

THURSDAY

June 18, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 45 Number 7

75 CENTS

Check out what is going on in Westland - Community Calendar, A7

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Best has yet to come for Blazers Sports, B1

## AROUND TOWN

### A winner

Teachers are used to getting apples. However, the one Beth Johnson received was a bit more than your average garden variety.

Johnson, who teaches business and personal law at Wayne Memorial High School, recently received the Crystal Apple Award from the State Bar of Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary for her work with the school's Teen Court.

Johnson was nominated for the award by 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack, who presides over the Teen Court sessions, in which students serve as jurors and decide the sentence for each juvenile offender.

"This is a wonderful experience for our students," Wayne-Westland Supt. Greg Baracy said in recognizing Johnson at last week's school board meeting.

"What the kids get out of this is amazing," Johnson said. "I had 13 seniors and seven plan to go into law. The kids want to be lawyers, they want to be officers. They get to see what all of the careers are."

And a crystal apple may not be the last of the awards Johnson receives for Teen Court. She's also been nominated for National Law Teacher of the Year.

### Sign up today!

Starting today readers can stay plugged in to their hometown news with a free electronic newsletter. The *Westland Observer* debuts Today's Headlines — an e-mail newsletter that will automatically send the latest news via e-mail to anyone who signs up at hometownlife.com.

To sign up, click on the e-newsletters tab on Hometownlife.com (top left of the home page). E-newsletters for all *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown* publications will be available as well as special editions for entertainment and local business news.

Getting the newsletter is easy. The first thing you have to do is become a member of our Web site by going to Hometownlife.com and clicking on the link Become a member, which is just above the main carousel of stories. Once you are a member, click on the E-newsletters tab at the top left of the homepage to sign up.

E-newsletter subscriber contact information will be kept private so there is no need to worry that signing up will lead to a barrage of third-party sales calls.

The *Observer Newspaper* editions — Livonia, Farmington, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Westland and Garden City — will offer e-newsletters Thursday and Sunday.

The *Hometown Newspapers* — *Northville Record*, *Novi News*, *South Lyon Herald* and *Milford Times* — will offer e-newsletters Thursday, while the Birmingham and South Oakland *Eccentric Newspapers* will offer them Sunday.

The local business and local entertainment newsletters will come out once a week.

E-newsletter subscribers will be entered into weekly drawings for Emagine Theatre movie passes, concert tickets at The Palace and DTE Energy Music Theatre and gift certificates for dinner at restaurants throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

# Recycling carts get delivered

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With about 2,000 recycling carts being delivered daily, Westland residents should be ready for the curbside program which kicks off Monday, June 29.

"I'm looking forward to the recycling program," resident Georgia Becker said. "I like that you don't have to pull the paper off the cans."

"I can't wait. I go to the (recycling) dropoff center now," Jo Johnson said. "It will be nice. I will hardly have any garbage in the can. I compost, so I already got a smaller garbage can. I can use the bigger ones for yard waste."

The curbside collection should be much more convenient for residents. The recyclables — a list of what is accepted is attached to the top of the cart — don't have to be sorted or separated by residents. Literature left with the cart also informs residents which week the recycling will be collected. The pickups are on the regular trash collection day on alternating weeks.

Every home should have its 96-gallon recycling cart by June 22, Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford said.

Please see **RECYCLING, A2**

# Love at first sight: 75 years of 'I do'



Bride and groom Maggie and Roy House repeat their wedding vows before family members gathered for a reunion June 6.

## Family surprises parents with a wedding

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

It's been 75 years since Roy House asked his wife, Maggie, who worked on a farm as a hired hand, for her "cotton pickin' money" to help pay the justice of the peace.

He borrowed \$2.50 seven decades ago and gave her \$4 at a surprise anniversary party thrown recently by their daughter Linda LaBell and her husband Rich LaBelle at their home in Deerfield Township.

Maggie jokes about why it didn't include more interest after all that time. Maggie, for the first time in her life, was wearing a wedding gown, veil and all the accessories of a bride and her husband of seven decades was dapper in a black suit.

"We couldn't afford anything like that when we got married," Roy says. "We were poor."

"When my mother walked out in that wedding dress, there wasn't a dry eye," Linda said. "He put his arms out to her and everyone just broke down. He wanted her to get to him so fast and they're both so slow. They are 10 times more in love now."

Their courtship began in Tennessee, when Roy set eyes on Maggie at a party Maggie's cousin gave. They were sitting on a crate together and it broke. Roy jokes that was when they "fell" in love.

"I guess you could say we fell in love at first sight," he said.

Roy recalls how he had to build his nerve to sneak a first kiss and how that memory carried him until the next Sunday when he would visit and try for another.

"He was all I could think about," she says. "And I was all he could think about."

After they were married, Roy didn't have enough money to buy a hamburger. They tied the knot on a Saturday and by Sunday they were back home. As for a honeymoon, Roy said, by Monday he

Please see **CEREMONY, A3**

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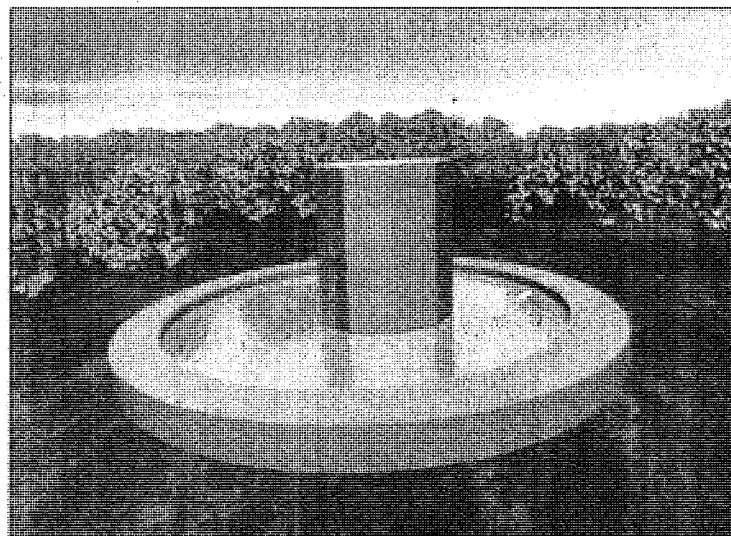
## Fund raising starts for new memorial

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A design has been selected for a new Westland veterans memorial and a likely location has been selected — now the fund raising can get started.

Sponsored by the Westland Veterans Association, the memorial was designed by the William Ford Vocational Technical Center 2009 graphic design class. The design was a class effort, taking some elements from various concepts designed by the students.

"We chose one with a reflecting pool and 10 sides for writing (representing the 10 wars involving American troops)," said



The design for a new veterans memorial was developed by graphic design students at the William Ford Career Technical Center. The Westland Veterans Association selected the design and is fund raising to build the memorial which it hopes to locate in Central City Park.

Ken Mehl, Westland Veterans Association president. "We hope that we wouldn't need to add on, but there is room for an addition."

A breakfast sponsored by the association in conjunction with a Flag Day ceremony kicked off

Please see **MEMORIAL, A2**

## GARDEN CITY EXCHANGE

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# Rotary scholarship winners have bright futures

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four outstanding young people were front and center June 4 when Westland Rotary Club awarded its annual scholarships.

"The Rotary can't supply all of it, but we can help," said scholarship chairman Don Douglass, who emphasized the importance of education. Douglass, a retired administrator at Westland John Glenn High School, is concerned about the high rate of high school dropouts, particularly in big cities.

"You can't lose these people, but we are losing them," he said. "We're falling behind as far as education is concerned. This kind of represents a bright spot."

The four scholarship winners are:

- Michael Penhollow of John Glenn High School, also a student at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The graduating senior is the son of Erik and Gail, and will attend Ferris State University this fall to study digital media and television production.
- Crystal Hughes of Wayne Memorial High School, who

will study nursing at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She's the daughter of Terry and Tammie Manier.

- Gloria Girgis of John Glenn High School, who will study language and music at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She's the daughter of Aida Girgis and the late Wagil Girgis.
- Amy Carter of John Glenn High, who will study music therapy at Eastern Michigan University. She's the daughter of Sandra and Jeff Carter. Carter's scholarship of \$1,500 was given by Douglass in memory of his late wife, Arlene, a Wayne-

Westland elementary teacher.

The other three scholarships, \$1,500 each, come from Rotary fund-raisers held throughout the year.

Penhollow, who's distantly related to famed Detroit DJ Arthur (the spelling is different), has a great summer job lined up. He left June 9 and will help run the video scoreboard for the New York Yankees.

Girgis would like to study Arabic and Spanish, both of which she speaks.

"Also I would like to study music," said Girgis, who plays the piano and lute. She's considering becoming a university

professor.

"I could join an orchestra," said Girgis, who lost her clergyman father to a car accident. "I could do missions overseas. I'm an avid Christian."

Hughes is looking forward to her enrollment at U-M.

"She's a good friend of mine because she's a big U-M fan," said Douglass, a Michigan alum.

"Since I was little, I wanted to go there," Hughes said. "When I got accepted, it was the happiest day of my life."

Her family was in a car crash and is now fine, and Hughes was impressed with their medi-

cal care. She also has an ongoing medical condition diagnosed by U-M doctors.

Carter is interested in working with brain-injured children with music therapy. She'll be enrolled in the School of Music and can play music for the children or teach them to play. She plays the trumpet, and will pursue a master's degree.

All four students thanked the Rotarians for the support which makes higher education more attainable. Newly elected Wayne-Westland school trustee Carol Middel urged the teens to work to reach their dreams and never give up.

