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August 9,  
2009

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The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 45  
Number 22

75 CENTS

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## AROUND TOWN

### Fill the Boot

Westland firefighters will take to the streets Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 13-15, for their second annual Fill the Boot fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Rainy weather hampered the original fund-raiser in June.

Look for members of the Westland Professional Fire Fighters Union at Wayne and Warren roads, Ford and Wayne roads, Middlebelt and Annapolis, Palmer and Newburgh and Palmer and Merriman.

### Family fest

Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center will be filled with family-friendly activities Friday, Aug. 14, when it hosts its second annual Summer Fun Fest, 3:30-7 p.m.

Both the young and the young-at-heart will enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream as well as a Moonwalk, games and clowns. In addition, some lucky guests will take home cool prizes, including a gas grill, children's bicycles, restaurant gift cards and even gas gift cards.

Proceeds of this event will benefit The Senior Alliance.

Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center is at 36187 W. Warren Road between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway. For more information, call (734) 728-6100 or go online to [www.westlandcc.com](http://www.westlandcc.com).

### In concert

Westland Cultural Society's summer concert series continues this evening with a performance by the Birmingham Straw Hat Band at the Performance Pavilion behind William P. Faust Public Library.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for an evening of Dixieland, polkas and marches. The concert starts at 6 p.m.

The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 722-7620 or (734) 522-3918.

### Swap meet

If you're a Happy Meal toy short of having a full collection, stop by the McDonald's at 33921 Ford Road at Radcliff 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Collectors of the toys, which range from the current Happy Meal Teenie Beanie characters from movies, are invited to stop by the restaurant from 4-7 p.m. for an informal toy exchange. Bring in your toys and see what you can swap to complete or add to a collection.

For more information, call (734) 721-2919.



Sharon Kennett and owner Robin Sindici show off some of the fully assembled office furniture available at the new Office & More store in Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Store has more than office equipment

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Robin Sindici has the ABC's covered at her new Office & More store in Westland.

She has accessories for everything from offices to computers, books and plenty of chairs. But there's also antiques, Barbies and clothing available.

"It's the only place where you can come in one day and then come in the next and it's different," the Livonia resident said. "We're a supply and office store bar none. If you don't see it, ask us. We have a warehouse."

Sindici opened the store last

month in a vacant storefront in the West Ridge Shopping Center across Warren Road from Westland Shopping Center. It serves as a liquidator for national office supply companies. Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, credenzas, tables, chairs, projection screens and even artwork for conference rooms are featured in room settings around the former furniture store.

"You actually see what an office can look like," she said. "You can see what you can do."

And there's no need to fear some assembly required. What you see — fully assembled fur-

Please see **STORE, A2**



Office supplies and antiques share space at Office and More.

## Man arraigned on 14 charges after standoff

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who ended up in a lengthy standoff with police last week is being held in lieu of a \$1 million cash bond after being arraigned on 14 charges, including assault with intent to murder and felonious assault.

Ducquang Nguyen, 23, was arraigned Thursday in his bed at an area hospital, where he was being treated for self-inflicted knife wounds. Police were called to Nguyen's home on Harvey just north of Ford after shoots were fired about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

A not guilty plea was entered on behalf of Nguyen, who is charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder and two counts of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, both stemming from shots fired at officers who responded to the home.

Along with two counts of felonious assault, Nguyen is charged with felony vandalism, two counts of discharging a firearm at or near a building, possession of a dangerous weapon — brass knuckles — and possession of a Taser.

Police reported that Nguyen had fired a shotgun outside in front of his home and also shot out the doorwall at a house on Parent, which backs up to his home. When the officers arrived, police said Nguyen fired at the officers and also went into his home where he continued firing the shotgun.

Please see **CHARGES, A2**

## Grant lets fire service connect by video

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland firefighters will soon be able to attend training and shift meetings without leaving their stations, thanks to new video conferencing equipment purchased with a federal grant.

"This grant is 2½ years of work come to fruition. This grant is in conjunction with 30 other cities in southeast Michigan," Westland Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal said.

Along with 13 other communities, Westland has received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant totaling just under \$1 million. There will be a total of 175 fire stations in southeast Michigan outfitted with the video conferencing equipment.

Locally, Westland is receiving \$135,390 for the equipment, plus a 20-percent local match of \$27,078. The city will also fund an additional \$11,928 for additional equipment that isn't covered by the grant.

Each Westland fire station would receive approximately \$20,000 worth of equipment — \$25,000 for the training room.

"We will be able to communicate inter- and intra-department. We will no longer be required to have all firefighters at one station for a meeting or training," Neal said. "This makes us more effective. We

Please see **VIDEO, A2**

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## Curbside recycling: 'Remarkable' start

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If the first 21 days are any indication, Westland residents are recyclers.

The first three weeks of the city's new curbside recycling program saw approximately 550 tons of recyclable materials collected, which is more than 1 million pounds of trash diverted from the landfill.

