35.05 PURCHASES OR CONTRACTS BETWEEN \$500.01 AND \$2,000.00.**
Any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, or equipment, the price of which is, or is estimated to be, of a value between \$500.01 and \$2,000.00, shall require the approval of the Department Head after receiving three quotes or diligently attempting to obtain three quotes from qualified suppliers. Products and services available only from a sole source will not require three quotes. The Department Head shall determine available source(s) for a product or service.
- 35.06 PURCHASES OR CONTRACTS \$500.00 AND BELOW.**
Any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, or equipment, the price of which is or is estimated to be of a value of \$500.00 or less shall require only the approval of the Department Head.
- 35.07 FEDERAL, STATE, OR INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.**
Where there is a federal, state, interlocal government consortium conducting mass purchases of goods or services on a competitive basis, the city may purchase in collaboration with these units without complying with the competitive bidding practices of this chapter.
- 35.08 EMERGENCY PURCHASES.**
(A) The City Manager, in case of emergency, may purchase directly any supplies, materials, or equipment not costing in excess of \$5,000 when immediate procurement is in the best interest of the City. The City Manager shall certify in writing that the emergency exists, and detail the reasons for his claimed emergency and why he is waiving formal bidding procedures. The City Manager shall file his certification and reasons for waiving bidding procedures with the City Clerk.
(B) For emergency purchases exceeding \$5,000, the City Manager shall meet the requirements of § 35.07 (A), and obtain City Council approval at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

REPEAL.
All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, except as herein provided, are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SEVERABILITY.
If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

SAVINGS CLAUSE.
The repeal or amendment herein shall not abrogate or affect any offense or act committed or done, or any penalty or forfeiture incurred, or any pending litigation or prosecution of any right established or occurring prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, as amended.

SECTION 6. PUBLICATION.
The City Clerk of Garden City shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE.
This Ordinance shall take full force and effect upon publication.

Allyson M. Bettis, Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish: March 5, 2009 Adopted: February 23, 2009

PLEA

FROM PAGE A1

something wrong with her to throw her kid in the garbage. If they can get her some help, I'm satisfied with that."

Gartrell has been free on bond and staying with a cousin since shortly after the incident. She will start serving her time when she is formally sentenced April 29 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Richard Skutt, who accepted her plea Wednesday.

Gartrell has been allowed supervised visits with her baby, who will be 2 in April, and her older daughter. The children have been in the custody of their grandparents.

"She has made some great strides," Resnick said, adding that he believed the sentence was "harsh" but more acceptable to Gartrell than a potentially much longer prison term.

When asked how Gartrell is doing, he said, "She's distraught. There isn't a day that she doesn't regret her actions. She still has some very strong issues of depression and other mental health issues."

Gartrell's case had been long delayed as experts sought to determine whether she was competent for court proceedings and whether she could be held criminally responsible for her actions. Ultimately, she was ruled competent.

Resnick held out hope that Gartrell will be released from prison after serving the lesser time of her sentence.

"I would hope that they would release her as soon as possible," he said. "It's just a very sad, troubling case."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

TV, jewelry taken in break-in

1 A 53-year-old man who lives in the 2400 block of South John Hix, north of Glenwood, reported that someone broke into his house between 6 p.m. Feb. 23 and 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24, stealing a flat-screen television and assorted gold chains and necklaces.

According to police reports, entry was gained by forcing open a screen door that first led to a breezeway and then to the main door. The intruder smashed the glass on the main door, placed a rubber mattress over the opening and crawled into the residence.

The television, valued at \$650, was taken from the living room. The jewelry, valued at \$1,000, was stolen from an upstairs bedroom.

Truck's tailgate stolen

2 A 48-year-old Ypsilanti woman told police that the tailgate of her 2004 Chevy pickup was stolen while she was inside Westland Shopping Center on the evening of Feb. 24. She didn't realize it was missing until she arrived home.

Homeless man ticketed

3 Police issued a ticket to a 48-year-old homeless man who admitted he got drunk, went to Dunkin Donuts on Ford near Wildwood and refused to leave, hoping he would be arrested so he

POLICE BRIEFS

would have a place to stay.

The incident happened about 8:15 p.m. Feb. 23, the same day the man had been placed on probation in Westland 18th District Court for being disorderly.

"The defendant, who is homeless, goes from business to business because he has nowhere to go, begs, then either calls 911 or has someone call 911 for him," according to police reports.

A Dunkin Donuts manager said the man came in, bought a small coffee, sat down and began asking employees and customers for cigarettes. One customer gave him one, but he was told he couldn't smoke inside the doughnut shop and that he would have to leave.

The man came back in a short time later and said his car had been stolen, even though he walked to the location. The man then asked the manager to call 911 because he was having a seizure. Police responded and found the suspect to be drunk and acting in ways he has behaved in the past.

An officer asked the homeless man why he hadn't gone to a shelter near Palmer and Wildwood, and he told police that he had been planning to go the follow-

ing day. The suspect was issued a citation for trespassing and being disorderly.

Money stolen from coin boxes

4 The owner of Glen Arms Apartments, northeast of Glenwood and Wayne roads, reported that someone went into a basement laundry room and broke into the coin boxes of two clothes dryers and one washing machine, taking the money inside.

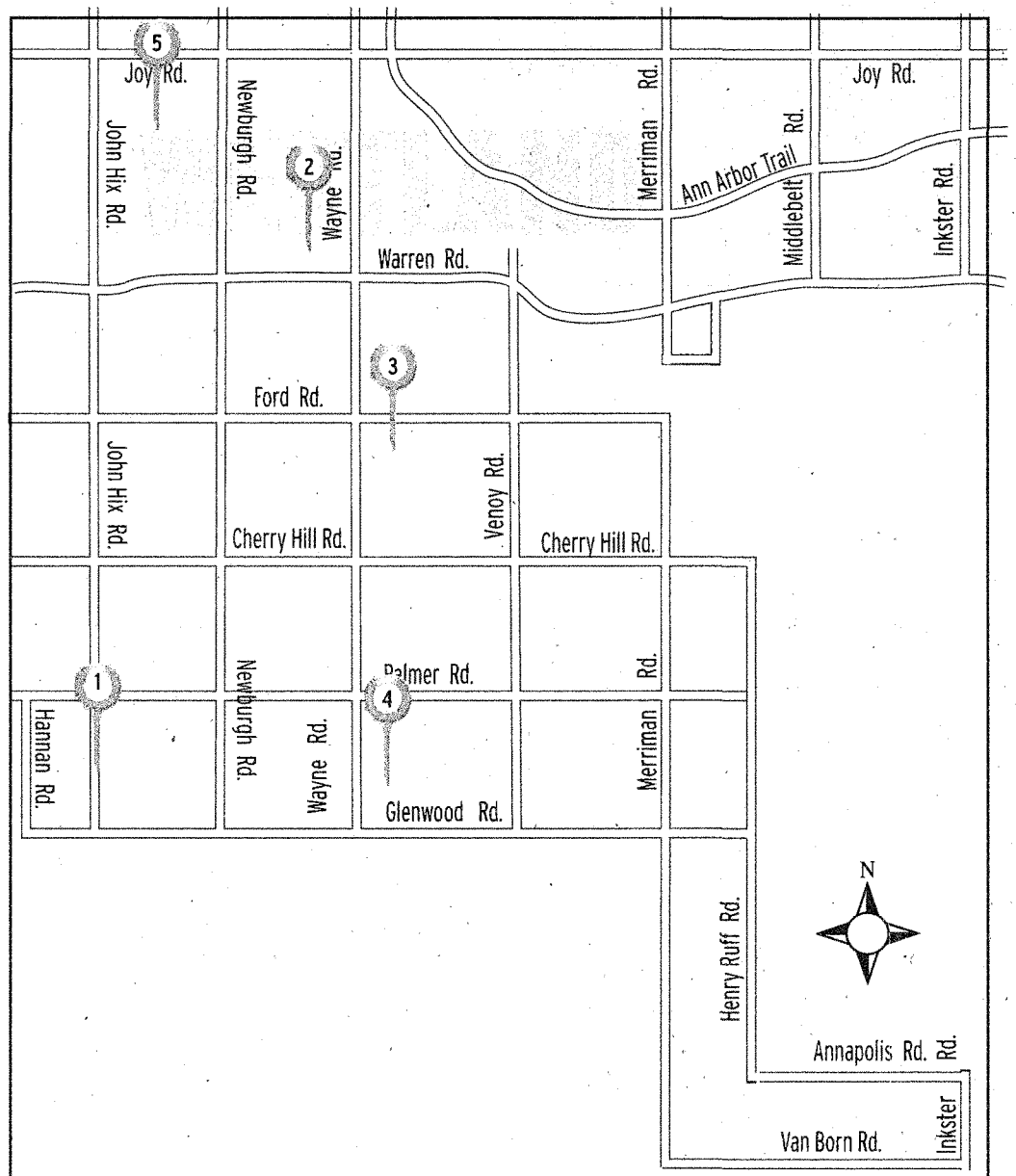
The incident happened between 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24 and 10 a.m. Feb. 25. A police report noted that there didn't appear to be any signs of forced entry into the laundry room, raising questions about whether a tenant may have been involved.

The copper gas lines to the machines also had been cut, according to police reports.

Jewelry, computer missing

5 A 19-year-old woman told police that someone broke into her Westwood Village apartment, south of Joy between Hix and Newburgh, sometime around 1:30-5:30 p.m. Feb. 23. She said they took a Compaq laptop computer, a Cartier necklace and bracelet, and two digital cameras.