## RECYCLING FROM PAGE A1

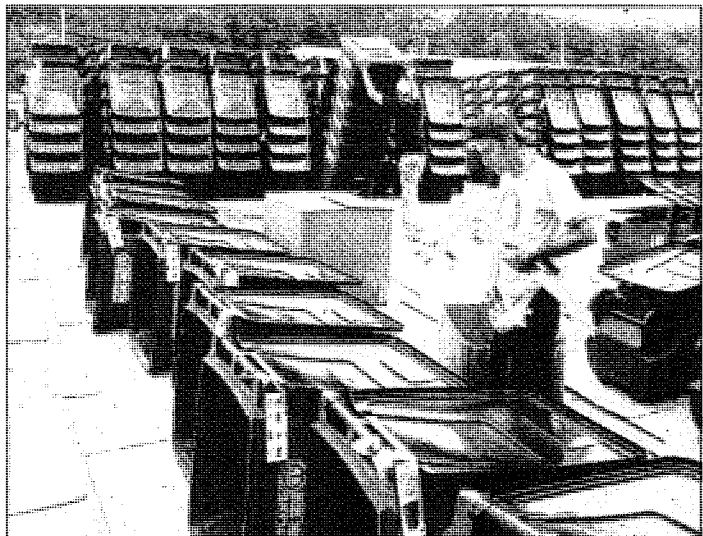
"I believe most people will recycle. Right now, about 2,000 carts are being delivered per day," Buford said, adding a 48-gallon alternative recycling cart will be available upon request. "I would encourage people to give the 96-gallon carts a try for 60 days."

Westland Car Care employees are assembling and delivering the carts under an arrangement with Toter Manufacturing, the cart vendor.

"We asked them to work with local residents, if possible, and they looked for a local company to use," Buford said. "We gave them some leads, and they hooked up with Westland Car Care. They have the city towing contract, so they know the streets. A lot of their employees are Westland residents."

City officials are estimating 11,166 tons of recyclables will be collected through the curbside program during the first year. Treasurer Steve Smith said the difference between the recycling costs and landfill tipping fees is expected to save the city \$27,000 the first year. The first year, the recycling will cost \$18.75 per ton at Great Lakes Recycling compared to \$21.18 per ton for trash sent to the Waste Management landfill.

"As the program goes for-



Steve Firno of Plymouth assembles blue recycling carts that are being delivered to homes in Westland in preparation for the start of a new curbside recycling program. Recycling will cut the amount of trash the city send to landfills, and residents who recycle will be rewarded with their choice of gift cards from participating merchants through the RecycleBank.

ward, the recycling rate is projected to be better based on the amount we get for the recycled materials," Smith said, adding the second year cost is being estimated at \$5.81 per ton.

Residents also can earn rewards through their recycling efforts at RecycleBank. The recycling carts, which are to be placed four feet back from the curb, vehicles and other items with the wheels toward the house, has a computer-coded tag on the front which is scanned as it is collected by Republic Services. A personal activation

mailer, including an activation code, is being mailed to residences. Once a resident's account is activated at [www.RecycleBank.com](http://www.RecycleBank.com) or by calling (800) 727-2978, rewards can be redeemed at businesses, including Dick's Sporting Goods, Westland Shopping Center, Marvaso's Italian Grille and Nankin Hardware. Another option is donating to local schools and charities.

For more information, visit the city Web site at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) or call DPS at (734) 728-1770.

[irogers@hometownlife.com](mailto:irogers@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-5428

## Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson will hold district coffee hours on Monday, June 22, in Livonia and Garden City to meet with constituents. No appointment is necessary. The senator will have a 9-10 a.m. gathering at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, followed by a 10:30-11:30 a.m. get-together at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City.

No coffee hours held during the month of July. They will resume in August.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the Senator but are unable to attend can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone toll-free at (866) 262-7306 or by e-mail at [SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov).

## Battle of Badges

The Westland Police and Fire Departments are out for blood – and for a very good reason. On Monday, June 22, residents will have a chance to save lives while supporting their favorite public servant during the city's fifth annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive 2-8 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The Red Cross is projecting a 3,500-pint short fall in blood donations this year due to the economy. Residents can help by making a blood donation appointment online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) or by calling (734) 467-3261.

## Citizens academy

Applications are now being accepted for individuals who want to learn more about how the fire department in Westland is organized and operates.

To participate in the 32-hour program, applicants must be 18 years or older and either live or work in Westland. Sessions are approximately three-four hours in length and will be held on July 31, Aug. 2, 7 and 9.

The deadline to submit an application is July 15. For more information, call (734) 467-3182 or visit the city Web site at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

## Wrestling camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20-24 in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to middle school and high school students. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 20. Registration forms are available

honoring just one war, it's for all veterans."

The drawing will be on display at the upcoming Westland Summer Festival to help generate interest in the memorial, Mehl said. Fund-raising efforts will continue through the sale of engraved brick pavers to be installed around the memorial and an Aug. 15 golf outing.

"Originally, we wanted to do this for 2011. There was no significance to 2011 except that will be five years since the (traveling Vietnam) wall was here. We're trying to get the wall here again," Mehl said. The Career Tech students appreciated being part of the project, according to instructor Steve Paulsen. "Thank you for getting us involved. This is icing on the cake," he said. "We were happy to do this and hope to be involved to the end."

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## MEMORIAL

FROM PAGE A1

the official fund-raising efforts for the memorial.

"We have members from the VFW and American Legion – you don't have to be a veteran to join. Our sole purpose is for the new memorial," said Mehl, who estimates the memorial will cost \$250,000-\$500,000.

"People had been asking us what it will look like. We might

have to do it in phases."

It's expected that the memorial would be located in Central City Park near Carlson, which is part of the first area slated to be cleaned up and reopened. Wayne County, which owns the property, would need to approve the project.

"They (city officials) gave us a few options. By the pond would be the most serene," Mehl said. "We want to do it in a different manner. This isn't

## OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD



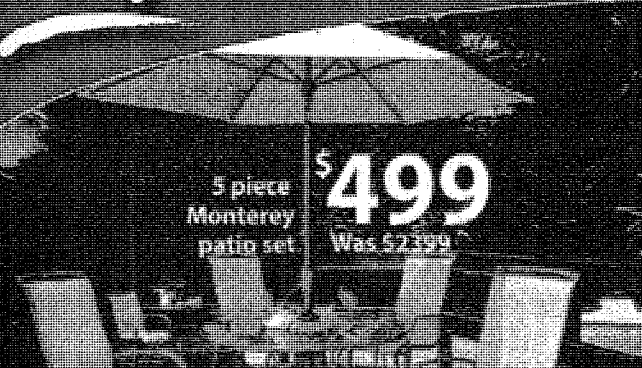
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## CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**CASE #2143D, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Tattoo Shop, Twin Oaks Plaza, Parcel #028-01-0023-303, North Side of Ford Road, West of Newburgh Road, Anthony J. Dohring (Andy Kowalski).**



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., July 7, 2009.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

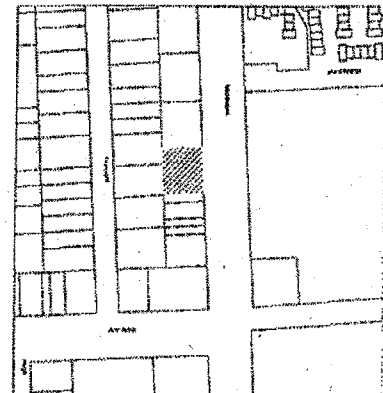
Adam Hammons, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: June 18, 2009

## CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**CASE #2174, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Tattoo Shop, 8043 Middlebelt Road, Parcel #005-02-0087-000, West Side of Middlebelt Road, North of Ann Arbor Trail, Mike Doughty (John Gargaro).**



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., July 7, 2009.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Adam Hammons, Chairman  
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: June 18, 2009



Maggie House wore a wedding dress and veil and Roy House dressed in a suit and hat for a surprise wedding ceremony planned for their 75th wedding anniversary by their children.

## CEREMONY

FROM PAGE A1

baled hay and she worked in a cornfield.

They were actually married Oct. 21, but a family reunion was planned in June and since everyone was there, it was a perfect setting for a surprise.

Westland residents, Roy, 95, and Maggie, 91, live alone with an occasional hand from relatives. Somehow, the two lovebirds look far younger than their years.

They say the secret to their love story, longevity and their self-described "blessed lives," might lie in the fact that they've always been there for whomever needed a hand.

They nursed people in their dying days. If someone was sick, they were there. If someone needed a place to stay, they opened the doors to their modest home. They weren't rich, but they gave what they had.

"I think God rewarded us in the end," Roy said.

"When I get up in the morning, I thank God for another



Roy House kisses his wife Maggie at the end of the ceremony.

day," Maggie said. "I live each day so that if I die tomorrow, I will go to heaven."

Over the years, Maggie took any work she could get and Roy worked long hours as a welder. Together, they built a comfortable homestead for themselves and their two children, Linda and Billy Joe, who died last August. They also have five grandchildren,

five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

"We never had what you called a bad argument," Roy said.

She added, almost like they are completing each other's sentences: "I get angry, but I get over it real fast and I have to tell him, 'I'm sorry.' Respect each other and try not to argue. Tell each other that you love them and don't go to bed mad. He's been great to me."

"I was lucky to get her," Roy added. "And you were real lucky to get me."

Roy pointed out that he always went straight home after work.

"I didn't stop nowhere, I didn't go to bars, I didn't drink, I didn't cuss and I talked very little," he said. "We've had a wonderful marriage. Where one went, the other went. We had no secret places. When I was at work, I didn't worry about her running around, because she didn't. We were locked together."

"God's been good to us," Maggie added. "I wish everyone could have a happy life like we have, because we have really been happy."

# Bands sought for 'Weststock'

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is still room for more bands to perform at Weststock, a battle of the bands scheduled for Thursday at the William P. Faust Library performance pavilion.

"We're trying to get 22 bands for our 22nd anniversary. It's the 50th anniversary of Woodstock," said Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza. "We'll play music and have fun."

Currently, there are 15 bands signed up for Weststock, which

is scheduled to run from 1-9 p.m. The bands are being asked to perform a four-song set, including two cover songs.

"A lot of kids want to play songs so we're hoping for a variety of music. A lot of young kids like '70s and '80s music — they like to play hard rock," said Toarmina. "I have a store in Marquette and was in a bar near campus. They were playing '80s music. I was at least 20 years older than anyone there."

With the number of bands performing and the length of the event, Toarmina said he expects a lot of the audi-

ence will come and go during Weststock. He plans to have food, such as pizza and sandwiches available for sale, along with Weststock T-shirts.

"We put this together pretty fast, but I think it is coming together pretty well. We hope to do it every year," said Toarmina, adding the concert also helps the library increase its community involvement.