"I really think we are onto something with this program. Residents have really stepped up," Mayor William Wild said. "I have never been more proud of our residents. We asked them to help make Westland a more environmentally friendly city and help control our solid waste disposal costs and they overwhelmingly have done so."

The single-stream curbside

**'It's outstanding how well this is going. A lot of people said it wouldn't work in Westland. It's been an outstanding job.'**

MICHAEL KEHRER, councilman

recycling program kicked off in late June and allows residents to place all their recyclables into one container with no sorting required. Republic Services collects the recycling on a bi-weekly basis and delivers it to Great Lakes Recycling for processing. "This is one of the best launches we have ever seen. The quality of the product being recycled is good and resident participation is remarkable," said John Hawthorne of Great Lakes Recycling.

The recycling carts, delivered to all single-family homes in Westland, are equipped with a computer chip that is scanned when the recycling is collected. Residents activate an account with RecycleBank and earn points based on an the averaged amount of material collected. The points can be used for discounts at local and national merchants or donated to nonprofit organizations. "It's outstanding how well this is going. A lot of people said it wouldn't work in Westland. It's been an outstanding job," Councilman Michael Kehrer said.

Eventually, the program is expected to expand to include mobile home parks and apartment complexes.

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## CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1

When he came back outside, Nguyen was armed with a knife and told the officers he was out of ammunition. After Nguyen went back inside the house, police closed Ford between Wayne Road and Central City Parkway for more than three hours as a precaution against more shots being fired.

Officers eventually forced open the front door of the home after flash bangs — sight and sound disruption devices — and tear gas were unsuccessful in getting Nguyen out of the house. He was found in a bedroom, suffering from self-inflicted knife wounds to his chest, police said.

"We've had minor misdemeanor contact with him (Nguyen). When we talked to him, he was 180 degrees different — he was pretty coherent," Westland police Lt. Dan Karrick said. "He obviously has some psychiatric issues."

The preliminary examination in 18th District Court for Nguyen was delayed until Thursday, Aug. 27, and he was scheduled for a forensic examination.

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## STORE

FROM PAGE A1

niture — is what you get, like a rolltop desk for \$99.

There's also reams of paper priced at \$4.50, less than major office supplies stores, and hard-to-find items like printer cartridges and type-writer ribbons. Need a pair of reading glasses? Office & More has hundreds of pairs, all priced at \$1.49. Looking for clothing for your toddler? There's three-piece Fisher Price outfits priced at \$3.99. You can also buy men's flannel shirts

## VIDEO

FROM PAGE A1

can share information with 29 cities. We will be able to communicate with communities that we have not been able to communicate with before."

Members of the fire department often find it hard to leave the city for meetings, he said, which can be resolved through the video conferencing. It also saves mileage on vehicles and reduces operating costs, Neal said. It was estimated that the savings would cover the cost of the

for \$2.99 and a fleece jacket for \$3.99.

That rack caught the eye of Chantique Pringle of Belleville, who spotted the clothing while walking by. The mom-to-be was looking for outfits for her soon-to-be newborn.

"I walked by and thought, 'Why do they have clothing in a furniture store?'" she said. "I've never seen this before, but at that price, they're a steal."

But you just can't look through the window or at eye level. You have to look up, down and all around to see what else there is — 300 one-of-a-kind Barbie dolls and a

mechanical Christmas sleigh from J.L. Hudson.

Shelves are being put up on walls to display even more of the items Sindici once sold in her store in Plymouth's Old Village. There's some 2,000 pieces of vintage costume jewelry, more than 300 autographed photos of movie and rock stars, 300 vintage purses (some dating back to the 1800s) and 400 cameras.

"Every time you turn around, you'll see something different," she said. "That's why it's Office & More, because we have other things."

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

## 2 W-W principals appointed directors

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is looking for a few good principals following school board approval of the appointment of Paul Salah and Jennifer Munson to positions in administrative services.

Salah, the principal of Franklin Middle School, has been tapped to be the senior executive director of instruction, while Jennifer Munson, principal of Lincoln Elementary School, has been appointed director of elementary special education.

"I'm incredibly excited by this opportunity," Salah said. "I take this position seriously. I will work hard and work with the board, the superintendent and administration and on the district's future vision."

Salah has been with the Wayne-Westland district since 2001. He has worked as a special education teacher, middle school athletic director and assistant principal and principal at Marshall since 2004.

He has a bachelor of science degree in history and visually impaired teaching and a master of arts degree in educational leadership, both from Eastern Michigan University. He is working on his doctoral degree in educational leadership at EMU.

"I look at education as a people business and our business is about kids and the social and educational programs we present them," Salah said in accepting the position. "I'm confident Wayne-Westland will blaze trails in the future, and I feel fortunate to be part of that."

Munson has been with the district since 2004, when she was appointed principal at Lincoln. She has a bachelor of science degree in special education/elementary reading and a master of arts degree in school principalship, both from Central Michigan University. She had been a special education teacher with the Shepherd Public Schools before joining Wayne-Westland.