-By Darrell Clem



Firefighters extinguish fire in loading tunnel under mall

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A tractor caught fire under Westland Shopping Center while it was being worked on Saturday in a loading tunnel that runs underneath the city's largest retail mall, a fire official said.

No one was injured during the fire that started around 9:30 a.m., Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Tenniswood said.

The blaze created a large amount of smoke in the tunnel area, but shoppers and employees inside the mall mostly noticed a petroleum-like odor, Tenniswood said.

"The mall had only been open for a little while," he said. "There was not a terrible amount of fire, but it was gasoline that was burning, so it just made a tremendous amount of smoke (in the tunnel)."

Firefighters walked through the mall with moni-

tors to check for any carbon monoxide buildup but didn't find a problem, Tenniswood said.

"We never got a single reading on carbon monoxide," he said.

Still, firefighters opened the mall doors to ventilate the building, and they set up

fans in the loading tunnel to clear the smoke.

Westland firefighters had help from departments in Garden City, Wayne and Inkster as part of a mutual aid program. Tenniswood commended all involved in the response.

"These guys did a nice job,"

he said.

Firefighters remained on the scene for about two hours. Mayor William Wild publicly commended their efforts Monday during a Westland City Council meeting.

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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

It's Nickel Day

It won't matter what the weather is Saturday, March 7, when King Kone opens for the season with its annual Nickel Day. Chocolate, vanilla or twist cones will sell for 5 cents each - sprinkles and toppings are extra - from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the ice cream stand at 31051 Ford, east of Merriman. This is the 19th year owner Jeri Stollings has opened for the season with Nickel Day. King Kone will be open daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.. Hours will be extended once spring - and warmer weather - arrives.

Help at Tax Time

Juanita Francis of JFL Diversified Business Consulting Services in Ferndale is offering to eliminate the grief with tax relief by offering services at her Westland Office at Westland Meadows. Call (248) 968-5894 for an appointment. Francis offers competitive rates, electronic filing, online filing at www.1040.com/jfldiversified (no need to come in office), rapid refund, gift certificates, customer win back discount (15 percent off), senior citizen's discounts, group discount

for churches, schools and community organizations, Notary Public services and lunch bonuses - "Get your taxes done by me in one hour or it's free."

Touch of classic

Art Van, which is celebrating 50 years in Michigan, is sponsoring the Detroit's Classic TV Personalities exhibit coming to the Detroit Historical Museum. The exhibit will feature seven television personalities, including Bill Bonds, John Kelly, Bill Kennedy, Emery King, Amyre Makupson, Soupy Sales and Marilyn Turner. Each carved a unique niche in Detroit's highly competitive television market. The exhibit features artifacts as well as footage from their original broadcasts. Area residents can stop by any metro Detroit Art Van store, including the one 8300 Wayne Road north of Warren Road in Westland, March 15 through March 29 to receive a coupon good toward 2-for-1 admission to the Museum. The exhibit open March 14 and runs through Sept. 6 at the Detroit Historical Museum. For more information, go online to DetroitHistorical.org.

Breaking the Boundaries

Members from 16 Chambers of Commerce from the western suburbs, including Westland and Garden City, will have an After-Hours 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, all under the roof of Burton Manor on Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, in Livonia, to "Break the Boundaries" and do some serious networking. Cost is \$10 per person and \$25 for an expo table. Call the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222 or the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448 for more information.

Clearance sale

Materials Unlimited is having its first ever clearance sale in the 30 plus year history of the store. Now through March 14, selected items will be marked down 20-70 percent off. Materials Unlimited is located at 2 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. 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.

ONGOING

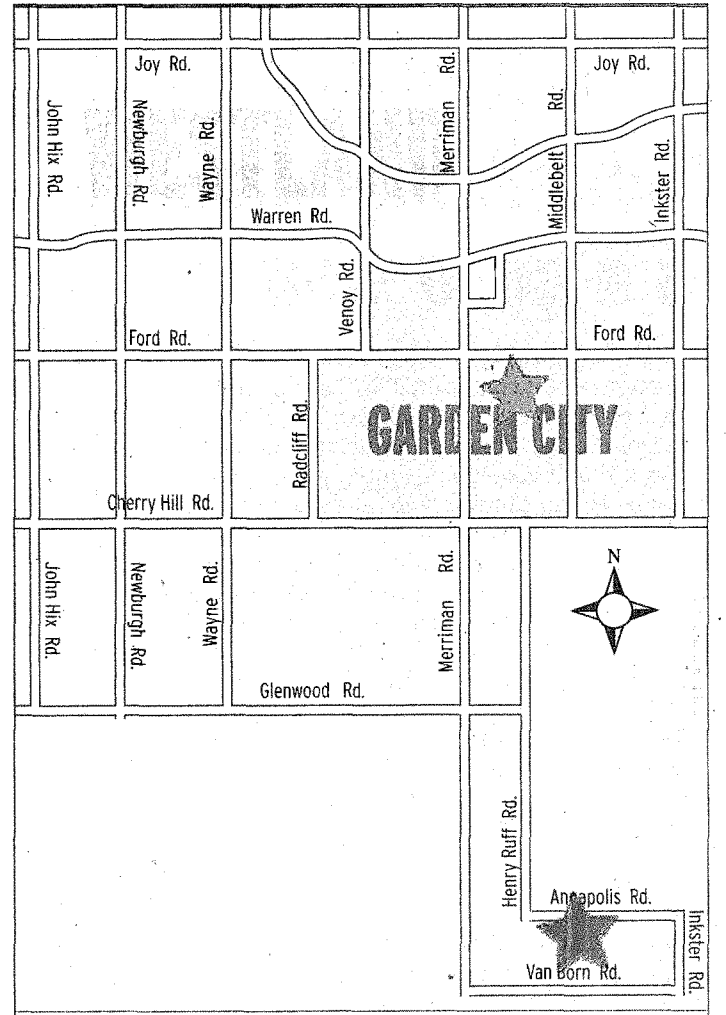
Copper Country treat

Mention pasties and you automatically think of Michigan's Upper

Peninsula. You can get one of those Copper Country favorites at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe at 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The pasties are made from an old family recipe that's been passed down for generations. They made with ground sirloin, potatoes, rutabaga, onions and carrots. They are old-fashioned and made fresh in the bakery by Baker Charlie. Stop by and try one. Also available are chicken pot pies and pizza rolls. Call (734) 261-3680 or (888) 715-4479 at least an hour before and Charlie will bake them for you. You can pick them up hot and ready for lunch or dinner.

SEND IT

Get in on the Strictly Business Page of the Westland and Garden City Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Sue Mason, editor, at smason@hometownlife.com and she'll take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Westland and Garden City Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We look forward to hearing from you.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Marty Hynes decided to start Hynes Electrical & Home Maintenance turning his knowledge and skills in electrical and home maintenance into a business after losing his job as a supervisor at a tool manufacturing company.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hynes: Understands customer's needs

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

I can do electrical-service panels, lighting, wiring, pre-appliance installation, garbage disposals, etc., and plumbing - hot water tanks, sinks, faucets, piping, toilets, minor clogs. In home maintenance, I can do interior doors, woodworking, general repairs. I also do complete lawn care-snow removal, residential.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

I'm outgoing, personable, able to work well with customers to understand their needs and costs.

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

HYNES ELECTRICAL & HOME MAINTENANCE

Business name: Hynes Electrical & Home Maintenance

Address: 33634 Leona, Garden City

Name and Title: Martin Hynes, Owner

Business Opened: October 2002

Number of Employees: 1

Business specialty: Electrical and home maintenance

Hours: As needed

Business phone and Web site: (734) 748-8874, hynsburg@comcast.net

After losing my job as a supervisor at a tool manufacturing company, I

decided to turn my knowledge and skills in electrical and home maintenance into a business, fulfilling a dream. How did you decide to locate in the Garden City community?

I have lived here my entire life.

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

A customer called about her landing light that wouldn't work, she had changed the bulb 10 times before she called me. I walked in and flipped the switch at the bottom of the stairs instead of at the top of the stairs and the light came on. She was absolutely mortified, she didn't even know what the switch at the bottom of the stairs was for.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Marketing coordinator

Realcomp II Ltd., Michigan's largest online real estate Multiple Listing Services provider, has promoted Catina Willis as marketing coordinator from customer care representative. Willis will be responsible for expanding the awareness of Realcomp, its products and services, including the new MoveInMichigan.com, set to debut later this year.

Willis has served with Realcomp for more than 11 years in a range of positions. As customer care representative, she was responsible for assisting callers with computer connectivity problems and troubleshooting, along with providing documentation for Realcomp's support team. Realcomp currently has more than 11,000 Realtor members serving Southeast Michigan.

"Catina's knowledge and experience with virtually all areas of Realcomp puts her in an ideal position to provide immense benefit to our market-

ing department," said Karen Kage, CEO of Realcomp II, Ltd. "She is a valuable member of our team, and we look forward to the increased role she will play within our organization."

Willis received her bachelor of science degree in business from Davenport University in 2007 with a specialization in Web design and promotion. She lives in Westland.

Joins Invescor

Pamela Jeffries has joined Invescor, Ltd. as a compliance specialist.