Anyone interested in performing at Weststock, which will be taped for local access cable, can call (734) 377-3413.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

# Westland Rotary honors 2 members

Two Westland residents and members of Westland Rotary were honored at the club's officer installation lunch June 11.

Mary McGaw, a mortgage loan officer for Bank of America, was named Rotarian of the Year. She is the club's community service chair, and oversees such efforts as dis-

tributing school supplies to Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns Elementary schools.

Bulson, also a club board member, was lauded for his efforts chairing the January, Mardi Gras, a club fund-raiser. He is owner of Men on the Move movers in Westland.

Antoinette Martin will serve as 2009-10 president of

Westland Rotary. Other officers are Joe Tseng, treasurer; Sandy Kollinger, secretary; Mary Vellardita, president-elect; and Julie Brown, past president. Directors for the new year are Gary Bulson, Noel Derr, Margaret Harlow, Mark McGonnell, Mary McGaw and Richard Strausbaugh.

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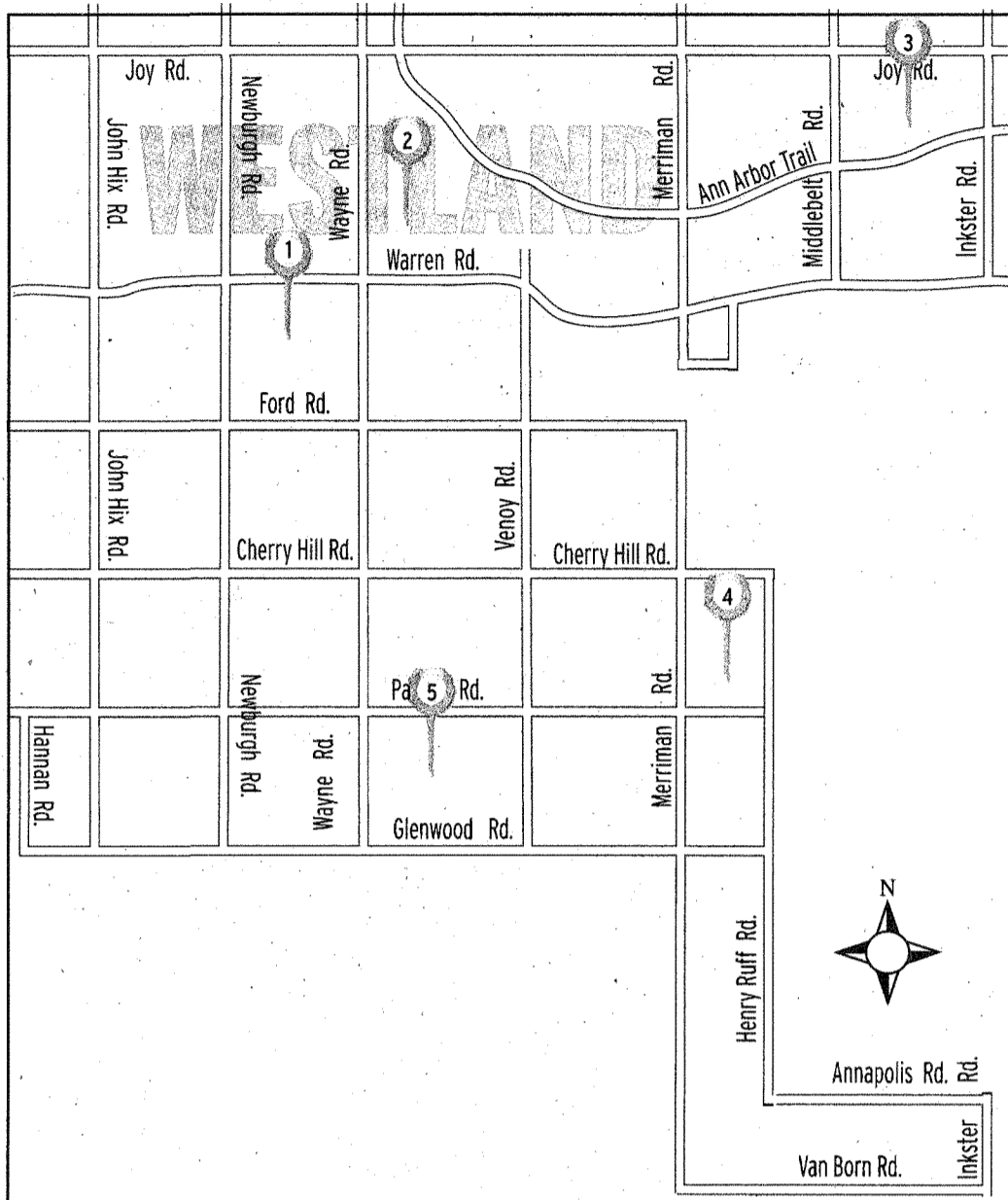
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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## COP CALLS



### Larceny from a vehicle

1 On June 10, a resident of an apartment in the 7000 block of Lakeview told police that someone had stolen stereo equipment, valued at more than \$500 from his locked vehicle.

The vehicle trunk had been pried open to gain access the vehicle. The speakers and an amp were removed from the back seat area and the radio was removed from the dashboard.

### Vandalism

2 Police were called to St. Theodore Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, just after 2 a.m. June 11 when an alarm was activated.

A window near the rear rectory door was found to have been smashed with a rock taken from a group of rocks lining the driveway.

Damage to the window and screen were estimated at \$400.

### Tires missing

3 A resident in the 27000 block of Trailbrooke Circle told police that early June 10 he found his vehicle sitting on landscaping bricks and all four tires missing.

The vehicle was parked in a carport in the complex south of the residence. The tires were valued at \$600.

### Larceny

4 A Wayne woman told police June 8 that she had been shopping at Dollar Goods and More, 1659 S. Merriman, and forgot her purse after setting it aside while she paid. She said she returned about five minutes later but the purse was gone.

The purse was valued at \$110 and contained her checkbook along with \$40 cash, the woman said.

### Break-in attempt

5 On the morning of June 14, a resident in the 2100 block of Edgerton told police she arrived home and noticed her back door looked different. It appeared that someone had tried to kick open the door, damaging both the door and jamb.

No entry was made to the house.

### Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 35000 block of Glen told police that someone had broken into his locked vehicle overnight. When he got up June 14, he said he found the driver's door open and interior light on. The radio and a set of golf clubs which had been in the rear seat were reported missing.

On June 15, a resident of an

apartment in the 37000 block of Scottsdale told police that someone had smashed a window on his vehicle and stolen a GPS unit valued at \$100.

Also on June 15, a resident in the 2300 block of Stockmeyer told police a window had been smashed on her locked vehicle.

By LeAnne Rogers

## Judge: Police must release in-car videos

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A judge has sided with an area defense attorney who is seeking release of in-car camera video of traffic stops conducted by Westland police on St. Patrick's Day.

"This was a major victory under the Freedom of Information Act," said Dearborn attorney William Maze. "I have a good number of DUI (drinking under the influence) cases in Westland and the police have been alleged that the driver was swerving or there was some other reason for the stop when there was no reason. I came up with the idea to get a FOIA for all the in-car videos."

St. Patrick's Day was selected for the request, Maze said, due to the additional alcohol enforcement on that traditionally occurs on the holiday. Maze has argued that officers stop vehicles leaving bars without sufficient reason, and drivers who aren't intoxicated are happy to be on their way without receiving a ticket.

Westland denied the FOIA submitted by Maze, who wasn't himself stopped by police nor had client who was stopped during that particular time period, citing a legal exemption for the privacy of those drivers who were pulled over.

Maze obtained an attorney and a lawsuit was filed in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Judge Robert Ziolkowski dismissed Westland Mayor William Wild, Chief James Ridener and the Westland Police Department as defendants in the lawsuit, leaving the city as the remaining defendant. Ziolkowski ordered the city to release the video — approxi-

mately 110 hours of digital recordings — but without the audio track.

"Right now, I've contacted the Westland Police Department to see if they can delete the audio. We haven't decided on an appeal," said City Attorney Michael McNamara. "We need to comply with the judge's order and make sure there is no audio."

The cost for an employee reviewing the tapes and having them duplicated with the audio track removed could be expensive, McNamara said. In addition, he said darkness and weather can make it difficult to see what is occurring — those cases would rely on the officer's testimony.

"In my opinion, it's a business move. He (Maze) is trying to bolster his argument," McNamara said, adding Maze requests evidentiary hearings in his drunken driving defenses.

Maze agrees that he has been unsuccessful in arguing that Westland officers have stopped his drunken driving clients without cause in front of the current and previous Westland 18th District Court judges.

"Ultimately, I don't know what I will see on the video," said Maze, who expressed concern that the city would charge an exorbitant amount to duplicate the video. "I have the right to inspect the video or have it duplicated. I'll watch at the police department with the sound off."

Under FOIA, a successful plaintiff can be awarded legal fees. In this case, Maze said his attorney fees are about \$12,000. Ziolkowski's ruling did not address legal fees, McNamara said.

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# Balance retirement and home purchase planning

When it comes to IRAs, it seems most questions deal with how to invest money. It is essential to have a strategy and invest your IRA wisely.

I believe one should treat an IRA as a portion of an entire portfolio rather than a separate investment. That said, I also believe it is important to have a strategy when it comes to withdrawing money from an IRA.

Most people assume you should let your IRA grow tax-deferred as long as you can before taking distributions. I don't believe in this strategy for everyone. So much of the strategy regarding how to withdraw money from an IRA is dependent upon an individual financial situation. For example, someone in a low tax bracket should consider taking money from his/her IRA and letting outside investments continue to reinvest and grow. The reason is because nonretirement accounts would be subject to capital gain rates which are substantially lower than the ordinary income tax bracket.

The key is to do what's good for you.

On the topic of withdrawals, I've had a number of questions of on whether to withdraw money from an IRA to purchase a home. With housing prices continuing to fall, many individuals are looking at taking advantage of the bargains but they need money for the down payment. Should they withdraw money from their IRA? First, it is important to understand that if you are under 59½ there are ways that you can access your IRA without having to pay a penalty. Of course, while you are subject to the tax on the money there are ways you can avoid penalties. The real issue isn't the tax, but rather should someone use a retirement account to purchase a home. Generally, my advice for most people is don't touch the IRA. However, we are in extraordinary times and in



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

from using retirement money

some situations it may make sense.