"Thank you for the opportunity, I'm extremely excited about it," Munson said. "I had a fabulous time as principal at Lincoln. I started as a special education

teacher, that was my niche, and I look forward to working with the district on a larger base and working with the teachers."

Both appointments were praised by school board members.

"I've watched them over these few years take a leadership role in the community," board Vice President Cindy Schofield said. "They took their buildings and transformed them. They took them to a new level and a new height. I'm excited that you will be able to take what you did at your buildings and do it for the school district."

"I think we're so lucky to have them in our school district," board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger said. "I'm sure a lot of parents at Marshall will be upset, Mr. Salah was very well-liked."

"These are mighty important positions and the board is proud of you and confident in you," Trustee William Gabriel said.

In June, the schoolboard approved the appointment of Sandra Morante Brock as principal of Franklin Middle School.

Brock has a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and history from the University of Michigan, a master of arts degree in education from Peperdine University in Mailbu, Calif., and a doctoral degree in education administration from Michigan State University.

She taught at Seven Arrows Elementary School in California and as a night and summer school teacher with the South Redford School District before joining Wayne-Westland in 2004 as a history and Spanish teacher. She was appointed assistant principal at Wayne Memorial High School in 2006.

"Thank you for this wonderful opportunity," Brock said. "I will miss my Zebras with all my heart, but I look forward to becoming a Hornet."

"I'm so excited about this appointment," Schofield said. "I've known Sandy for five years and as a parent and as a school board member, I've seen her grow and mature. I'm excited to see what she brings to Franklin and the collaboration that will surely happen between Franklin and Wayne Memorial."

equipment in less than two years.

John McGuire, who lives on Venoy, was opposed to the city purchasing the equipment although he said he is supportive of the fire department.

"I've put myself in a difficult position. Smoke eaters have always been my heroes," McGuire said, recounting separate medical emergencies in which he and his son were aided by firefighters. "You're getting this from the feds, but this isn't free money, it's taxpayer money. We don't need the equipment and should do without it."

Another resident, Dan

Devlin, recalled his time as a volunteer firefighter in Nankin Township and supported the equipment purchase.

"Any opportunity for the fire department is well-earned," Devlin said.

Once the equipment is installed about a month from now, Neal has invited anyone interested to contact him for a tour to see the video conferencing.

"I'm sensitive that it's a big expense. Once it's in operation, I'll give you a personal tour. You can see for yourself what it does," Neal said.

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# Starfish becomes newest hub for Early Learning Community

Starfish Family Services is partnering with United Way for Southeastern Michigan to become the first neighborhood hub in western Wayne County to offer United Way's Early Learning Community program.

Early Learning Communities were launched this year to provide free neighborhood-based resources to parents and caregivers of children ages birth through 5 so they are equipped to enter school ready to learn. Starfish is now the sixth ELC Hub in the tri-county area and will service children living in the Garden City, Westland and

Plymouth.

"The Great Start Collaborative-Wayne (GSC-W) was able to strongly recommend and support the newest Early Learning Communities (ELC) hub being Starfish Family Services," said Toni Hartke, Director of the Great Start Collaborative-Wayne. "It was logical to expand the ELC initiative beyond the two existing ELC's in Detroit into western Wayne County. The members of the GSC-W help to strengthen the quality of child care for Wayne County children so they are safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life."

Beginning this month, Starfish Family Services will offer more than 20 Early Childhood classes, including preschool development; health and safety, such as CPR, first aid certification and SIDS prevention; nutrition guidance; interactive playgroups and a Lending Library. Computers will also be available for use. Classes will be held primarily at the agency's Family Resource Center at 30000 Hively Road in Inkster, with occasional meetings at other locations throughout western Wayne County.

An open house will be held

for anyone interested in learning more about the program 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, in the Family Resource Center. Childcare and food will be available and prizes given out. A schedule of classes also will be provided. For more information, call Kristen Chateau at (734) 727-3114.

The Early Learning Communities provide free resources to ensure children start school prepared and ready to learn. They aim to advance opportunities for early development and learning of children in the preschool years. The ELC is

facilitated by a neighborhood organization to allow eligible individuals and groups, such as grandparents, friends, relatives and neighbors who provide childcare to young children, licensed home-based and center-based providers and parents to receive training and resources that are convenient and personalized to their needs.

ELC offers an Incentive Program to earn points, certifications and other rewards for participating in ELC events. The points can be redeemed for gift cards or professional development opportunities to help advance

childcare skills and quality. ELC Hubs are also located in Warren, Roseville, Hazel Park and Detroit.

Starfish Family Services offers programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in western Wayne County. These include free preschool programs, a crisis shelter for teens, family enrichment activities and a comprehensive array of behavioral health services. The agency serves more than 9,000 children and their families at its numerous service sites each year. More information can be found at [www.starfishonline.org](http://www.starfishonline.org).