Jeffries works directly with Invescor's Chief Compliance Officer to monitor overall compliance at the firm, with a primary focus on researching Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and state securities regulations. Jeffries also recommends changes to Invescor's documents and pro-



Jeffries

cedures to maintain compliance as new securities regulations are introduced.

Jeffries comes to Invescor from a financial planning firm where she served as vice-president and general counsel and was responsible for ensuring the firm's compliance with FINRA rules and regulations and managing back office operations. Jeffries obtained her Series 7 and 63 registrations in 2006, and her 65, 24, Life and Accident & Health licenses in 2007.

Jeffries earned a bachelor of arts degree from University of Michigan, received her juris doctor degree from Duke University School of Law, and was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1995. Jeffries is a Westland resident.

Invescor Ltd., based in Farmington Hills, is focused exclusively on life settlement back office and brokerage services to broker-dealers, insurance companies, financial advisory firms and independent agents.

CHAMBER CHAT

Garden City Chamber

New to the chamber this year is a static membership decal that's being given to all renewing chamber members to proudly display on their business storefront window. The decal will take the place of the membership plaques.

The board believes that the decals will better portray the businesses current membership. The decals will be distributed annually to the member business as they renew their dues.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following businesses for renewing their confidence and membership

investment with the Garden City Chamber of Commerce:

McK's Wine Shoppe, Reflections Family Hair Care, Osteopathic Medical, Oncology & Hematology, Certified Home Improvement, Sports Venue Bar & Grill, R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Kurth Agencies, Prestige Eyewear, Roma's Banquets of Garden City, Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center, Tru Temp Heating & Cooling, Hermann D. Banks M.D.

Affinity Group Credit Union, Doug's Auto Body, Carmack Appliance, Independent Carpet One, Jones Insurance Agency, Tri C Club Supply, Garden

City Public Schools, Garden City Veterinary Hospital, Metropolitan Lincoln-Mercury, State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, Michael S. Sherman D.O., Amantea Restaurant, Garden City - City Hall, Lona's Pizza, McDonalds Hamburgers, Elite Eye Care Center, Garden City Hospital, Dario's Italian Eatery, Platos Place.

Town-n-Country, New Life Center, Garden City Medical Center, Orin Jewelers, Garden City Exchange, James G. Armstrong, D.O., and the Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel.

Amelia Oliverio executive director

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LOCAL OPINION

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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.

OUR VIEWS

Submitting plans is a good sign

Friday's announcement that plans to clean up a portion of the contaminated Central City Park have been given to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is welcome news. And the fact that it comes at a time when the city and the county can tap into federal economic stimulus money is even better news.

Of course, we can't count our chickens before the eggs hatch. How quickly the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality moves on the plans remains to be seen. It's taken almost 2 1/2 years to get this point. Hopefully, it won't take another 2 1/2 years to get the plans approved.

The park was the city's recreational jewel, attracting thousands of visitors every year. That was until it was closed to the public in November 2006 and then fenced off in January 2007 because of the contamination. Even fenced off, the ball diamonds, soccer fields and playsets still look inviting beyond the chainlink fence.

Only 12 acres of the site will be cleaned up and reopened to the public. The remaining area will be fenced off. A geotextile membrane, fresh, clean soil and new landscaping will be used in areas where people would come in contact with the ground. In other areas, concrete and asphalt paving will provide a barrier.

Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp called the submission a milestone in the ongoing effort to remediate the park. He also hit the nail on the head when he said the city and county will be dependent on MDEQ to turn the plans around quickly.

While we hope the MDEQ moves quickly to allow the city and county to take advantage of the stimulus money, we also want to know that it will make sure all of the problems that have been identified over the past 2 1/2 years are addressed. Residents of this city were taken on a hellish ride when it became clear there was a problem with the park.

We need only look at the headlines from those days and months after it became known to see the fear that arose after each new revelation. Most likely the worst time was finding out that city and county officials knew years before it became public that there were problems with the park.

We are glad to see the next step has been taken in cleaning up the contamination, but we are saddened that more than half of the park will remain fenced off to the public. We hope that it is a temporary arrangement, that a set of plans will be drawn up to clean up that area. The park — the entire park — needs to be restored to its former crown jewel status.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Octagon House is beautiful

My wedding is one scheduled to take place there this spring! The woman who gave me the original tour said that because the house was moved from its original property it cannot be considered a "museum" which I assume means they can't get money from the state to help fix it up. The house is beautiful inside and I really hope that someone will donate their time and/or services to finish the remaining rooms that need to be fixed up!

jd81107

Join the discussion

What do you think about ...?

Gov. Jennifer Granholm says liquor sales and longer bar hours will bring in more money for Michigan's budget. Her plan involves liquor stores and restaurants selling spirits on Sunday mornings and bar owners buying permits to stay open until 4 a.m.

Do you think it's a good idea?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

WESTLAND OBSERVER



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Jeannie Parent
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of Sales &
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Executive Editor

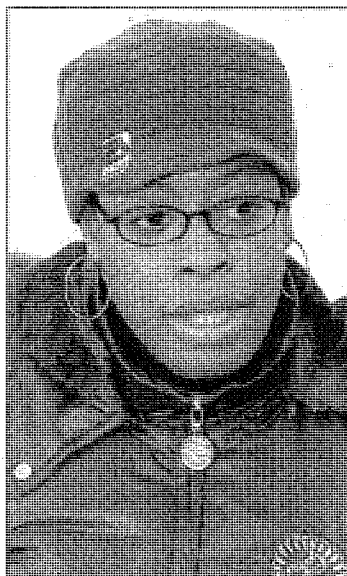
COMMUNITY VOICE

What would you do to turn the state's economy around? We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland and the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"It's not just Michigan, it's the whole country. We need to stop sending jobs to China."

Darla Biedsoe
Westland



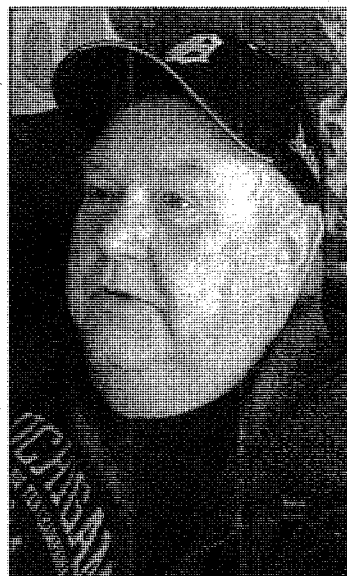
"The only thing I can think of is tax breaks so employers would get to keep their employees. If they'd get one, they should hire so many people so everyone benefits."

Kimberly Brittan
Detroit



"There's so much wrong, I don't know. I don't know where they should start."

Lori Echols
Garden City



"I really don't have a solution. If I did, I'd be in politics. I don't know what the solution is, but I'm a victim of the problem."

John Washburn
Garden City

LETTERS

Re-evaluate financial status

Sunday's edition, Feb. 22, 2009, of the *Westland Observer* had an article regarding the lost revenue for the 18th District Court.

To our absolute amazement and disappointment, Judge Cicirelli said "the revenue was due to a collective decision by the Westland police to curb their ticket-writing efforts last summer." Further, she said, "If we have the work, we generate funds."

This is absolutely appalling. What happened to the purpose of our judicial system? When did the focus become generating funds? Is this our purpose of the courts, to bring in money? Lord, save us!!!

So, if fewer tickets are written, that means there is less business for the courts? What a horrible deduction. It's like saying, go out and break the law so that our courts could have some business, rather than saying, the less business we have, hopefully, then society is improving.

This such an awful commentary on our judicial system. Making money off the backs of the violators, and then complaining that we don't have enough violations. Ugh!

It's time for this court not only to re-evaluate its financial status, but more importantly, its reasons for existence. As indicated in this same article, Councilmen Reeves and Johnson said that perhaps the court should look at in-house expenditures; consider the "hard cuts" that others are forced to make everywhere. Give up the cars, etc.

Also, Mayor Wild agreed, as we do, the law enforcement priorities change as the needs change. And heaven help us, if the only reason for the existence of our courts and for law enforcement is to generate revenue.

What happened to everyone's inner moral compass?

Jim and Mary Murphy
Westland

Gebhardt gets it done

Not unlike Fort McHenry, the U.S. Capitol, and a small section of a former rice paddy located well North of the 38th. Parallel in a section of Korea controlled by the First Marine Division during the winter of 1951, the headquarters of the Wayne County Parks Department flies the American flag on the up end of its flag pole.

This was not always true. I often walk by the park headquarters located in the old Nankin Mill, and last November I noticed that there was no flag on their very tall pole. I stopped in the park office and explained to the receptionist, that as the country was at war I felt government offices, to show proper respect for the folks in the military, should fly the American flag.

She indicated that she would see that my concern was passed up the line. In December, I again registered my concern, and in January I telephoned and asked to speak with the director of the parks department. She was away and

What do you think?

Mail comments to the *Westland Observer*, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to smason@hometownlife.com.

her assistant said that there was no rope on the pole and a cherry picker would be required to attach a rope, and that running that equipment up the walk would be bad for the decorative pavers. Sounded good, but I telephoned our new county commissioner Joan Gebhardt and explained the situation to her. She listened and called back the next day to say she had talked with someone at the parks department and there were many reasons for not getting a flag on the pole, but that she would pursue the matter as she also felt that the county offices should display our country's flag particularly during a time of war. In less than a week there was a flag flying over the parks department headquarters.

Congratulations, Joan Gebhardt, and thanks for caring and getting things done.