I cannot stress enough the importance of saving for retirement and investing retirement money wisely. In the past, I have discouraged people

to purchase a home because my general view was if you had to touch your retirement money, you probably could not afford the home. After all, when you consider retirement you must factor into the equation what Social Security will be in the future is unknown, people are living longer and also the numerous changes in the financial marketplace. That is why I generally recommend against tapping into an IRA to purchase a home.

But there are exceptions, and one just might be the first-time homeowner. The credit available to first-time homebuyers for federal tax purposes and the low prices of homes provide a good argument for using an IRA to purchase a home. Even for those who do not receive the first-time homebuyer tax credit, tapping using IRA money may make sense. Of course, the individual who is tapping into an IRA must make a dedicated effort to

eventually replenish that money by continuing to make ongoing contributions.

There used to be a rule that in the great majority of cases, one had to put 20 percent down in order to purchase the home. Although that rule has unfortunately gone away, I believe it is a rule that most people should follow. If you end up buying a house that you cannot afford you will be unable to save for retirement and that could lead to problems

down the road.

If you commit yourself to being fiscally responsible and continue to save for retirement, accessing an IRA to purchase a home can be a very good strategy particularly for first-time homebuyers.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## Senate Dems fail to block state shared revenue cuts

State Senate Democrats Tuesday voted in opposition to the Senate Republicans' proposal to cut \$20.55 million from the 21st Century Jobs Fund and 12 percent from local revenue sharing as part of the General Government budget.

The 21st Century Jobs Fund helps entrepreneurs start small businesses, fund scientific research, support alternative energy development, and promote collaborative partnerships among growing industries, while cities, townships and counties rely heavily on local revenue sharing funding for public safety and infrastructure improvements. "We need to do everything we can to diversify our economy, and this need is even more pressing as we are faced with auto dealership, supplier and manufacturing plant closures," said State Sen. Glenn Anderson, a member of the Appropriations Committee. "The 21st Century Jobs Fund helps create jobs in fields that will help our state thrive and become a leader in the economy of tomorrow, and there couldn't be a worse time to cut this program more than \$20 million."

Anderson, a Democrat from Westland, introduced an amendment to restore the \$20.55 million to the \$52.95 million, which is the amount of funding allotted after the Governor's Executive Order cuts. This funding is essential to diversifying Michigan's economy and creating thousands of new jobs in Michigan, but the amendment was voted down on a party line vote, Anderson said.

Senate Democrats also opposed the Republican-led 12 percent cut to local revenue sharing. The revenue is distributed to local communities for local police, firefighters, water systems, road maintenance and other vital services.

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# Woman gets kidney from brother's best friend



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## BECOME A DONOR

Every day in the United States, on average, 18 people die waiting for organ transplants, according to the Gift of Life Web site, [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org). During the past 10 years, the transplant waiting list has more than doubled, with more than 100,000 people needing heart, kidney, liver, lung and pancreas transplants.

Tens of thousands of others need corneas to restore sight, bone and other tissues to repair injured or diseased bones and joints, skin to heal burns and heart valves to replace diseased ones. To become a donor, sign up with the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. For more information, call Gift of Life Michigan at (800) 482-4881.

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

When Kimberly Durand was 9, she was diagnosed with kidney failure and she knew she would someday need dialysis or a transplant, but she never dreamed a good friend would donate the organ that would save her life.

Renee Gauci-Wilkins went into surgery to remove her kidney at 7:30 a.m. May 21 at Harper DMC in Detroit and Durand followed at 8:30 a.m.

"It's such an awesome thing she did for me, and I can never repay her for the gift she's given me," said Durand, 22. "There's definitely a bond now."

A couple of weeks after the operations, the two are talking, laughing and occasionally welling up with tears while sitting at the kitchen table in Durand's parents' (Sandy and Larry Durand) home. They talk about pains caused by the operations and about trips they'd like to take.

Gauci-Wilkins, 31, grew up down the street from Durand in a cozy Livonia neighborhood with big lots and neatly kept yards. Her brother, Joey Gauci, has been Durand's best friend since preschool.

Durand was on dialysis since last July, but kept getting infections.

On Sept. 20, 2007, she was placed on an organ transplant list, United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which is also known as the Organ Center. Durand's name never came up.

"We started testing family and friends and (Gauci-Wilkins) was the 16th person to be tested," said Durand, a 2005 Churchill High School graduate.

After the match, Larry Durand, said: "We won the lottery," Sandy Durand explains.

There were a lot of false starts, too. Last fall, Durand thought her sister, Andrea DeMetsenare, was a match, but it turned out she wasn't

Kimberly Durand received a kidney donated by Renee Gauci-Wilkins.

an eligible donor.

"I had tons of people who went for testing and that's a great feeling," Durand said. "I'm honored that people would step forward and take charge and want to do something like that."

Gauci-Wilkins went through a battery of tests and had to provide medical records. Her only concern was whether having one kidney would prevent her from having babies. Once she learned she could, there was no question she would help.

Durand, a nursing student at Madonna University, held three

part-time jobs before the dialysis started zapping her energy. Sometimes she needed up to two naps a day.

"Some days I would just come home and I was like a wet noodle," she said. "My whole life, I was athletic and energetic."

After the transplant, Durand said, she immediately felt her energy level surge. But for now, she's putting all her energy into recovering.

"They said the first year is the most vital, and I'll be on immune suppressants the rest of my life," she adds. "You never come off them because your immune system will

attack it."

While her new kidney could fail at any point, Durand said, the average use of a transplanted kidney is 20 years.

"Sometimes it lasts a lifetime and hopefully that's what happens," Durand said.

Gauci-Wilkins expects to be fully recovered six to eight weeks after the surgery. About giving up a kidney, Gauci-Wilkins, a flight attendant for Northwest operated by Delta, said: "I'm not missing it at all. Not only do I have the opportunity to help someone, but I get to watch someone live their life."

## Film festival's Mobiflicks seeks 'movie makers'

Madonna University will host the third annual Project Accessible Hollywood (PAH-fest) Motown this summer. The unique, entirely free, digital media festival travels throughout the U.S. and internationally, engaging people in the art of movie-making and digital storytelling. Competitions and events will take place at Madonna's Livonia campus Monday-Sunday, July 13-19.

The Mobiflicks competition is the festival's main event. Throughout the week, pre-selected teams create short films. The teams are provided with professional coaching and equipment as they write, produce, shoot and edit, turning their story into a six-minute movie.

The competition is open to all. Those interested in participating must submit their story idea, approximately 250 words, to [www.pahnation.com](http://www.pahnation.com) by Saturday, June 20.

"Not only is Mobiflicks fun, but it provides an outlet for individuals, communities and organizations to share their stories," said Sue Boyd, Madonna University broadcast and cinema arts instructor and PAH-fest organizer. "The competition also is an exciting experience for anyone considering a career in Michigan's burgeoning film industry."

Last year's winning film, entitled "Espranza," told the story of a Detroit native who founded the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), which provides a fun, safe environment for local youth.

This year, Mobiflicks teams will include composers, who will create musical scores for the short films. Composers can apply to be matched with a team by submitting an MP3 file of their work on the PAH-fest Web site, [www.pahnation.com](http://www.pahnation.com), also by June 20.

PAH-fest creator Christopher Coppola looks forward to the one-of-a-kind stories he encounters during PAH-fest Motown.

"There are pockets of magic within Detroit families and communities," he said. "PAH-fest Motown is an excellent opportunity to bring to light the positive stories of a city that lately has received a lot of negative press."

Coppola, nephew of director Francis Ford Coppola and brother to actor Nicholas Cage, will return to Madonna's campus for the festival.

Mobiflicks films will be screened during the Festival Closing Ceremony, and cash prizes will be awarded. Afterwards, all films will be posted on the PAH-fest Web site for viewing. For more information about Mobiflicks, or to view a full schedule of PAH-fest events, visit [www.pahnation.com](http://www.pahnation.com), or call Sue Boyd at (734) 432-5578.

### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on June 29, 2009 at 6:45 o'clock in the evening at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District will hold a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2008-09 budgets.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2009-10 budgets until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2009-10 budgets including the proposed property tax millage rates is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan.

**The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budgets will be a subject of this hearing.**

This notice is given by order to the Board of Education.

Robert J. Freeman, Secretary

Publish: June 18 & 21, 2009

CE0861822 - 2x3

### Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 6/26/2009 at 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Nicolas Bridges	1078	boxes, tv, bags
Barbara Tobachak	1300	boxes, bags, tv
Sharron Lynch	1400	boxes, bags, tv
Michael Williams	1460	washer, dryer, boxes
Robert Pierce	1482	speakers, dresser, tv
Shatunna Priester	2188	boxes, bags, totes

Publish: June 11 & 18, 2009

CE0860058 - 2x3

### Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 6/26/2009 at 11:00 am Sales are for cash only.

Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Talis Dugas	2051	boxes, totes, sofa
Robert Howell	2055	tv, boxes, totes
Nancyanne Hill	3009	boxes, totes, tv
Elizabeth Montez	3024	tv, chair, boxes
Erma Austin	3042	boxes, dresser, chair
Ken Beck	3084	boxes, chair, dresser
Jeremy McCauley	4008	table, dresser, Yamaha 250 VIN 509-003719
Sharrie Gardner	4058	tv, boxes, bags
Edwin Omev	5003	boxes, dresser, snow blower
Bradley Fleming	5009	chest, microwave, tires
Joy Lynn	5016	bags, totes, stove
Flowers by DeVavila	5037	boxes, bags, tool box
Tracie Breuer	6037	Honda motorcycle VIN HM319HM0B4501
Felicia Davis	6042	washer, dryer, totes
Donald Daigle	6080	boxes, tv, fan
Ron Bemby	6085	bags
Rosemarie Schafer	6093	boxes, totes, dresser
Tammy Goupill	6099	boxes, bags, dresser
Douglas White	6129	chair, dresser, boxes
Donald Lewandowski	7002	washer, dryer, boxes
Jeffrey Stonecipher	7082	totes, dresser, boxes
Deonte Barber	7108	boxes, totes, dresser
Dineen Hawkins	9092	boxes, totes

Publish: June 11, 2009

CE0860647 - 2x5-5

### Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 6/26/2009 at 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Cheryl A Calvilla	B042	boxes, bags, tv
Nakia Mathis	B091	chairs, mattress, sofa
Nada Abulhassan	B094	boxes, bags, lamp
Dwain Puryear	B128	boxes, bags, totes
Annette Hawkins	B132	boxes, bags, totes
Trina Moore	B152	boxes, totes
Tabita Latham	B185	boxes, dresser, totes
Ricky Wallace	B226	bags, bed fame, boxes
Petrice Johnson	B257	boxes, bags, totes
Dale Marie Griffin	B267	bags, boxes, record player
Herman Watkins	B298	boxes, bags, clothes
Brenda Switzer	C040	bags, boxes, totes
Aaron Daniels	D030	boxes, bags, refrigerator
Jason Hall	E008	boxes, bags, totes
Carol Lyons	E023	boxes, bags, grill
Sturge Moreland	F014	bike, boxes, dresser
Aikesiah Carter	F049	stove, bags, refrigerator

Publish: June 11 & 18, 2009

CE0860674 - 2x4

### Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 6/26/2009 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

Steven Dale Trimble	105	boxes, dresser, tv
Amy Wasson	132	boxes, bags, tv
Norris Taylor	337	boxes, bags, pictures
Lyndale Thomas	521	boxes, bags, totes
Angela Daily	535	boxes, bags, dresser
Mathew Bruce	619	sofa, vacuum, boxes
Amber Larowe	831	boxes, bags, sofa
June Francisco	833	boxes, bags, table
Keith Garland	904	boxes, bags, tool box
Ron VerDoot	1039	boxes, bags, totes
Bianca Jordan	1118	boxes, bags, sofa
Shane Haase	1129	boxes, totes, tv

Publish: June 11 & 18, 2009

CE0860670 - 2x5



## OUR VIEWS

### Departing officials leave mark on city

The makeup of two important bodies in the City of Westland is about to change. The first transformation comes in July when two veteran members — Ed Turner and Steve Becher — of the Wayne-Westland school board are replaced with newly elected trustees. The second will come in January when there will be three new faces on the Westland City Council after veteran council members Cheryl Graunstadt, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer opted not to seek re-election.

Each one, in their own way, has left their mark on the city and the school district. Their commitment to the community and to the residents is undeniable.

Turner has served on the school board for 12 years and by far, is the one trustee who has visited school after school after school. Granted, he has been able to do that because he is a retiree, but for Turner the school visits were more than part of the job. He loves children, he loves being with them. And it's apparent that the feeling is mutual.

He will be truly missed. Even his directions to youngsters who opening board meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance — "I have one word for you — Outback. Have your principal take you there and when she does, call me, so I can go." — will be missed.

Becher served on the board for five years and as a retired teacher, he brought a classroom perspective to the board. He spoke out when he felt something wasn't right. Two issues come to mind, the state's new mandated high school curriculum and the need to go to same sex gym classes at the high school level.

He wore his heart on his sleeve and got emotional at times, but there was never any doubt that he was there for the students of the district. He cared about them and their education and it showed.

Graunstadt is the epitome of the saying: To thine own self be true. In her eight years on the council, she stayed true to her principles, the most obvious, the environment. She was instrumental in bringing news of the Cooper School contamination to the forefront in the 1990s and was an outspoken critic of the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority incinerator and the failed trash-to-energy agreement. In fact, she received a White Pine Award from the Sierra Club's Mackinac Chapter for her untiring efforts in opposing the incinerator.

Her goal was to be a role model for her daughters on "how important it was to stand up for your rights and to stay true to your principles," but she also was a role model for this community. Politics did not cloud her decisions. She voted for what she believed was right, and we believe the city is better for that.

Stottlemeyer has served his city in several capacities — as a member of the Westland Fire Department and as a member of the City Council for nine years. He came on the council during the tumultuous times following then-City Clerk Patricia Gibbons' firing and helped restored civility to council meetings and the city.

He, too, has the interests of the city at heart, but the work he will be remembered most for will be to benefit wounded American soldiers. He has had a penchant for showmanship, and he used that to organize a Hal Holbrook performance and help get an annual dinner off the ground to raise money for the Wounded Warriors Fund.

Pickering's service to the community goes well beyond his time on the council. He worked in the parks and recreation department, served a term as mayor and two different stints on council. He has asked the hard questions and raised tough questions. One that comes to mind is city contracts approved last year. It was Pickering who opposed the plan and renewed his concerns about whether the city can afford the raises. In light of today's economy, we wonder if he has psychic abilities.

Pickering's insight and his experience will be missed in the city. He has taken on the task of helping Christine Cicirelli Bryant get elected to the council. We hope in his transition to a campaign manager, he will provide that insight and knowledge that will be needed to keep Westland moving forward.

These are five individuals who have left an indelible mark on the fabric of the Westland community. We wish them well in their new endeavors and ask then not be strangers. Come back and see us sometime.



### Getting ready to recycle

Steve Firno of Plymouth assembles blue recycling carts that are being delivered to homes in Westland in preparation for the start of a new curbside recycling program. Recycling will cut the amount of trash the city send to landfills, and residents who recycle will be reward with their choice of gift cards from participating merchants through the RecycleBank.

## LETTERS

### Health care for everyone

Ideally, what Americans need is single payer health care, one like our veterans receive through the Veterans Administration. If not that, we could provide Medicare for everyone. These are two "concepts" which are already in place; one for our veterans, the other for our seniors. Either one of these two working models could be expanded to include every citizen of the United States.

That having been said, the health care industry is currently a "for profit" business. This big business has been funding political campaigns for decades now. The stranglehold they have over our representatives in Congress is staggering. We, the people must tell our representatives ENOUGH! No more can we stand by and allow for profit health insurance companies "provide" our health care. They stand in the way of actually providing the care we need in order to make bigger profits.

What we could accept is a "not for profit" comprehensive health care system that provides an "all-in" health care for people who continue to pay a premium which would be greatly reduced due to the volume of participants. For those people who cannot afford to pay, they may qualify for what President Obama referred to as a "hardship clause."

The only way to jump start America's economy is to provide health care for all, thereby taking health care off the backs of employers, preventing health-related bankruptcy and allowing Americans to live without fear of leaving their families destitute when facing health issues.

Everyone should be contacting the White House and their representatives in the House and Senate. Tell them to craft legislation which provides comprehensive health care for all Americans, get it to President Obama's desk for his signature and get it done now!

Patricia Linna  
Westland

### FOCA: mythical legislation

As an active and pro-life Catholic I am profoundly disappointed by the church hierarchy in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Recent weekend Masses and other church functions were used as a forum for a politically motivated disinformation campaign pertaining to mythical legislation known as the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA). A review of the Congressional Record for the Congress of the United States clearly indicates that no such legislation has been introduced or is pending in the current 111th Congress, which has already been in session for nearly five months.

So why all the outrage over non-existent legislation? It is politics, pure and simple. Conservative ideologues are increasingly in control of the American Catholic Church's leadership and they are quite unhappy about the results of last November's elections. They needed a "straw man" in the form of a mythical FOCA to maintain a level of fake political outrage.

Many low-information Catholics unwittingly support Republican legislators,

who piously claim to be "pro-life" but who consistently work against the health and economic interests of Catholic families. Moreover, the conservative political agenda of warmongering, hatemongering, and the glorification of selfishness and greed stands in direct contravention of Catholic social teaching.

It seems that the Catholic Church hierarchy is too busy tilting at windmills instead of working toward a world that is embodiment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a world where every child is wanted, loved, and cared for from the moment of conception through birth and then throughout our entire lives as humans made in the image of our Creator.

However, this most noble ambition is unacceptable to many because it requires the commitment of the family, the community, and government all working together for the common good. Republicans derisively dismiss this as "socialism," an intellectually dishonest application of the term.

The Catholic Church has every right and obligation to express itself in the political arena. However, when contrived right-wing political nonsense is embraced by the church leadership and it spills over into our parishes, it becomes quite disturbing. If the Catholic Church hierarchy wants to advance a truly pro-life agenda, they should immediately and strongly get behind the Obama administration's efforts to reform health care, to strengthen labor laws, and to restructure the economy to reflect our 21st Century America. I would not, however, advise anyone to hold their breath waiting for that to happen. It appears that our church leaders prefer being used as political dupes.

Joe Golonka  
Westland

### Shocking move

The Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy is shocked and dismayed that a decision was made by the Detroit Economic Development Corp. to demolish the Navin Field portion of Tiger Stadium without consulting the conservancy.

The Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy has made considerable progress to move the redevelopment of this property forward by securing millions of dollars in earmarks, grants and tax credits, as well as a state recommendation of historic designation.

By demolishing, the city loses \$22 million in credits and earmarks and adds another vacant lot in the city of Detroit. Apparently, the policy is to save the city by demolishing it. We encourage citizens to contact the mayor's office as well as Detroit City Council to voice their concerns.

Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy

### Martyr or murderer?

Apparently some "Right to Life" members

are projecting Scott Roeder, the suspected killer of a Kansas physician, as some sort of a martyr. Mr. Roeder allegedly stalked Dr. George Tiller into his church while the doctor was ushering and killed him on the spot because he performs abortions.

This is premeditated murder. The stalking of abortion doctors and their murder is domestic terrorism. There is absolutely nothing patriotic about domestic political assassination.

It does not matter what side we each are on with abortion. This is a legal process and Dr. Tiller was performing this perfectly legal procedure. There is absolutely no moral justification for his murder.

The Right to Life groups can protest abortion all they want. Domestic political assassination can never be justified under any circumstances. We pride ourselves as being a country of law. The anti-abortion forces would do better if they would adhere.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey  
Farmington Hills

### Government doesn't know best

For the president of the U.S.A. and/or Congress to believe that either one, or both, has the expertise of the leaders of the auto industry to manage the affairs of the auto industry is a principle example of the epitome of absurdity. The unconscionable federal debt is a prime example of the failure of the government to manage the affairs of government.