## Toastmasters offer youth chance to speak

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bill Tremper will be the first to confirm that being able to speak well in public increases self-confidence.

"I like to talk. I used to be tongue-tied and shy. I joined the Toastmasters several years ago — they brought me out of my shell and I'm eternally grateful for that," said Tremper, a member of the Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters.

Tremper was in his mid-40s when he originally joined Toastmasters but he'd like to see local teens gain the benefits he received from the group. To that end, the Toastmasters are offering a free Youth Leadership public speaking training program for junior and high school students.

"I hope we can start the classes in the next two or three weeks. We want to give back through this program," said Tremper. "This would be the first time for us to offer this program. It's a leadership program. It builds confidence. It gets rids of the ums, ahs, you knows and

**'This is in the beginning stages. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for youths. It will provide an opportunity to share with others, build camaraderie and in terms of confidence, it's a great confidence booster.'**

PAUL MOTZ, Westland Youth Assistance director

like. It teaches responsibility."

Tremper is hoping that 10 students will participate in the 10-week program which will culminate in their each making a two- to three-minute speech at a banquet.

To find those students, Tremper has been in contact with Westland Youth Assistance and will also work with Wayne-Westland school officials.

"This is in the beginning stages. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for youths. It will provide an opportunity to share with others, build camaraderie and in terms of confidence, it's a great confidence booster," said Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz. "Let's face it, public speaking is one of the biggest fears people have. Dealing with one of

those fears at a young age, a person gets a leg up."

Just getting involved with a group of interested adults like the Toastmasters can be beneficial to youngsters, he said.

"When kids are intertwined with the community, they are more likely to make better choices," said Motz.

"The more different opportunities for kids to be involved in the community, the better off we all will be."

Toastmasters is also offering a short public speaking course for adults in business, education, industry and government. The cost for the adult program is \$10.

For more information or to enroll, call (734) 306-3980 or e-mail [The-Commish7976@sbcglobal.net](mailto:The-Commish7976@sbcglobal.net).

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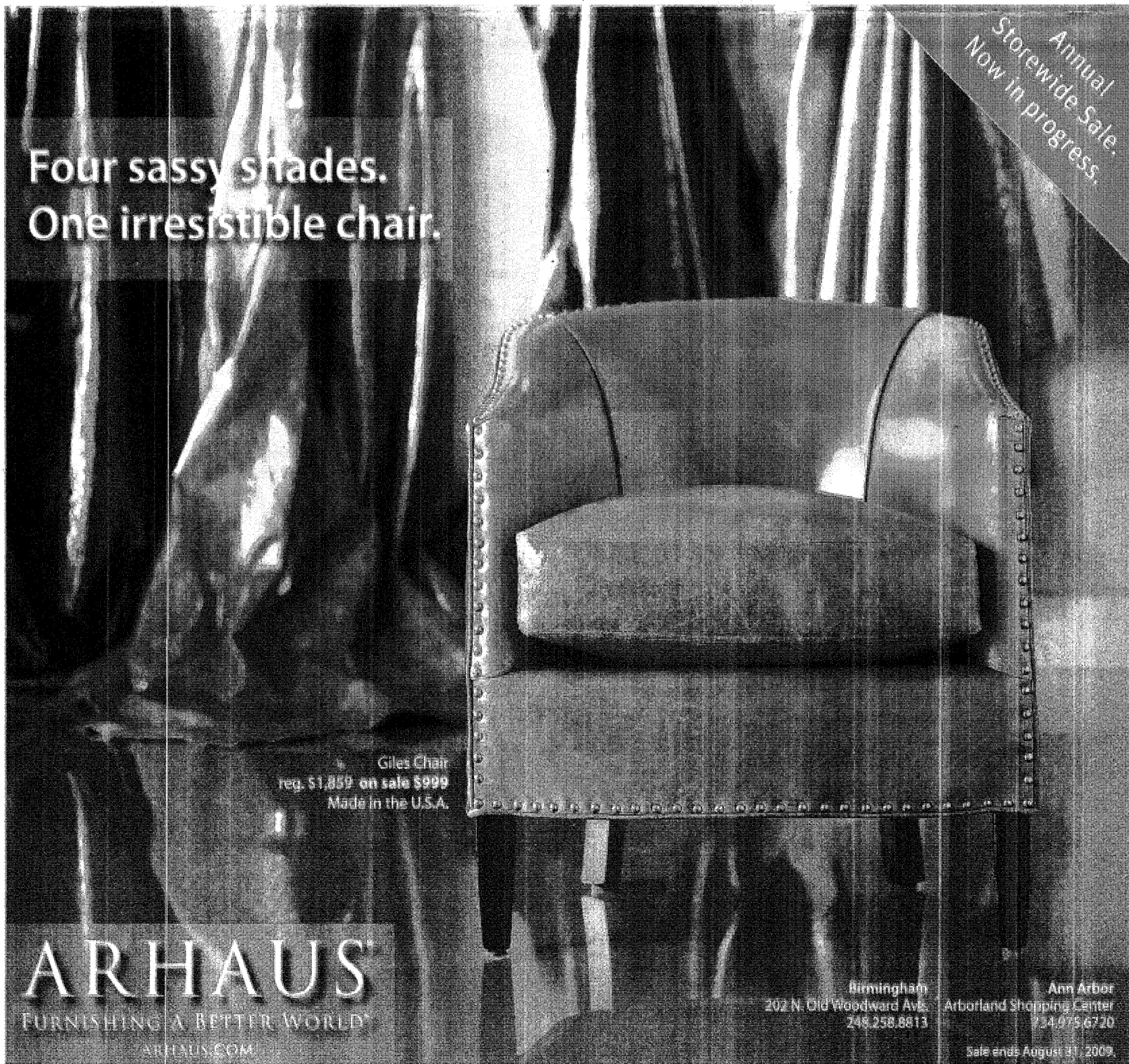
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# \$249 million grant targets battery technology