Jim Cook
Westland

Time to clean house

I am sick and tired of taking it on the chin every time something goes wrong in Washington. Congress always goes over budget, they've never come under budget and when they need more money, they steal more of mine. They don't ask, they just pass a law or bill and take it.

I've done what I'm supposed to do, paid my mortgage, my bills, insurance and kept my credit spending to where I can afford it. Basically, if I don't have the money, I don't spend it. I save the credit cards for an emergency, like a plumbing problem or a car problem, yet Congress thinks I should give more because they cannot work inside a budget.

Now we have the mortgage crisis. Congress created this mess by forcing banks to lend to people that couldn't afford the payments and some of the people were also at fault because they knew they couldn't make the payments, but when a savvy sales agent says, "Well, you can refinance down the road and get a new deal so you can afford the payment and besides, you'll also be making more money by then," people want the house so they believe.

It's time Washington takes it on the chin. Senators and representatives voted themselves a raise, they should vote themselves a pay cut, a DEEP pay cut. They need to get rid of some of their offices and staff, lay them off like the auto industry is made to do. They should drive to work as opposed to flying, no more traveling, period! The problems are here and here is where they should be.

Senators and representatives should be required to work for minimum wage, have the same health insurance we have, as well as the same retirement plans.

I've had enough of government intru-

sion in my life. Every time I think I might get ahead, they do something else to make sure I stay down. I get a little raise, they cause gas prices to increase or insurance rates increase because of their policies. I also had to close a business I had for 21 years because of "trade policies" made in Congress.

They do nothing to help us taxpayers that play by the rules. They are going to bail out these homeowner who are losing their homes because of bad decisions. I don't mind helping those that truly are screwed because of no fault of their own, but there's no reason to bail-out someone who makes \$40,000 a year and live in a home that costs \$3,000 a month

Where's the help for people like me? We've done everything right and yet we are the ones who have to pay for all this.

The auto industry asked for loans to save our manufacturing base and jobs and Congress berated them for their spending and what Congress considered "waste" over the years. This "waste" is what built this country and was responsible for the rise of our middle class which paid for all these government programs! Congress never has to answer to anyone, it seems when they are constantly spending more than they take in!

Now Nancy Pelosi wants to take our IRAs and 401(k)s and invest them and tell us how much we will get from these? I don't think so! We need to do some serious house cleaning in Washington!

Phil Solarz
Westland

Give a dog, cat a home

Due to poor economic times, there appears to be a rise of random home invasions and theft. One solution would be to install an alarm system, but the best, wisest and most practical would be to "get a dog." They are the best deterrent to would-be criminals scoping out potential victims.

Dogs that are well socialized, loved, and cared for will defend you and your home because of their committed devotion. So do yourself a favor and contact a shelter or rescue group in your area. Bring a dog into your home and make them a part of your family, which is an investment that never depreciates!

Approximately 10 million dogs/cats will be left at U.S. shelters this year, and half will be euthanized due to lack of homes (HSUS estimate). This is the No. 1 cause of death for healthy animals!

I am in contact daily with many rescue groups across the state seeking permanent homes for many breeds of dogs and puppies. Time is running out, most shelters/rescue groups are full to capacity. Please consider adopting one today!

If you know anyone thinking about breeding their dog or cat, please ask them to reconsider. If you would like more information on adopting a dog or cat, please feel free to contact me at swissamerican@comcast.net.

Barbara Mays
Garden City

pink

Wendy Von Buskirk, Editor • (313) 222-8883 • wvonb@hometownlife.com

Fashion is War at Go Red Luncheon

Well, dear readers, I won the purse.

Some of you read my column a few weeks ago on the silent auction that was part of the American Heart Association's Metro Detroit Go Red For Women Luncheon, held Feb. 25 at the Renaissance Center.

I helped collect about 30 purses for the event, and fell in love with one.

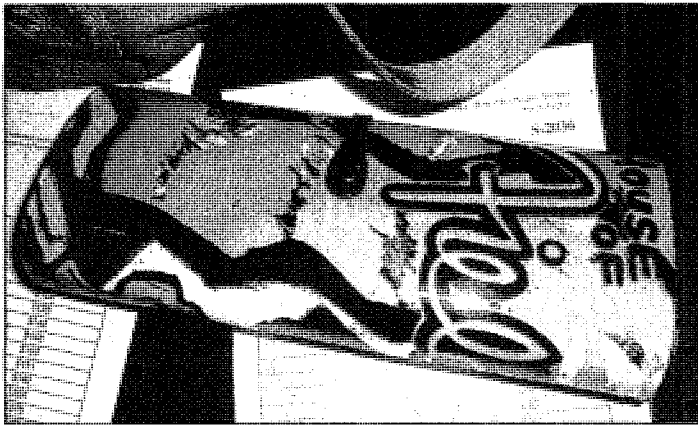
I became determined to win it, secretly hoping no one else would recognize its value.

The coveted clutch was donated by Patricia Field, award-winning stylist for "Sex & the City." Field is a genius when it comes to mixing unexpected pieces into revolutionary ensembles.

When "The Devil Wears Prada" needed the world's vogue-est wardrobe, who do you think they called?

A fellow fashionista at the Go Red luncheon knew, and she was not leaving that purse's side.

Participating in a silent auction is like waging a military



Spoils of war: the House of Field clutch Patricia Field donated to the Metro Detroit Go Red for Women Luncheon on Feb. 25.

campaign. You must stake out your target, identify your challengers, and attack at precisely the right moment.

It takes bravery. Stamina. And a good friend to use as cover. My strategy was to lurk about 10 feet away, "chatting" with fellow O&E reporter Linda Chomin and keeping an eagle eye on my arch rival. She was so excited about owning that handbag she could hardly contain herself. This wasn't going to be pretty.

The war of attrition gave me plenty of time to explain to Linda why I should spend money I don't have on a purse I

don't need. After all, I met Patricia Field in 2005 when she visited Metro Detroit to host styling seminars at Marshall Field's Somerset. I even joined her for dinner at Forte in Birmingham, witnessing how she turned heads with her fiery magenta hair and age-defying outfit.

When it came time to collect purses for the auction, I wrote to Field at the Hotel Venus in New York, requesting a donation. It was a long shot, but it turned out she was among the first to respond — by sending the little magazine-style clutch from her House of Field label.

Recommended starting bid? \$62. She is so modest.

See, the purse has personal meaning, I told Linda. I could even hand it down to my daughter someday. An heirloom.

She humored me to go for it. My window of opportunity arrived four minutes before the end of the auction, when my opponent made a grave tactical error. She phoned a friend.

Distracted, she wandered into the banquet hall, breathlessly gushing about the purse into her cell phone.

Like a sniper, I swooped in at the closing bell, edging my final bid onto the filled sheet.

When the auction results were circulated, my nemesis, who wouldn't you know wound up sitting at my table, leafed through the sheets to see if she'd won.

And there was my name, Wendy Von Buskirk, Confessions of a Shopaholic, \$80.

It was a small price to pay for victory, and the spoils are absolutely divine.

Wendy Von Buskirk is features editor and fashion writer for Observer & Eccentric newspapers. She is scared to use her new clutch for fear of staining its fabulous red shantung lining.

MALLS & MAIN STREETS

HOT HOUSE BEAUTY

TROY — Celebrate "Hot House Beauty" during Spring 2009 Beauty Week at Saks Fifth Avenue through March 7. With any \$75 purchase in cosmetics and fragrance, choose your gift of a beauty bag in lilac, orange or brown complete with samples from Clarin's Dior, Kiehl's and more. With any beauty purchase of \$100 or more, receive a \$50 gift card toward highlight service at The Salon & Spa at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection, Troy. Call (248) 643-9000.

VICTORIAN FASHION TEA

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth Historical Museum will host "Tea Time Togs" 2-5 p.m. March 8. The event features traditional high tea catered by Sweet Afton Tea Room, along with a display of popular tea garb from 1830-1910. Pam Yockey, a textile historian, will have a team of models wearing nineteenth-century attire from her personal collection. Tickets, \$20, may be purchased in advance at the museum, 155 S. Main St., or using PayPal at www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html. Call (734) 455-8940.

BRIDAL SAMPLE SALE

TROY — The Bridal Salon at Macy's Somerset will host its semi-annual Sample Sale March 10-15. Designer bridal gowns and accessories are 50-75 percent off. Find Vera Wang, Reem Acra, Anne Barge, Romona Keveza, Justina McCaffrey, Lazaro, Watters and Watters, and more. Purchase a gown and get 10 percent off accessory and bridesmaid purchases. Sales are final. Book an appointment at (248) 816-4270.

GRANT CLOTHIERS SHOW

BIRMINGHAM — Grant Williams of Grant Clothiers will host a Spring/Summer Trunk Show Open House 6-9 p.m. March 12. Relax, sip cocktails, and get a

sneak preview of the season's hottest spring and summer fashions including custom suits, shirts and casual wear for men. Additional show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 13 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 14. Williams, a former golf pro at Inverness and Oakland Hills country club, has been a custom clothier for more than 13 years. He was the official clothier of the 2004 Ryder Cup team and currently coordinates the wardrobe for Golf Channel Anchor Rich Lerner.

Grant Clothiers, at 725 S. Adams in Adams Square, also offers 12-day turn around service for custom work and alterations by Master Tailor Dino Mitropoulos. Call (248) 645-2702.