When Congress has been petitioned for a loan, it should be granted because we believe it will be repaid with interest or denied because we believe it will not be repaid with interest in a timely way. The loan to Chrysler under the management of Lee Iacocca is an outstanding example of the process and its success. The "credit score" of the auto industry is sufficiently high.

For Congress to grant to the manufacturers the privilege of abrogating their contracts with their dealers is "adding coals to the fire." The manufacturers would like nothing more than to scrap their present program for one in which there are macro dealers upon whom micro dealers would be dependent for their merchandise. This will reduce manufacturers' costs, but it will put distribution of cars in the hands of dealerships who will compete with their microdealers for the retail sale and who will be in a position to set the microdealer's purchase price.

One of the greatest sins of Congress is the hypocrisy of pretending to champion free enterprise and then creating laws that frustrate the natural flow of the effects of it. Do not succumb to the siren call of the Janus-like executives who are trying to take advantage of Congress' and the president's naivety in the auto business. Do not allow the manufacturers to restructure the dealer organization. Allow the matter to resolve itself in the course of free enterprise.

Stanley A. Wickman  
Livonia

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If you have an item for Malls & Main Streets, please e-mail Susan Steinmueller at ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com or Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Free classes

Art Van Furniture, Michigan's largest furniture retailer, will offer design classes this fall. The store's Visual Merchandising team will present classes on four main topics: Determining Your Style, The Impact of Color, Furniture Placement, and Accessorizing. The style class will teach participants how to make smarter decisions about major purchases and make a home more comfortable for the family. The color session will explain the value of color and how to pick the right hues for a style. The furniture placement class will cover traffic patterns, focal points, floor plans and visual balance. The final session will clarify how to clear clutter, work with pieces that hold an emotional connection, and mix old and new pieces together.

Classes will be held Sept. 15, 22, 29 and Oct. 6 at the Novi store, 27775 Novi Road, and Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1 and 8, in the Ann Arbor store, 425 E. Eisenhower Parkway.

Reservations are requested. Register by calling (888) 619-2199.

Reading incentive

Borders Express at Laurel Park Place in Livonia is challenging youngsters 12 and under to read this summer and offering a 50 percent savings on merchandise when they do.

Kids can pick up a Reading Challenge form at Borders, read any eight books they like (no purchase necessary) and list them on the form. If they return the form they'll receive a coupon for half off on selected items.

Forms must be returned by Aug. 31.

Meet the author

Tom Lowe, author of *A False Dawn*, will sign his new crime novel at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, at Barnes & Noble's Northville store, 17111 Haggerty. (248) 348-0696. At 7:30 p.m., the store's mystery book group will meet.

Grill or Barbecue? Learn the difference at the All-American Summer class, 11 a.m., Sunday, June 28 and 6 p.m.,

Monday June 29 at the Williams-Sonoma store in Somerset Collection, Troy. You'll also learn how to capture slow-cooked flavors with ease. The class will include all-American recipes that are perfect for a Fourth of July cookout.

Class sizes are limited. (248) 637-0672

Trade electronics

RadioShack at Westland Mall will appraise your used electronics — MP3 players, GPS receivers, digital cameras, mobile phones, games and gaming systems, and camcorders — and give you their value in the form of a RadioShack gift card on trade-in. The program runs through December. Westland Mall is located at 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. (734) 421-0291

Wall the mail

Too hot or wet to hit the pavement outdoors? Head to Laurel Park Place Mall where the doors open to walkers at 6 a.m., Monday through Saturday and at 9 a.m. on Sunday. You'll log more than a half mile for every completed trip through the mall, including hallways. Laurel Park Place is located on Six Mile, between I-275 and Newburgh, in Livonia.

Inline skating

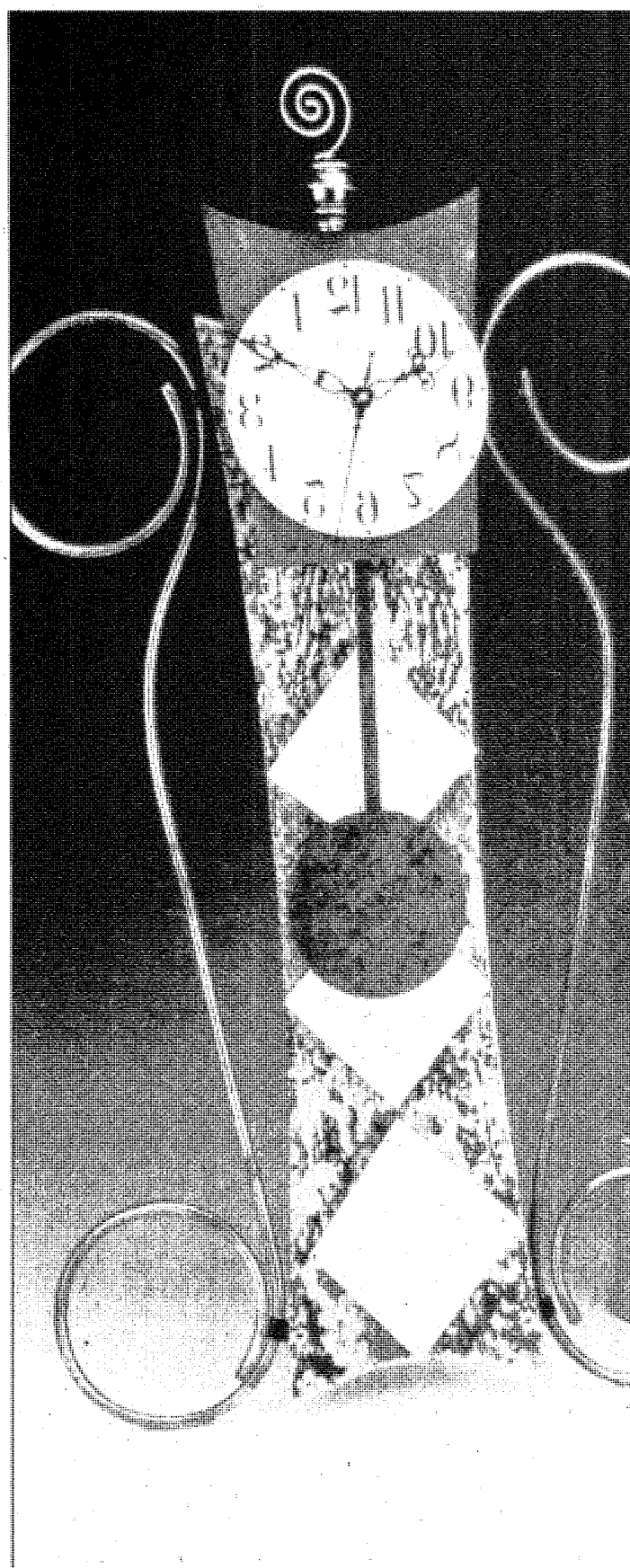
Summit Sports and the Farmington Inline Skate Club will host inline skating events 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Intermediate/advanced skaters will meet every Monday in June in the rear parking lot of Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power Road, Farmington for a 15-25 mile skate through hilly terrain.

Beginner/intermediate skaters will meet Wednesdays, through Aug. 26, in the public parking area on Orchard Street (behind the Farmington Shopping Center at Farmington and Grand River) for 4-12 miles of skating in two loops.

The store is located at 28942 Orchard Lake Road. On July 29 and Aug. 26, Summit Sports will hold a skate maintenance clinic at 7:30 in between the loops Call (248) 737-0970.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

# Downtown Northville gears up for art festival



Artist Duane Scherer's clock sculptures will be on display at Northville's upcoming art festival.

The 21st Annual Northville Art in the Sun fine arts festival will offer more than 100 juried artists, lively music, food, kids' activities and the ambiance of downtown Northville, Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28.

Festival hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday.

Kids activities will include sand art, plaster painting, sandy candy, caricatures, and face painting. Sheila Landis, award-winning jazz vocalist will perform noon-4 p.m., Sunday. Performers from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday are classical guitarist Roy Scoutz, drummer Ken Majors and Americamanta, with Brazilian music.

For more information about the show, leave a message at the Northville Art House at (248) 344-0497 or visit online at [www.northvillearts.org](http://www.northvillearts.org).



Jewelry, like this glass bead necklace by artist Ann Jalsa, will be sold at Northville's Art in the Sun festival.

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# Cavaliers come calling at Wayne High

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Cavaliers are coming. If you're a fan of drum lines and drum and bugle corps, you won't want to miss the Rosemont, Ill., Cavaliers when they make a two-day stopover at Wayne Memorial High School to rehearse for competition in Toledo, Ohio.

"Their visit is creating a lot of excitement," said Wayne High band director Matt Diroff, who is organizing band boosters and students to prepare for the group's arrival. "I'm amazed at the hard work that's put in for one of these visits. It's a great learning experience for the kids."

Diroff was contacted at the end of May about hosting the Cavaliers. The school will provide sleeping areas and shower rooms for the members and their drivers and cooks and provide the high school football stadium for rehearsals. The group — five motor coaches, three tractor-trailers and several cars — will arrive at the Wayne high school around 2 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, Diroff said.

They'll use the high school football field for practice 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday before heading to Toledo where they compete with six-seven other drum and bugle corps in the Glassman All-Star Review at the University of Toledo.

"They only need a place to rehearse and sleep, they have their own food truck," said Diroff. "What we try to do is make them feel welcome and let them know they're at a place that appreciates the opportunity to host them."

Band boosters are creating goodie bags for the group filled with snack foods that they can take with them when they leave. They also will man the concessions stand where corps members and people who come to watch the practice can buy hot dogs and



Members of The Cavaliers drum and bugle corps from Rosemont, Ill., rehearse routines that they perform at competitions around the country. The group will be rehearsing at Wayne-Westland's Wayne Memorial High School June 24-25.



Founded in 1948, The Cavaliers is an all-male drum and bugle corps.

snacks throughout Wednesday afternoon and evening.

One booster is also creating vinyl signs to hang up outside the gym and stadium welcom-

ing and wishing the Cavaliers good luck.

"The boosters are doing an amazing job. Having been a member of one of those

groups, I know how nice it was to have someone make you feel at home in a strange place," said Diroff. "These kind of groups take off in June and stop at their home base once or twice over three months."