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan has turned a new page in its industrial history, and the city of Livonia may be a part of a chapter yet to be written on battery technology.

Vice President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that \$1.35 billion in federal grants will be awarded to 12 projects in Michigan to support advanced battery and electric vehicle manufacturing and development.

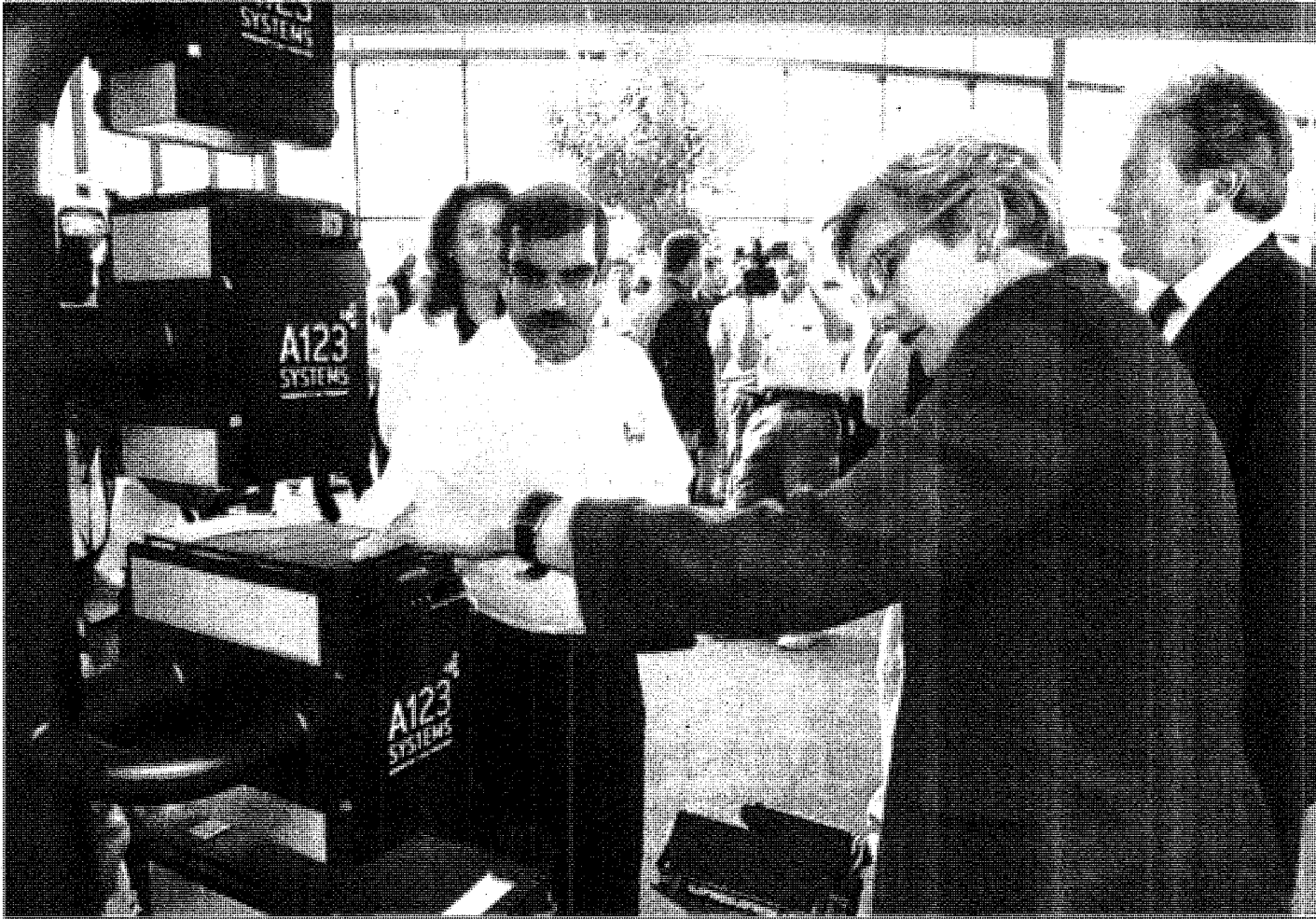
Gov. Jennifer Granholm visited A123 Systems in Livonia Thursday to highlight that company's \$249.1 million grant from the Department of Energy at the site of what will be the company's new regional headquarters and production facility.