VINTAGE APPAREL SHOW

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Wheels & Deals Promotions Inc. will present The Bloomfield Hills Jewelry & Vintage Apparel Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 14 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave. The show will have some of the area's best dealers, displaying antique, costume and designer jewelry and vintage apparel from the Victorian to the 1980s. \$5 adults, kids under 12 free. Over 45 dealers and 135 tables at the last show. Call (248) 797-2112.

GOLD RUSH DAY

BIRMINGHAM — The Community House will join Astrein's Creative Jewelers to present "Gold Rush Day," 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 21, 380 S. Bates St. Sell unwanted 14 karat and 18 karat gold and platinum jewelry for full fair market value. Jeweler Richard Astrein will offer confidential appraisals and free removal of gemstones and diamonds while donating 10 percent of the day's proceeds to The Community House. Free. Walk-ins welcome. E-mail kathien@communityhouse.com.

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Get rich quick schemes: They make woes worse

Over the last few weeks, I have given a number of talks at public libraries on helping investors during difficult financial times. I tell investors I have no idea when things will begin to turn around, but I am confident they will.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

This recession is deeper and longer than anyone anticipated, particularly for Michigan. However, our economy has experienced numerous recessions over the years and it has always bounced back. That is one reason for my optimism.

At one library presentation, a middle-aged man discussed an ad that told of a strategy to help people recoup losses from their stock market investments. He wanted my opinion whether it was worth pursuing. I said stay away. After looking at the ad, I am convinced it is just another scam.

It is National Consumer

Protection Week throughout the United States. The week is meant to educate consumers. Unfortunately, government and laws can only do so much. You and I are ultimately the ones who have to protect ourselves. Due to the carnage on Wall Street, Web sites are popping up all over the Internet claiming to have the strategy to make money in this market. Many of these sites are professionally done and very believable. In addition, consumers want to believe there is a quick fix to slumping portfolios. We all know these are nothing more than attempts to separate us from our hard-earned money.

In difficult times, when people are desperate, they let down their guard. The swindlers know this and prey on taking advantage of those vulnerabilities. I cannot stress enough the old adage, "if something sounds too good to be true, it is." When individuals let greed dictate decision-making, they end up getting taken advantage of resulting in the loss of more money.

A great way to do research on a business is through the Better Business Bureau. It

has a wealth of information that consumers can tap. Whether it's a business or consumer tips, the Better Business Bureau is a solid resource. In addition, it's free. The Web site, www.bbb.org has information aimed at helping consumers make better decisions. For example, if you are planning home improvements, do your homework ahead of time and hire a qualified and credible contractor. Thinking of donating to a charity? Use the resources of the Better Business Bureau to review information about the charity.

I wish there was a quick way to recoup our losses from the stock market. There is not. Patience and investor discipline will allow investors to recoup losses. Get rich schemes will do nothing but cause further losses.

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

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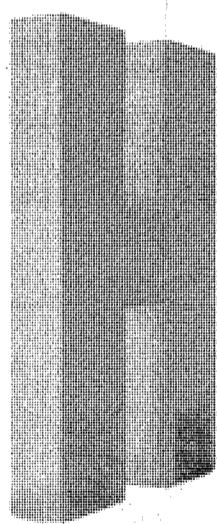
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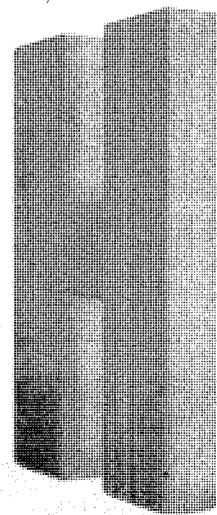
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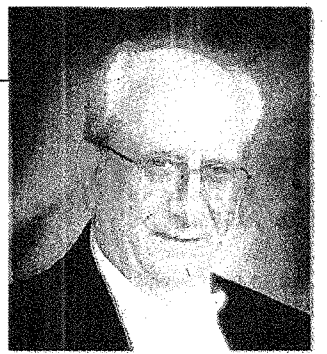


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HOMETOWN LIFE



Sweet repeat: Clarenceville wears Metro crown

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a couple of potholes to swerve around, Livonia Clarenceville's varsity boys basketball team enjoyed a smooth ride to the Metro Conference tournament championship Tuesday night thanks to a 63-52 victory over visiting Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

The win gave Clarenceville titles in both the Metro regular season and tournament for the second consecutive year. The Trojans take a 13-7 overall record into next week's Class B districts (also at Clarenceville). "Everyone's 0-0 now," head coach Corey McKendry said. "We're very hungry for that

BOYS BASKETBALL

district championship, that's one of the things we've been talking about since Day One."

But for a moment, the team is enjoying reaching one of its top goals even though defeating the Cranes wasn't easy.

The Trojans found themselves down 9-1 early in the ballgame when McKendry reminded them to play tougher defense, particularly against Cranes hot-shooting senior guard Eric Fishman.

"We were letting them get too many good open looks," McKendry said. "So we called a timeout and got after it

defensively." For the most part, there was no looking back after that, even though Fishman continued to excel with a 26-point game.

But McKendry's side had the game's best player in senior guard Jamie Stewart, who registered 31 points and 11 rebounds and made some important field goals during the fourth after the Cranes tightened the score to 49-44.

"That's what you expect your best player to do in crunch time," McKendry said about Stewart, who knocked down a couple of mid-range jumpers to open up some breathing room.

Fishman tried to answer

Stewart's buckets, but wasn't able to get quality chances because of the intense Clarenceville defense. "I think our defense wore him (Fishman) down a bit," McKendry said.

Senior forward Jeremy Gainer added 11 points and 10 rebounds, while senior guard Corey Reynolds had nine points, 17 boards and five steals.

McKendry, meanwhile, said the back-to-back Metro titles are something to savor, although not the ultimate prize.

"That's something our seniors can be proud of," the Clarenceville coach said. "We're getting everyone's best shot every night and this is a testa-

ment to everyone's hard work."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 61, LUTHERAN N'WEST 43: Josh Kruger scored 15 points Tuesday, all on 3-pointers, to lead Lutheran High Westland (11-7) past host Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (7-12) in the Metro Conference's third-place consolation game.

Eric Shoats added 11 points for the Warriors, who built a 35-20 halftime lead.

Lutheran Westland was 23-of-48 from the field, including 8-of-16 from 3-point range.

"Our kids did a nice job finding Kruger, who had the hot hand," Warriors coach Brandon Bekius said.

Matt Rolf tallied 14 points to lead the Crusaders.

GAME WRAPS

KLAA boys hoops

STEVENSON 57, CANTON 51: Ricky Chrzasz, Gary Cobb and Brian Rowe each scored 11 points on Senior Night to give Livonia Stevenson (11-7) the Kensington Conference crossover win Tuesday over the visiting Chiefs (10-9).

The Spartans, who avenged a 67-51 setback last Thursday to Canton, also got eight points apiece from Kendall Snow and Jordan El-Sabeh.

Stevenson trailed 26-21 at halftime before taking control with an 18-6 third-quarter run.

Dietrich Lever led Canton and all scorers with 22 points.

CHURCHILL 60, S. LYON EAST 48: Ryan Woods scored 18 points, including 7-of-9 from the foul line in the final quarter, to help Livonia Churchill (8-11) earn a Kensington crossover triumph Tuesday at South Lyon East (0-18).

The Chargers, who nearly let an 18-point second-half lead slip away, also got 12 points from Tony Frezzell and 10 from Scott Senczyszyn.

Cameron Norscia also added eight points and seven rebounds. Frezzell also grabbed seven rebounds.

Junior forward Blake Jones led the Cougars with 18 points, while Ben Kil, Andrew Mapley and Colin Wedesky added eight apiece.

NORTHVILLE 59, FRANKLIN 58 (2 OTS): On Tuesday, Tim Hasse scored 18 points, while Bryce Groshek and Scott Wagner added 13 and 11 apiece, lifting the host Mustangs (7-12) to the Kensington crossover double-overtime win over Livonia Franklin (6-13).

It was 43-all at the end of regulation as the Patriots forced OT with an 18-11 fourth-quarter run.

Franklin led by as many as six in the first overtime, but couldn't close out the victory after making just 4-of-12 foul shots during the two extra sessions.

Junior Mike Gadsby scored 20 points for Franklin, while Connor Leidal contributed 18 points and 11 rebounds. Jeff Poole chipped in with 10 points and eight rebounds.

NOVI 76, JOHN GLENN 48: On Tuesday, Chris Bellamy poured in 27 points, hitting four triples, as the host Wildcats (16-3) pulled away from Westland John Glenn (9-9) in the second half for the KLAA crossover victory.

Samer Ozeir added 13 for Novi, which led by only two at intermission, 25-23, before going on a 25-14 third-quarter run followed by a 26-11 fourth-period surge.

Austin Anderson, a senior guard, led Glenn with 26 points.

MIAC roundup

HURON VALLEY 56, URBAN 54: On Tuesday, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (13-6) built a 21-4 lead after one quarter and hung on to defeat visiting Detroit Urban Lutheran (4-15) in a non-conference game.

The Hawks took a 46-35 advantage into the fourth, but were outscored 21-8 in the final stanza by the Vikings to make things interesting.

Aaron Howell paced the victorious Hawks with 15 points, while Chad Fielek added 14 points and nine rebounds. Tyler Wagaman and Mark St. John contributed 10 and nine points, respectively.