"They do their performances then pack up and move on to the next stop. They do that until August when they converge on Indiana for the world championships," he added.

The Cavaliers have 150 members and a support staff of some 35 people. The group got its start in 1948 when a Chicago Scoutmaster organized his troop members into a drum corps after seeing a performance at Soldier Field by a group of Racine, Wis., Eagle Scouts. The all-male Cavaliers perform in the Drum Corps International's world

class division and has won five world championships over the last eight years, including a first-place finish in 2006.

Diroff expects the Cavaliers visit will attract alumni and fans from around the state as well as a large contingent from Plymouth-Canton, which has a strong music program. He expects the largest crowds during the afternoon and evening practices.

And the Cavaliers aren't the only drum and bugle corps that will stop by the school this summer. Wayne High also will host a one-day visit by the Santa Clara Vanguard from Santa Clara, Calif., on Aug. 3.

Diroff said the visit will be "exciting" because the Vanguard will be "in tiptop shape."

"After they come here, I'm

pretty sure they'll head to Indiana," he said.

The high school has been hosting drum and bugle corps for several years and has done such a good job that it's now at the top of the list for host schools. Diroff made the connection through a friend of a friend. According to Diroff, the Cavaliers' visit should be a must for bandsmen serious about their performances.

"If you want to learn how to do what you do better, you have to see it done at the highest level," he said.

Wayne Memorial High School is at 3001 Fourth St. at Glenwood in Wayne. For more information, contact Diroff by e-mail at diroffm@wwcsd.net.

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



## A Detroit thing

Tiger fever was everywhere at the Four Chaplains Nursing Care Center in Westland when Paws, the Detroit Tiger mascot, visited as part of the center's Nursing Home Week celebration. The theme for the week was Detroit history with Friday designated as Tiger Day. Paws hammed it up, posing with residents for photographs and passed at baseballs as part of his visit. The staff also wore their team shirts and colors as part of the visit, and later in the day, residents learned about and even sampled such Detroit products as Vernors, Faygo Pop, Sanders, Wonder Bread, Better Made potato chips. Other guests during the week included the Feet on the Street Tour, Damon Shaw of The Platters and Sounds of Detroit.

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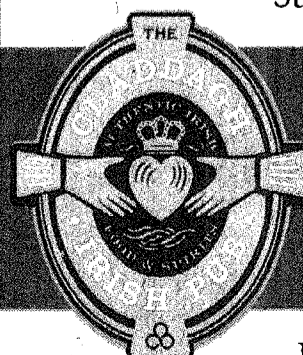
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# TEE TIME

Your local golf guide



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## Is a golf course slope rating of 130 always really tough?

By Doug Hendershot

With nearly 900 golf courses in Michigan, there is certainly a wide range of golf course and slope ratings to select from. With this many courses you can find any degree of difficulty one chooses. And with some knowledge of the USGA Course Rating System, it is possible to find that special "hidden gem" that suits your game and makes the golfing experience even more fun.

The USGA Course Rating of a golf course (not slope rating) is designed to ensure that the rating of a golf course is in proper relation to the ratings of the other courses. This applies to your local courses, as well as courses throughout the entire United States.

The USGA Course Rating, generally found on a scorecard, is based on the performance of the scratch player and his or her scoring ability related to playing length and 10 obstacle factors.

This USGA Rating System also provides procedures for determining a Bogey Rating based on the performance of the Bogey golfer and his or her scoring ability. This rating is used in connection with the USGA Course Rating to provide a slope rating. For a comprehensive list of all current USGA Course and Slope ratings in Michigan, go to [www.gam.org](http://www.gam.org) and click the course finder tab under the Handicap section of the Golf Association of Michigan Web site.

OK, so now you have your list of courses that may be suited to your playing ability. It's time to take a closer look at both the course ratings and slope numbers to get a better feel for the type of course you are about to be encounter. Through the collection of data on thousands of golfers and thousands of golf holes, the factors that affect the difficulty of a golf hole have been evaluated and assigned numerical

values that yield an accurate course rating and slope rating when applied to an entire course. The slope rating is an indicator of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch players. Since the vast majority of golfers are not scratch players, we will now take a closer look at what really makes a tough golf course.

With permission from the author, the following are excerpts from an article, "Setting the Record Straight," by David Parsigian:

"What do the ratings Mean? Many golfers and golf magazine editors believe "slope" is the best indicator of difficulty. This is incorrect. Slope allows the golfer to accurately determine the number of handicap strokes they are entitled to on a given golf course. That's it! The true key to fulfilling your need for self-punishment is course rating.

The USGA has weighted all of the factors for effective playing length and obstacles, and adjusted those weightings for how they affect the scratch and bogey player differently. Plugged into a formula with this weighting, the factors result in a different course rating for the scratch and bogey golfer.

Now we are ready to put it all together, the course rating represents the average of the better half of the scores of the scratch or bogey golfer under normal course and weather conditions. On a course rated 69.0 with a par 72, a scratch player will shoot that score one out of four times. So where does slope come in?

Slope simply measures how much more difficult a course is for the bogey golfer than the scratch golfer. The higher the slope, the greater the relative difference in difficulty between these two golfers. So, if you perfectly fit the criteria

for a bogey golfer, slope is a reasonably good measure of difficulty. But a better one is to use the course and slope rating to determine the bogey rating. Below is the formula for men. Once you've figured out the bogey rating, you'll know that a bogey golfer will, on average, shoot that score only one out of four times.

Course Rating (Bogey) = Course Rating (Scratch) + (Slope Rating divided by 5.381), for women, just replace 5.381 with 4.24."

Now that I have empowered you with course rating knowledge, you can look at both the USGA slope and course rating to decide if a "130 Slope" is really that tough. Hint, "Remember to look at the course rating."

Doug Hendershot is the Golf Association of Michigan's Director of Course Rating.

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# FILTER

# Oooh ... aahh ... fireworks!

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OGE STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Faith Fowler promises "out of this world" food, a "spectacular view" and a sky-high seat for anyone who attends Catch the Fireworks with Cass on Wednesday, June 24 in downtown Detroit.

Rev. Fowler heads Cass Community Social Services, (CCSS) the organization that will benefit from the \$250 per ticket fund-raiser set in the Coach Insignia restaurant at the top of the Renaissance Center.

"This is our fourth or fifth year (for the fund-raiser). There's nothing better. It doesn't feel like many other fund-raisers — it's pure fun."

The event will start at 6 p.m., with a gourmet strolling dinner, open bar and silent auction. Ticket-holders will get an in-your-face view of the pyrotechnics at approximately 10 p.m. Honorary chairman, Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be on hand to meet and mingle with other guests. Parking is included in the ticket price.

"For me it puts everything in perspective. From that height you can see for miles, from Detroit to the suburbs. You see how it all is one piece of the pie."

Rev. Fowler said ticket proceeds this year will benefit CCSS' operating budget because some of the grants the organization has depended on in the past have been "slashed."

"More and more people are needing help with emergency services, in particular as they are facing foreclosure."

CCSS runs eight sites throughout Detroit, offering food, permanent and transitional housing, clothing, medical aid, job training and placement, and youth mentoring and recreation.

Tickets for Catch the Fireworks with Cass are available by calling (313) 883-2277 or by visiting [casscommunity.org](http://casscommunity.org).

Representatives from one of CCSS' Green industries will be on hand June 19-20 at the Canton Liberty Fest, selling mud mats made from discarded tires. Check out their booth in the festival's "green" area.

The Parade Company's VIP Rooftop Party will benefit the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation and offers a view of the Target Fireworks from atop the Miller Parking Garage. Benefit tickets are \$175 and children's tickets (6 and under) are \$75. Entertainment, food, games and children's activities will keep participants busy until the fireworks start. Buy tickets at (313) 432-7831.

## LIBERTY FEST

John LaFever is in "crunch mode" this week as the 18th annual Liberty Fest — three days of entertainment, food, games, carnival rides, with a car display, parade and fireworks — gets underway in Canton.

LaFever coordinates the festival, including the fireworks, and says every seat in Heritage Park offers a great view of the 40-minute display.

"Anywhere within the park you're within 300 yards away from where they're being shot," he said. "The amphitheater is usually packed because we have entertainment leading up to it and we've added a second stage."

"Some people sit in their cars, but the regulars will bring a lawn chair or blanket."

LaFever suggests that viewers wait for the grand finale and "not be faked out" by the great displays leading up to the end of the show.

"Some people left early last year," he explained.

He's a fan of the fireworks that "blow out like a flower," but says viewers will see a variety of dazzling colors and shapes.

"We change the show every year based on comments we

get." Heritage Park is located on Heritage Park Drive, west of S. Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill.

Look for a more fluid show this year with less time between each spectacular display. Other upcoming fireworks displays:

## LIVONIA

Fireworks cap Spree 59, the city's annual birthday celebration from June 23 to June 28. The 30-minute show starts at 10:15 p.m., Sunday, June 28, at Ford Field, located between Stark and Farmington roads, between Lyndon and Schoolcraft. Shuttles will run from noon until after the fireworks, from Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, south of 5 Mile and east of Farmington Road.

## WESTLAND

The Westland Summer Festival runs July 1-5 on the grounds of Westland City Hall, located south of Ford Road, east of Newburgh. The fireworks show, one of the largest in the tri-county area, starts at approximately 10:15 p.m.