The grant will help A123 develop a strategy for constructing lithium ion battery manufacturing facilities in the United States with the first construction location in Livonia. Under the grant's terms, A123 will be required to match the funds over time as they are spent. Grant funding comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's electric drive vehicle battery and component manufacturing initiative.

A123 will be located at 39000 Seven Mile, just west of I-275. Company officials would not comment Thursday on specific plans for the building.

A123 officials said the manufacturing system is expected to be U.S.-based with research and development, manufacturing of the company's proprietary Nanophosphate cathode powder, electrode coating, cell fabrication, module fabrication and so on through the final assembly of complete battery pack systems for vehicle integration.

David Vieau, A123 Systems president and chief executive officer, said battery develop-



A123's Mujeeb Ijaz talks with Gov. Jennifer Granholm about the battery systems.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ment will reduce the dependency on foreign oil and lead to cleaner air. "We hope to be a big part of that," he said.

The grants were necessary to help with capital investment in factories, he said.

"With the recession, the cash was tightening up," Vieau said. "Battery factories require a lot of cash." The grants allow companies to fulfill commitments, he said.

A123 was born out of the research labs of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was funded initially with a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Energy in 2001. The company says it has raised more than \$350 million in private capital from investors, includ-

ing GE. The company will make lithium-ion batteries for Chrysler.

The press conference gave A123 officials a chance to thank state, county and local officials for the grants and tax incentives to A123, and allowed state, county and city officials a chance to thank A123 for locating in Livonia and facilities in Brownstown Township and Romulus.

Granholm thanked A123 for choosing Michigan. More than half of the federal grant money was going to Michigan, she said. That level of opportunity was a "game-changer," she said.

"With this seismic shift, we want people to understand how significant this

is for Livonia," Granholm said. Statewide the grant's projects are estimated to create 6,800 jobs in the next 18 months and up to 40,000 jobs by 2020. A123 is expected to create 300 new jobs by 2011 in Livonia and another 500 more at a later date.

Earlier this year Granholm signed into law legislation providing refundable tax credits to encourage companies to develop and manufacture advanced batteries. In April, the Michigan Economic Growth Authority approved \$400 million in refundable advanced battery tax credits for A123 Systems and three other companies.

"We worked and cooperated in a bipartisan way," said Sen.

Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who also represents Livonia, referring to the tax credits granted to battery companies.

"This investment represents exactly how federal, state and local officials can come together to support local businesses and move toward diversifying and reenergizing Michigan's economy," Anderson said.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop called it "great day for Michigan."

County Executive Robert Ficano said A123 was a company working in a developing economy in a traditional industry of automobiles. "You could have chosen any place in the world, but you chose Wayne County and Livonia,"

Ficano said, referring to the Watertown, Mass.-based company. A123 is currently manufacturing in Asia, but will bring 90 percent of its operations to the U.S. next year, Vieau said.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, admitted it was difficult to vote for tax incentives for companies while cutting the budget.

"We're competing with other locations," Walsh said. "Investors and companies are going to be looking at taxes, and we need an active MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) to compete with other states for locating their business. These companies can go anywhere, and they do. It's a bottom-line decision."

Even if the jobs created were only half of the 40,000 projected, Walsh said it is still a significant number of jobs. "If people have jobs, they buy houses and pay taxes, and that increases revenue, helps the communities and increases the values of the homes," Walsh said. "The more jobs, the better off we'll be."

Mayor Jack Kirksey, a one-time school principal, called it an outstanding lesson from a civics textbook of all levels of government working together on an issue. Kirksey cited his city's work on local tax breaks in discussions with Maria Thompson, general manager of A123's governmental solutions group, along with Turkia Mullin, director of Wayne County's Economic Development, who helped the city lobby to get A123 to come to Livonia, and the Michigan Economic Development Authority, which approved the state's tax credits.