Kyle Tacia grabbed a team-best 15 rebounds, including seven on the offensive end. Tevin Abraham and William Byse tallied 22 and 16 points, respectively for the Vikings.

HURON VALLEY 60, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 45: On Monday, the host Hawks (12-6, 7-3) defeated Michigan Independent Athletic Conference rival Warren Macomb Christian (9-11, 3-7) behind Aaron Howell's 17 points.

Chad Fielek added 10 points, while Kyle Tacia and Bryan Gruenewald each added eight.

Joel Battjes scored 17 for the Crusaders.

Blazers stun KLAA champ Rocks, 32-28

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With feet that never stopped sliding, arms that never stopped waving and adrenaline that never stopped pumping, Livonia Ladywood's girls basketball team executed the brand of 32-minute defense that wins championships Monday night.

The Blazers didn't win a Class A district title against Salem, but they took a giant step toward potentially earning one by upending the Rocks, 32-28, in a first-round district game played in the Blazers' gym.

Ladywood (11-10) met Canton (18-2) in Wednesday night's semifinal.

Ladywood may not have painted a pretty picture on the offensive end of the court — the Blazers connected on just 10-of-44 field goals (22 percent) — but they delivered a Rembrandt-like effort on the defensive end, forcing the Rocks into a 28-percent shooting night while holding Salem senior standout Chelsea Davis to six points with suffocating double teams.

"This whole week at practice we worked on our post defense because we knew Salem's offense was great in the post," Ladywood senior captain Caitlin Szczypka said. "We focused on doubling down on (Chelsea) Davis and (Sara) Stone and we made them work for their points."

Stone, who led all scorers with 14 points, was the catalyst of a hard-charging Salem rally that brought the Rocks to within 30-28 with less than two minutes to play.

However, with 1:23 left, the junior's potential game-tying, five-foot pullup, net-finding jumper was wiped out when

Please see **BLAZERS, B3**



The madness begins

Franklin's Brittany Milican (left) plays airtight defense on Stevenson's Anastasia Newton during Monday's Class A district girls basketball opener at Redford Thurston. For a roundup of area district tourney action, see page B3.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pool sharks: Spartans first in conference

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

New competition, no problem.

The Livonia Stevenson boys swim team has been able to transition nicely into the new Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

The Spartans captured all three relay races and added three individual titles to take the 11-school Kensington Conference crown.

Former Western Lakes Activities Association members took four of the first six spots in the team standings with Stevenson, ranked No. 6 in Division 1, scoring 526.5 points.

Northville was runner-up with 440.5 followed by South Lyon Unified (247), Salem (209), Canton (198.5) and host Novi (197.5).

"We had all good swims from top to bottom again," said Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker, whose team entered Saturday's meet as the KLAA Central Division champion. "What makes this team unique is the camaraderie. They get along well, and it's one of the hardest-working teams I've had."

Stevenson, which captured last year's final WLAA meet, continued its dominance in the relays.

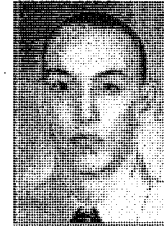
The foursome of Kellen Schoff, Jereme Pesta, Joey Wingett and Ryan Scott opened the finals by winning the 200-yard medley relay in 1:40.5.

The Spartans' 200 freestyle relay team of

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**



Marecki



Behler

Meet results, B2.

Heads of state (hoops): Lady Ocelots

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team has no peer when it comes to the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 in the NJCAA Division II national poll, wrapped up their fourth state title in school history Saturday with 93-72 triumph over Lake Michigan CC at Mott CC's Ballenger Fieldhouse.

Schoolcraft, 28-2 overall, shot a blistering 58.5 percent from the field (38-of-65), including 7-of-15 from 3-point range, to win its 19th straight.

April Goins led the way with 22 points and nine rebounds for Schoolcraft, which captured all 21 MCCA contests this season.

Also contributing to the victory were Amber Avery, 17 points and seven rebounds; Jasmine Brown, 14 points; Tayler Langham (Salem), 12 points; and Brittany Collins, eight assists.



The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team celebrates their Michigan Community College Athletic Association title Saturday in Flint. The Lady Ocelots enter NJCAA Division II District H action with a 28-2 overall record.

Schoolcraft's superior inside game resulted in 58 points in the paint to Lake Michigan's 28. The Lady Ocelots' bench enjoyed a 37-3 scoring margin.

Tyeacia Warren's 24 points paced Lake Michigan (22-6). Katy Stuppy and Katie Smallwood added 14 apiece, while Carlicia Gadson col-

lected 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Schoolcraft returns to postseason action in the NJCAA Division II District H tournament Saturday, March 7, at Owens (Ohio) CC to face either Delta College or Columbus State (Ohio).

DAVENPORT 85, MADONNA 73: Twenty-seven turnovers

cost Madonna University (15-17) dearly in Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference semifinal setback against host Davenport University (29-1).

Carrie Grubius paced the victorious Panthers, who led 37-25 at halftime, with 16 points. Brittany Lyman chipped in with 15 points, while Kallie Benike added 14 points and 11 rebounds. Karlee Despres tallied 13 points.

Christie Carrico led the Crusaders in scoring with 16 points, but shot only 4-of-18 from the field. Kim Olech (Plymouth) added 13 points and nine rebounds, while Alysa Guerin (Salem) and Katie Mount each added 12 points. Erin Bentley finished with 11 points.

MU made only 23-of-61 shots from the floor (37.7 percent).

Davenport shot 27-of-75 from the floor (36 percent), but made 24-of-30 foul shots (80 percent).

South Lyon triples sink Zebras' bid

BY JEFF THEISEN
STAFF WRITER

South Lyon got a huge lift from Adam Gentile and went on to a 56-47 boys basketball win Tuesday at home against Wayne Memorial to claim the Kensington Conference title.

Gentile came off the bench to score a game-high 17 points, hitting all five of his 3-pointers.

"During warmups, I couldn't hit anything," Gentile said. "During the game, I was feeling it. They kept feeding me, so I kept knocking them down. You get hot and it's the best feeling in the world. The whole crowd is going crazy." Things didn't look good for the Lions (15-4) early.

Please see **ZEBRAS, B3**

Bible study class opens arms to adults with special needs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

James Jones was having a good time clapping his hands and singing Christian songs at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia on a cold, Monday evening in early February. While many congregations study the Scriptures apart from Sunday worship services, the Open Arms Bible Class is especially designed for adults with developmental disabilities. A committee led by parish education director Judy Cook saw a need for the special ministry after several men associated with Angel's Place group homes started attending the church's contemporary worship services and annual picnic.

The first Open Arms event, a pizza and movie night last fall, drew more than 100 proving there were many hungry for the Word. Bob Kotrba is still in the process of developing a program that best reaches students. He first asked the men to introduce themselves then sang a song. The Bible study began in January with about 16 attending. In spite of the weather in February nearly 30 men turned out with their care workers for the hour-long class that takes place the second Monday of every month.

"We're trying to figure out who our clientele would be," said Kotrba of Farmington Hills. "Last time we had autistic, verbal and nonverbal, and have to regear for nonverbal. We're in the process of developing hands-on activities. In the future we'd like to break into a couple of different groups."

Kotrba works with learning disabled, autistic and emotionally impaired as a special education teacher in the Learning Resource Center where students come for assistance and emotional support at Birmingham Groves High School. He kept the program

OPEN ARMS BIBLE CLASS

What: Bible study class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs

When: 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 9, and continues every second Monday of each month

Where: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Register: Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

simple as he asked questions and told the men that prayer was talking to God.

"I try to bring meaning to students and want to give them skills to take back," said Kotrba. "We're going to be assembling crosses. That way it will bring understanding. They love music, love the beat. Some listen, some participate."

The men's presence at Emmanuel is a welcome one. Many attend and usher the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday in addition to studying the Bible with Kotrba on the fourth Monday of the month at Angel's Place in West Bloomfield. Jones is a resident of Muirwood Apartments in Farmington Hills, one of 17 Christian-based group homes.

"James sings in the Praise Band. They're a very active part of our service," said Kotrba. "We've all grown because of them. The benefit for them is the interaction they have with us and vice versa."

"We like to get them involved in spiritual development," said Renee Hunt, a direct care worker. "They watch and sing, really get involved. They were excited about coming because they knew they were going to have music and singing."

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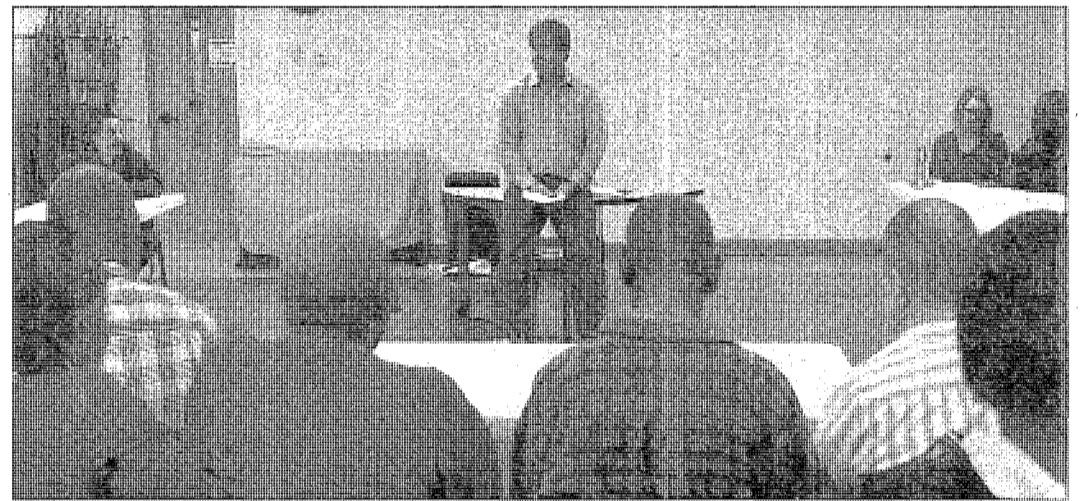


PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Jones enjoys singing Christian songs to the guitar music of Bob Kotrba as part of the monthly Bible study for adults with developmental disabilities at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia.