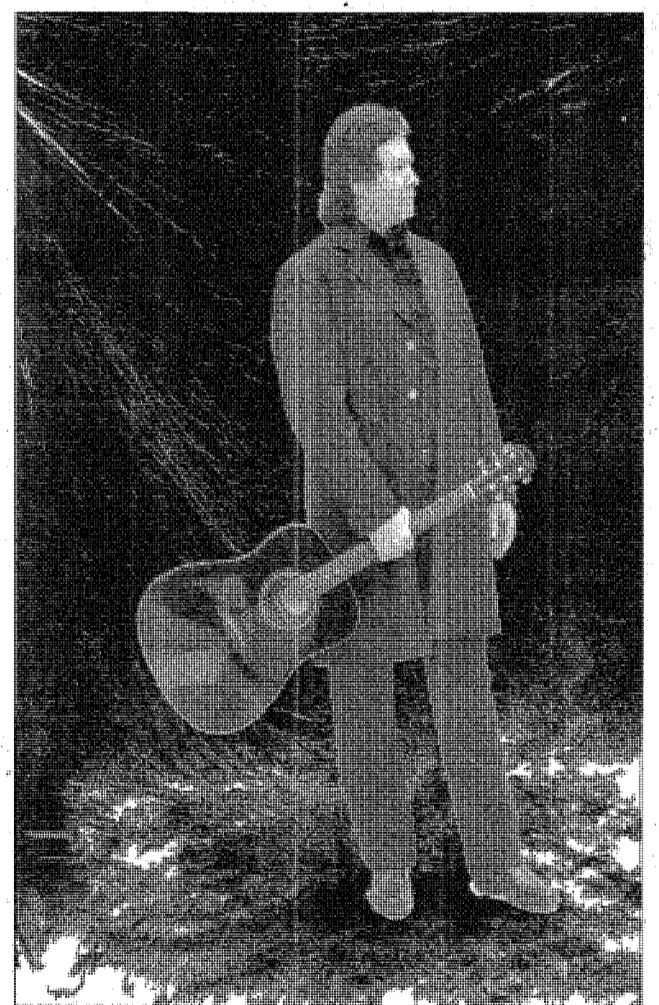


See the 51st annual Target Fireworks and help Cass Community Social Services at the same time, Wednesday, June 24 in downtown Detroit.



## Gypsy swing

Music lovers can enjoy an evening of hot acoustic jazz music with the Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. All seats are \$15-general admission. Currently on tour promoting their self titled release "Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble" on Hot String Swing Records, this ensemble is an instrumental acoustic jazz group based out of Madison, Wisc. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.canton-mi.org/village theater](http://www.canton-mi.org/village theater). Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person.



## Starring in the Park

Terry Lee Goffee, the "Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute Artist," drew a crowd of 1,500 Cash fans to Heritage Park in Farmington Hills last year. He'll sing again on June 23, during a special Tuesday presentation of the Thursday summer series, Stars in the Park.

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## Concert will give back to community

Bring some cans of food to the Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire concert at DTE Energy Music Theatre on Wednesday, June 24, and you'll have access to even more of their music.

In exchange for a donation of at least three non-perishable food items, fans will be given a download card to access three songs recorded earlier this year.

Concertgoers will also be helping the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

In conjunction with Palace Sports & Entertainment, the two groups have also partnered with Oldies 104.3 WOMC and WXYZ - Channel 7 to support the 15th Annual Woodward Dream Cruise. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit the Woodward Dream Cruise charities.

On the night of the concert, classic cars will be on display in the DTE Energy Music Theatre parking lot. DTE Energy Music Theatre is located at 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.



# Celebrate Dad with dinner and a toast

Carrabba's Italian Grill suggests two ways to make Dad happy on Father's Day.

First, whip up a tasty steak or chicken dinner from an authentic family recipe by Carrabba's founders, Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola.

Next, raise a glass and honor Dad with a toast. And don't forget to enter Carrabba's Toast to Dad contest online. He'll thank you if the entry wins the grand prize four-day trip to Napa Valley for two. It includes a tour of the Rubicon Estate and Francis Ford Coppola Winery, a case of Coppola wine and dinner with a Coppola winemaker for the prize recipient and their dad.

Ten runners-up will get dinner for four and Coppola wine at Carrabba's. All contestants will receive a certificate for a free appetizer valid on a future Carrabba's visit.

The restaurant has eight locations in Michigan, including Canton and Novi.

Enter the contest through June 30 at [www.carrabbas.com](http://www.carrabbas.com).

## CHICKEN BRYAN

(Yields 1 serving)

### Ingredients:

1 chicken breast, boneless, skinless  
2 teaspoons salt  
3 teaspoons pepper  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
2 Ounces goat cheese  
2 Ounces Lemon Butter Sauce  
10-12 pieces sundried tomatoes  
2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped



Chicken Bryan

### Instructions:

Season chicken on both sides with salt and pepper. Dab with olive oil.

Grill chicken until cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees, and then place goat cheese on each side of the breast and continue to cook until warm.

To a sauté pan add the lemon butter sauce, sundried tomatoes, and the basil. Place over medium flame until hot. Do not overheat or sauce will break.

When done, place chicken on a hot plate with grill spatula and spoon sauce over. Accompany chicken with choice of side.

## LEMON BUTTER SAUCE

### Ingredients:

4 tablespoons butter  
2 teaspoons onion, chopped

2 teaspoons fresh garlic chopped  
3 tablespoons white wine  
4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
Pinch White pepper to taste

### Instructions:

In a sauté pan place 1 tablespoon butter, and sauté onions and garlic until softened. Add white wine and lemon juice; simmer approximately 10 minutes on medium-low heat to reduce. A little at a time, add remaining 3 tablespoons butter until butter melts and mixture emulsifies.

## MARSALA DI CARRABBA

4 ounce sirloin steak  
4 ounce chicken breast (pounded thin)  
¼ cup sliced button mushrooms  
2 teaspoons yellow onion (fine chopped)  
½ cup dry marsala wine  
12-15 pieces of prosciutto ham (thinly sliced, cut into ¼ inch strips)  
½ stick unsalted butter  
Flour  
Salt  
Black pepper  
Italian parsley (finely chopped)

### Instructions:

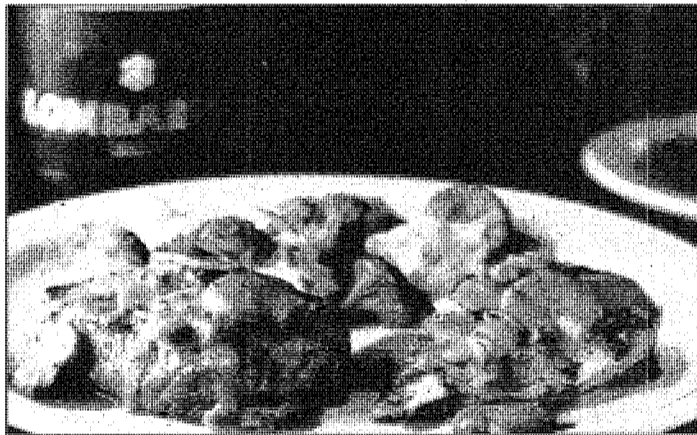
Season the sirloin and grill to desired temperature. While the steak cooks, prepare the rest of the dish.

Lightly season chicken with salt and black pepper. Heat oil or clarified butter over medium high heat in a sauté pan. When the oil is hot, lightly dredge the chicken in flour and add to sauté pan.

Cook chicken for 2-3 minutes until browned and then flip over. Cook about 1 minute more, add the mushrooms and cook for another minute. When chicken is almost finished, add the Marsala wine, prosciutto, onion, a pinch of salt and black pepper, and allow the wine to reduce by 85 percent. When most of the wine has been evaporated, remove from heat and toss the chicken and mushrooms well. The wine should be almost all evaporated and reduced to a thick syrup.

Allow the pan to cool for a minute. Cut the butter into small cubes (about 6). Return the pan to low heat and, using a wire whip, fold the butter into the reduced wine one cube at a time. Stir constantly as you add the butter. Do not allow the sauce to get too hot or it will separate. After all the butter is folded in, add chopped parsley and toss.

Place the cooked sirloin on a plate. Place the sautéed chicken on the plate and spoon the remaining sauce over the chicken and sirloin. Serve with your favorite side of pasta or vegetable.



Marsala di Carrabba

## CITY BITES

### Donating Produce

**NORTHVILLE** — Seed producers, green house growers, and garden retailers all report booming sales as more families plan vegetable gardens this year to save on food costs. In Northville, volunteers at the food pantry Civic Concern hope most of those gardeners will plant a row of produce to donate to Wayne County residents in need.

"We're thrilled by a partnership with the Master Gardener Association of Wayne County and the Northville Farmers Market which will allow us to distribute fresh produce to our clients," stated Marlene Kunz, Director of Civic Concern.

"Every Thursday at the Northville Farmers Market home gardeners can drop off produce at the Master Gardeners' booth until the Market closes at 3 p.m.," said Sher Watkins, market master. "And if the rabbits get to the romaine before gardeners do, they can consider purchasing produce from one of the market's vendors and walking it over to the Master Gardeners in booth #57 for the benefit of Civic Concern."

Produce collection at the Master Gardener booth continues every Thursday through Sept. 24. Community gardeners also may donate produce directly to Civic Concern, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday or Friday, at its location in Highland Lakes Shopping Center, 42951 Seven Mile.

### Tagalong Blizzards

**WAYNE COUNTY** — No, you can't earn a Girl Scout patch for ordering Dairy Queen's newest Blizzard. But you'll satisfy off-season cravings for Girl Scout cookies as you spoon your way through the vanilla soft serve ice cream layered with crispy Tagalongs, the peanut butter patties sold by troops every February and March.

The Tagalong Blizzard will be Dairy Queen's flavor of the month for July, just in time for Girl Scouts Appreciation week beginning July 20. The DQ will celebrate with events at its locations nationwide.

This is the second year that Dairy Queen has partnered with the Girl Scouts. Last year's team-up resulted in the Thin Mint Blizzard, which will be August's Blizzard flavor of the month this year.

The average price of the Girl Scouts Tagalongs Peanut Butter Patties Blizzard and the Thin Mint Cookie Blizzard is \$3.09 for the 12 ounce, \$3.49 for the 16 ounce and \$3.99 for the 21 ounce.

### Free Pizza

**WESTLAND** — There's just one week left to win a free Toarmina's Pizza in celebration of the restaurant chain's 22nd anniversary. The restaurant opened in Westland in 1987 and now has locations in Canton, Livonia, Novi, Plymouth, South Lyon and many other communities.

"We are showing our gratitude by offering 22,000 dollars in free pizzas to our loyal customers," stated founder Lou Toarmina. "We hope that by celebrating our 22nd anniversary with a bang we can attract new customers and at the same time reward the customers who have been coming to us for years."

Toarmina's Pizza is calling customers to let them know they've won a free 12-inch pie.

Find the nearest location of a Toarmina's Pizza by calling (888) 24DELIVER or by visiting [toarminas.com](http://toarminas.com).

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