"There's a lot of competition with other venues, and to get (A123) here, we are absolutely delighted," Kirksey said.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST TIME, TRANSFER AND ADULT STUDENTS

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<p>Boneless Skinless <b>Fresh Chicken</b> <b>\$1.69 lb.</b></p>	<p>Bone-in <b>Center Cut Pork Chops</b> <b>\$2.29 lb.</b></p>	<p>Fresh • No Limit <b>From Chuck Ground Beef</b> <b>\$1.49 lb.</b></p>
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**Maria's & Vintage Cold Cut Meats & Deli**

<p>Dearborn Brand Garlic, Beef, Regular <b>Bologna</b> <b>\$3.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>Dairy Fresh <b>Swiss Cheese</b> <b>\$3.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>Dairy Fresh <b>American Cheese</b> <b>\$2.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>Dearborn Brown Sugar or Honey <b>Ham</b> <b>\$3.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>Dearborn Hickory Boneless <b>Ham</b> <b>\$2.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>Dairy Fresh Gold Label <b>Ham</b> <b>\$1.99 lb.</b></p>
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**Maria's & Vintage Homemade Deli Salads**

<p>In House Made <b>Broccoli Salad</b> <b>\$4.99 lb.</b></p>	<p>In House Made <b>Tuna Noodle Salad</b> <b>\$3.49 lb.</b></p>	<p>In House Made <b>Potato Salad</b> <b>\$2.99 lb.</b></p>
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**Maria's & Vintage Produce**

<p><b>Michigan Corn</b> <b>5/\$1.25</b></p>	<p><b>Wrapped Iceberg Lettuce</b> <b>89¢ ea.</b></p>
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<p>4.0 Liter <b>Carlo Rossi</b> <b>\$9.99 + Tax</b></p>	<p><b>Busch &amp; Busch Light</b> 30 Pk. Cans <b>\$15.99</b> + Tax + Dep</p> <p><b>Bud &amp; Bud Light</b> 24 Pk. Cans <b>\$16.99</b> + Tax + Dep</p>	<p><b>Budweiser Family Specials</b></p> <p><b>15 Pack Cans</b> <b>\$9.99</b> + Tax + Dep</p>	<p>All Varieties Except Chocolate Bareman's Gallon <b>Milk</b> <b>\$1.99 Daily!</b></p> <p>Fresh Homemade <b>Cannolies</b> <b>99¢ ea.</b></p>	<p>Vintage 1 Topping • Ex-Large <b>Hot-to-Go Pizza</b> Pepperoni Only <b>\$5.00 + Tax</b> Everyday 1-10 PM</p>
<p>6 Pack Assorted Varieties <b>Mike's Hard Lemonade</b> <b>\$6.99 ea. +tax + dep.</b></p>	<p>1/2 Barrels <b>Bud &amp; Bud Light</b> <b>\$88.00</b> + Tax + Dep \$5.00 Tap Rental</p> <p><b>Natural Light &amp; Ice</b> 18 Pk. Cans <b>\$8.99</b> + Tax + Dep</p>	<p><b>U-Bake Pizzas</b> <b>\$6.49 ea.</b></p>		

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<p>1-Topping Square <b>U-Bake Pizzas</b> <b>2/\$12</b></p> <p>With coupon • Limit 2</p>	<p>Whole New York <b>Strip Loins</b> <b>\$2.88 lb.</b></p> <p>With coupon • Limit 1 Please!</p>	<p>Expires 8/9/09 • Limit 2 Bundles Per Family, Per Visit</p> <p><b>Maria's Market Meat Bundle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 lbs. Ground Chuck</li> <li>• 3 lbs. New York Strip</li> <li>• 3 lbs. Pork Spare Ribs</li> <li>• 3 lbs. Boneless &amp; Skinless Chicken Breast</li> <li>• 3 lbs. Chicken Parts</li> <li>• 2 lbs. Fresh Sliced Bacon</li> <li>• 2 lbs. Italian Sausage</li> </ul> <p><b>Total 16 lbs. for Only... \$60.00</b></p>

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## Careless smoking blamed for apartment fire

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Careless smoking is being blamed for a fire Friday morning that damaged a unit at the Landings Apartments in Westland.

The fire was reported about 8 a.m. in a third-floor apartment in a building at 6654 Lakeview. The complex is located at the corner Warren Road and Central City Parkway.

"The gentleman was smoking a cigarette in the bedroom. He left the cigarette unattended while he was in the restroom and the table top ignited," Westland fire Capt. Colleen Pennington said. "There was nail polish remover in the area and other combustibles."

The 19-year-old man attempted to extinguish the fire himself, but soon realized that wasn't going to be possible, Pennington said, then got the other occupants

— a 19-year-old woman and three children — out of the apartment. The children, siblings of one of the adults, had spent the night, but don't normally live at the apartment.

"The apartment was on the third floor, so the fire went up into attic but didn't spread. There is water damage to other apartments," Pennington said. "The damage was mainly in the bedroom of the apartment, but smoke damage throughout."

Noting there are 1,000 deaths annually in the United States due to smoking-related home fires, Pennington said the fire department recommends that smokers take their habit outside.

"Basically, most smoking-related fires start in bed. People fall asleep or put the ashes into a trash can when the cigarette isn't put out," Pennington said. "If you are going to smoke, smoke outside. That's the safest thing."