Ryan Fisher participates in a monthly Bible study class for adults with developmental disabilities at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia. Fisher is a resident of the Angel's Place Christian-based group homes.



Bob Kotrba explains to the Bible study class that prayer is talking to God.



Brian Fay listens as Bob Kotrba talks about prayer.

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ROBERT "BOB" BRUCE LAMB

Died at home in Tryon, NC on March 1, 2009. Born May 16, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan, he is survived by his wife of 24 years, Joyce Huey Lamb, and a sister, Bettie Lamb Fairbanks of Michigan. He was predeceased by his first wife, Delphine Kerr Lamb. Bob was a veteran of World War II where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and subsequently was detained as a Prisoner of War. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, among other decorations. After graduation from Michigan State University, Bob spent his working career as a partner in the firm Schmidt, Lamb & Smith, Manufacturing Agents to the automotive industry. Foxhunting in Metamora, Michigan was a passionate avocation for many years. Bob was a long-time advocate of animal rights and a loyal supporter of the Salvation Army and Disabled American Veterans. After retiring to Tryon, NC he served on the Board of Directors of the Foothills Humane Society. An online guest register is available at www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com

JENNIE M. FREW

Age 94, of Plymouth, March 1, 2009. Beloved wife of the late William. Loving mother of Lois (Jerry) Hotchkin. Proud grandmother of Jerry W. (Rhonda) Hotchkin and Elaine (Paul Moody) Hotchkin; and great-grandmother of Kaitlyn and Megan Hotchkin. The family will gather with friends Saturday March 14, 11 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Memorial Service at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 North Territorial Road (west of Sheldon), Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center, 301 East Liberty, Ste. 130, Ann Arbor MI 48104. To leave a message of condolence, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

WILLIAM N. MALISZEWSKI

Age 90. Of Farmington, MI. March 1, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

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ask for Jennifer or Charollette

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To submit an item for the religion calendar, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

MARCH

All-you-can-eat fish

The St. Michael the Archangel Parish's "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Dinners contigues 4:30-7 p.m. March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Dinners feature hand-dipped fresh Alaskan cod, fried or baked, along with an assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost, \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children ages 3-11, free ages 3 and under. Carryout orders, ST. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Rush hour concert series

Continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

School open house

If you have children ready to enter pre-school through eighth grade in the fall, Guardian Lutheran School is holding an Open House 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at 24544 Cherry Hill Road in Dearborn. Families may take personalized tours of the facility, spend time in classrooms, enjoy light refreshments and talk with teachers, parents and board members. Call (313) 274-3665, e-mail walter.krone@guardianlutheran.org or visit www.guardianlutheran.org.

Bethany Suburban West activities

Saturday, March 7, Monthly

Dance 8 p.m.-midnight, St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago, Redford. Dance lesson, Swing, \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 261-5716.

■ Sunday, March 15, annual 9 a.m. Lenten Mass, Felician Sister House Chapel, Madonna College Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Use the Newburgh entrance; breakfast will follow. Call (734) 513-9479.

■ Saturday, March 21, Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m., Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Lenten vespers services

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit conducts the first in its 2009 series of Lenten Vespers services 6 p.m. March 8, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, at St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. The Very Rev. Roman Star of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, spiritual advisor to the COCC and president of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit, presides. The general public as well as Orthodox Christians is invited to attend. All proceeds will be used for COCC charities and projects. Call (734) 422-0278 or e-mail paschabooks@sbcglobal.net. Vespers services continue during five Sundays of Orthodox Great Lent March 15, Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, at St. Michael Orthodox Church, Redford; March 22, Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, at

St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield; March 29, Sunday of St. John Climacus, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Dearborn; and April 5, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills.

Sunday night lights

Riverside Park Church of God presents the non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music within a casual atmosphere. Dining in the kingdom of God For five Wednesdays in Lent, St. Aidan will host the series. Luke's Gospel revealed 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist. This presentation will be given by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology, 7-9 p.m. March 11, 18, 25, April 1, and April 8. Free. Call (734) 425-5950.

Mid-week spiritual enrichment

Two opportunities for spiritual enrichment are available at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy, each week on Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays is a study/discussion group focused on understanding our relationship with God and that of other religions and the many philosophical and scientific issues that might impact our faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim Pastor Larry Hoxey. Call (313) 274-3820.

Purim carnival night

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Jewish Community Center, The Jimmy Prentiss Morris Building

in Oak Park. Carnival games, prizes, face painting, craft booths, popcorn, cotton candy and a dunk tank to soak Haman, the evil nobleman in the Story of Esther. Purim Carnival is \$1 for JCC members; \$2 for non-member children; free for adults and children under 3. Call (248) 967-4030.

Ellery concert

Husband and wife singer-songwriters Tasha and Justin Golden perform 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$25, adult and \$15, student at the door; \$5 less in advance. Doors at 7:30 p.m. UUUCF is a progressive congregation of men, women and children dedicated to the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Call (248) 478-7272 or visit www.uufarmington.org.

Hungry for God

Continues 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays to April 7, in the church building of St. Colette, 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia. The six-week Hungry for God series helps adults and teens enjoy an even deeper, closer love-relationship with the God who is loving them first, best, and always. Facilitated by Deacon Bob Ovies, former director of the Detroit Archdiocesan Office for Family Life. Themes include: Hungry for God's Love, Hungry for Salvation, Hungry to Know God's Plan for Your Life, Hungry for Jesus, Hungry for the Power to Forgive, Hungry for Faith and God's Spirit. Register at religiouised@stcolette.net or call (734) 464-4435.

Evenings of reflection

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia offers a special Lenten Evening of Reflection 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, with Rev. Daniel Jones, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Assistant Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major

Seminary in Detroit, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

An evening with Simon Peter

A live dramatic presentation of the story of the ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth from the point of view of one of his closest friends, the Apostle Simon Peter, 7 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at St. Aidan Catholic Church on Farmington Road, Livonia. Free will offering. Performed by former parishioner John Dzwonkowski and family.

Detroit Lutheran Singers

Present four concerts in their Spring 2009 series. 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, and at 7:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham. Also 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21915 Beech Street, Dearborn, and 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 202 E. 5th Street, Royal Oak. The children's choir from St. Paul Lutheran School will sing several selections in this final concert.

Taizé prayer

All are welcome to a Taizé ecumenical prayer service 7:30 p.m. Monday,

March 23, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Taizé worship combines prayer, silent meditation, candlelight and special music, and dates back to 1940 when a community of Catholic and Protestant brothers was formed in Taizé, France. Today, Taizé services are held across the globe and are especially popular among young adults. Taizé will be part of the church's Lenten 40-Hour Devotion beginning with 6 a.m. Mass on Monday, March 23, continuing with around-the-clock Eucharistic Adoration, and ending after 7 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, March 24. For more information, call (734) 981-1333.

Midweek Lenten services

Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have midweek Lenten services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. For information, call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

Lenten services

7 p.m. every Wednesday through April 1, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. April 9. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

St. Michael's Parish presents "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT" LENTEN FISH FRY Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27, Apr. 3 4:30-7:00 pm • Full Dinners • Carry-out Available • Take Out Orders: \$7 • Choice of Hand-dipped Fried or Baked Fresh Atlantic Cod Adults: \$8 • Seniors: \$7 • Kids 3-11: \$4 • 3 & Under: FREE 11441 Hubbard Rd., S. of Plymouth Rd. • Livonia • 734-261-1455

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: CATHOLIC (St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church), EVANGELICAL COVENANT (Faith Covenant Church), UNITED METHODIST (Clarenceville United Methodist, Redford Aldersgate United Methodist, Newburg United Methodist Church), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (Plymouth Church of the Nazarene), EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (Timothy Lutheran Church), NON DENOMINATIONAL (Bell Creek Community Church), PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.) (Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, USA), EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN (Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church), LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD (St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School), PRESBYTERIAN (Fellowship Presbyterian Church), CHRISTIAN SCIENCE (First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth)

Livonia symphony brings ballet to life

Once you've heard live ballet music you never forget the intensity of the sound. It's been several years since the Royal Ballet of England danced "Swan Lake" in Detroit but I still vividly remember the orchestra's telling of the story of Prince Siegfried and his love for a fair maiden under an evil spell. Sadly, as a young ballet student, it was

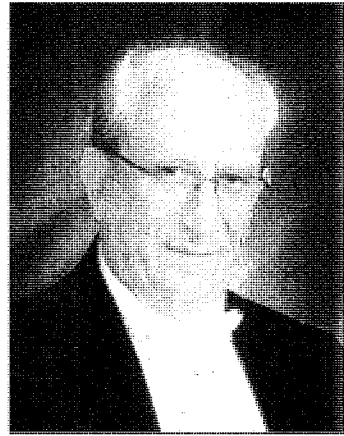


Linda Chomin

the only live ballet music I would experience for years. Local little dancers won't have to wait as long. The Livonia Symphony Orchestra is performing Ballet Masterpieces 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

The Board is making it especially enticing for those who have never attended an LSO concert by giving away 300 tickets, 10 per member. All ballet enthusiasts have to do is call a board member or the LSO hot line at (734) 421-1111.

"We want to make sure everyone gets to see these things," said LSO board president Rose Kachnowski. "Board members are going out and passing them out to their circle of friends. Everybody loves the beauty of the ballet and don't get to hear it performed live. Right now so many young people



Volodymyr Shesiuk conducts the Livonia Symphony Orchestra in music for the ballet Saturday, March 7.

are studying ballet and this gives them an opportunity to hear the music."

Volodymyr Shesiuk enjoys conducting ballet music when he doesn't have to worry about tempo. He's loved Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" since he was Conductor-in-Residence of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

"There's ballet music for the orchestra and dancer. For me to perform only with orchestra, I'm not responsible for tempo for their legs. I'm following only my feeling and what's in the score. It's fun to play ballet music without ballet. Many instruments in the orchestra solo like voices of the dancers. We start from Chopin and piece by piece go through the whole classical ballet - 'Swan Lake,' Debussy's 'Afternoon of a Faun Prelude.' For me my favorite is Khachaturian's 'Spartacus.'"

BALLET MASTERPIECES

What: Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents famous ballets including Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake
When: 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Where: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia
Tickets: \$17 adults, \$5 children and students. Call (734) 421-1111

As co-chair of the LSO music committee it's Jim Poe's job to select music to please the audience.

Last year, the audience left whistling selections from "A Night at the Opera." Theme programs always seem to be popular, says Poe, LSO principal bassoonist.

This season's ballet program features Chopin's "Le Sylphides" in addition to "Swan Lake Suite," "La Damnation du Faust" by Berlioz, Bizet's "Carmen," and Saint Saens' "Samson and Dalila-Bacchanale."

"It's ballet music that people will recognize," said Poe of Farmington Hills. "It's good to display the variations composers bring to that but also the tunes people know and love."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

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130th UMS Season **2009 UMS** Winter | Spring

New York Philharmonic

Lorin Maazel artistic director
 SAT, MAR 7 | 8 PM
 SUN, MAR 8 | 7 PM (NOTE START TIME)
 Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM (SAT 3/7)
 Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture (1826)
 Schumann Symphony No. 4 in d minor, Op. 120 (1841)
 Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition, arr. Ravel (1874/arr. 1922)

PROGRAM (SUN 3/8)
 Berlioz Roman Carnival Overture, Op. 9 (1843-44)
 Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3 in G Major, Op. 55 (1884)
 Stravinsky The Rite of Spring (1913)

The Saturday performance is hosted by **MainStreet Ventures**.
 Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius**.
 Media Sponsors: **Detroit Jewish News, WGTE 91.3 FM, and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

The New York Philharmonic Weekend is sponsored by **Brian and Mary Campbell**.
 The Saturday performance is sponsored by **M University of Michigan Health System**

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis

TUE, MAR 10 | 8 PM
 Hill Auditorium
 Sponsored by **Laurence and Beverly Price**.
 Hosted by **Sesi Motors**.
 Media Sponsors: **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times, Ann Arbor's 107one, and Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**

Brentano String Quartet

Peter Serkin piano | Thomas Meglioranza baritone
 WED, MAR 11 | 8 PM
 Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM
 Haydn String Quartet in d minor, Op. 76, No. 2 ("Quinten") (Hob. III:76) (1796-97)
 Wuorinen New Piano Quintet (commissioned by the artists)
 Schoenberg Ode to Napoleon, Op. 41 (for quartet, piano, and baritone) (1942)
 Beethoven Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 (1825-26)

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius**.
 Media Sponsors: **WGTE 91.3 FM and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

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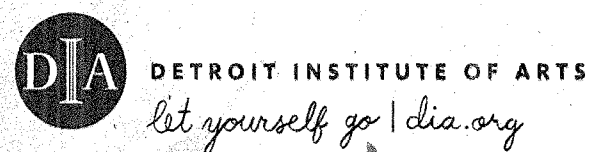


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American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell has been organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. American Chronicles has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, American Masterpieces Program. In Detroit, support has been provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit. Publication support has been provided by the Henry Luce Foundation. Media sponsorship has been provided by the Curtis Publishing Company and by the Norman Rockwell Estate Licensing Company.

FOOD & WINE

Local chefs semifinalists for top award

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O & E STAFF WRITER

The Academy Awards might be over, but "the Oscars of the food world" are just getting underway. Five Michigan chefs have been named semifinalists for the James Beard Foundation 2009 Award in the Great Lakes Category.

Two of them are from Oakland County — Luciano Del Signore of Bacco Ristorante in Southfield, and John Somerville of The Lark in West Bloomfield.

Del Signore, nominated for the second year in a row, said he was thrilled when the James Beard Foundation phoned him with the news.

"It caught me by surprise both years. It's not like I had any kind of warning," he said. "We're excited. It's very, very nice to be included with that list of chefs that have been nominated."

Del Signore worked for 25 years at his parents' restaurant, Fonte D Amore in Livonia, and opened Bacco Ristorante seven years ago.

"Quality Italian food is our passion," Del Signore said. "I concentrate on finding unique and interesting fresh produce that's Michigan grown. We're more interested in what's called the 'slow food movement,' where everything is made in-house."

John Somerville joined The Lark in 1994 as a garde manger chef, and worked his way up to chef de cuisine three years ago. According to Jim Lark, Somerville is the finest head chef the restaurant has had since it opened in 1981.

"That's not only my opinion and the opinion of Mary Lark, but our patrons who have been coming for many, many, many years," Lark said. "To my mind he's undoubtedly the best chef in mid-America."

Whether the judges for the James Beard Award agree

BEST CHEF NOMINEES

Of the 20 semifinalists for the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Great Lakes Region, five are from Michigan. They are:

- Luciano Del Signore:** Bacco Ristorante, Southfield
- John Somerville:** The Lark, West Bloomfield
- Alex Young:** Zingerman's Roadhouse, Ann Arbor
- Brian Polcyn:** Five Lakes Grill, Milford
- Ali Barker:** Bistro on the Boulevard, St. Joseph

remains to be seen. Del Signore and Somerville are among 20 chefs in the running for the Great Lakes Region. The category will be narrowed to five finalists by a panel of 400 judges on March 23. Winners will be announced May 4.

"I just feel privileged to make the semi-finals, whatever happens from there remains to be seen but the James Beard Foundation is certainly one of the most prestigious awards to win," Somerville said.

Dubbed "the Oscars of the food world" by Time Magazine, the awards have been considered by many to be the highest culinary honor since their creation in 1990.

Categories include best restaurant, best chef by region, outstanding service, recognition for wine and spirits, as well as a variety of others that extend into the realm of food photography and media. They are presented every spring at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Bacco Ristorante is located at 29410 Northwestern Highway in Southfield. Call (248) 356-6600 or visit www.baccoristorante.com.

The Lark is located at 6430 Farmington Road in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-4466 or visit www.thelark.com.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chef Luciano Del Signore of Bacco Ristorante in Southfield.

CAPEANTE AL BALSAMICO

This dish, created by Chef Luciano Del Signore of Bacco Ristorante, features pan seared sea scallops served over a cauliflower puree and arugula, topped with balsamic glaze.

CAPEANTE AL BALSAMICO

Serves 4

- 8 extra large dry pack sea scallops
- Olive oil for cooking
- 2 shallots minced
- 1/4 cup aged balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1 head cauliflower (boiled and pureed same as mashed potatoes, seasoned with butter, cream, salt and pepper)
- 2 cups arugula, washed and patted dry

Season scallops with salt and pepper on both sides. Bring a 12" skillet to high heat, add a 1/2 cup of olive oil, sear scallops on both sides for 3 minutes each side till deep golden brown. Drain oil from pan and add shallots, sauté for 1 minute, deglaze the pan with the wine and balsamic vinegar, reduce sauce on high heat till thickened. Serve scallops over the cauliflower puree and arugula and top with the glaze.



Capesante al Balsamico, as prepared by Chef Luciano Del Signore of Bacco Ristorante.

Truffled Macaroni and Cheese by Chef John Somerville of The Lark

In the hands of Chef John Somerville of The Lark, comfort food goes gourmet.

This Truffled Macaroni and Cheese is made with rich custard.

TRUFFLED MACARONI AND CHEESE

Custard:

- 12 eggs
- 1 quart cream
- 1 quart milk
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 tablespoon white pepper

Combine all in a small mixer fitted with a paddle. Mix till incorporated. Will hold for 2-3 days.

Macaroni & Cheese:

- Small amount soft butter
- 1 pound elbow noodles (preferably Whole Foods 365 Organic brand)
- Custard (see above recipe)
- 1 pound truffle cheese, grated
- 1 pound gruyere cheese, grated

Lightly butter small baking pan. Place elbow noodles in pan. Cover with custard. Top with cheese being sure to press in to keep cheese moist. Cook for 30 minutes in a 350° oven or till custard is set. Cool in refrigerator. Cut into attractive molds. Line in baking tray, top with additional grated truffle cheese. Reheat in oven till cheese is melted.

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