## Insurance: Buy what suits your situation

**Q: Dear Rick: I am a single mom with two children ages 7 and 9. I need to buy life insurance to protect the kids if I am not around. I've talked to my homeowner's insurance agent who has recommended a type of whole life insurance. My parents recommended a term life policy. My insurance agent said that the downside of term insurance is that it gets very expensive down the road. Considering the ages of my children, how should I proceed?**



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

**A: I agree with your parents and recommend term insurance for you. As far as I am concerned, for the great majority of people, term is the best type of insurance available.**

There are a number of reasons why I like term insurance better than whole life or other types of insurance. First, term insurance is relatively straightforward and simple and it's much easier to receive competitive bids. The only issues are how much insurance you

want, how long and do you want the return of premium option.

In whole life or other types of permanent insurance, there are a variety of issues and the policies are much more complex and difficult to understand. In addition, it is hard to compare whole life or permanent types of insurance policies because of the different variables.

One reason I am a big fan of term insurance is because most people do not need insurance for their entire lives. You need insurance while your two children are still on your payroll. Once your children are independent and on their own, you no longer need insurance. With term insurance you are able to buy insurance for a fixed period of time. When you buy a whole life, universal life or some of the other permanent type of policy, you are paying a much higher price because you have coverage for your entire life. My view is: Why pay for something you do not need?

The most important reason I like term insurance is you can cover your insurance needs at a fraction of the cost of a whole life policy.

Whole life insurance is sold more than term insurance because there are greater commissions on whole life.

Term insurance is straightforward, simple to understand and offers few options. These are 1) the length of time that you want to be insured — 5 years, 10 years, 20 years or 30 years; 2) the amount of insurance that you need 3) whether you want a return of premium option.

The return of premium option

works like this. If you hold the policy and pay the premiums to the end of term, you receive all your premiums back.

This sounds like a can't-lose situation. Either you collect on the insurance if you pass on during the term of the policy or at the end of the policy you get your money back. It sounds great. However, the reality is somewhat different. Selecting a return-of-premium option increases your premium. It becomes a forced savings vehicle. In addition, on many of these policies if you cancel the policy before the end of term you receive nothing back.

I am not a fan of the return-of-premium option. My philosophy is insurance is not an investment. It is a matter of risk management and there are much better investment vehicles than an insurance policy. Therefore, in the majority of cases I do not recommend a return-of-premium option.

Life insurance is important when it comes to personal financial planning. If you do need life insurance, the key is to buy what suits your situation. Shop around for competitive bids and don't get caught up with aggressive sales people.

A good insurance agent, and there are many out there, is one who doesn't worry about commissions, but rather whose goal is to match you with the correct policy. Good luck!

**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).

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## New Student Open House

Tuesday, August 11 7 PM—South Campus  
or call for a tour

[www.ConcordiaLutheranSchool.org](http://www.ConcordiaLutheranSchool.org)

Church Extension Fund

<p><b>Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church</b> Redford, Michigan Rev. Paul J. Undlin, Pastor <a href="http://www.hosannatabor.org">www.hosannatabor.org</a></p>	<p>is a ministry of</p> <p><b>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</b> Farmington Hills, Michigan Rev. John W. Meyer, Pastor <a href="http://www.stpaulsfarmington.com">www.stpaulsfarmington.com</a></p>
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at sma-son@hometownlife.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Corn-Hole Tournament Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is holding a Corn-Hole Tournament Saturday, Aug. 22.

Car show American Legion Post 32 host a car show 5-8 p.m. every Thursday evening throughout the summer.

School registration St. Damian School is accepting students for the 3-4-year-old preschool program as well as students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

29891 Joy in Westland. Call (734) 427-1680 for more information or visit the school's website at www.stdamian.com.

Crafters needed St. Theodore CCW has table rental available for \$25 for its Fall Craft Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Community Baby Shower Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's 12th Annual Community Baby Shower will be held 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

Fish Dial-A-Ride Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Higher Rock Cafe The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

Organizations Friends of Eloise The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park.

Writing Group Story Circle Women's Life Writing Group meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne.

Citizens for Peace Citizens for Peace meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster.

In Harmony The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Veteran's Haven Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City.

Garden City Kiwanis The Garden City Kiwanis Club meets for lunch at 12:15 p.m. Thursday at Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.

Garden City Rotary The Garden City Rotary Club meets at 12 noon Thursday at Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren.

Habitat Help The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising.

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Hospital retirees The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne.

Radio Club The Garden City Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman.

Garden City Lions The Garden City Lions meet at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman.

Garden Club The Garden City Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Maplewood Center. Everyone may attend to hear guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics and plan events around the city.

HOSPITAL WELLNESS CALENDAR

Garden City Hospital, at 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup includes:

Monday, Aug. 10 Childbirth Education (fifth of six classes) at 6 p.m. The six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery.

458-4330 for more information or to register. Stroke Caregiver Support Group at 6:30 p.m. will benefit those who care for loved ones that have had strokes or aneurysms.

Stroke Caregiver Support Group at 6:30 p.m. will benefit those who care for loved ones that have had strokes or aneurysms. The group meets on the second Monday of the month at in Classroom 3 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building.

adjoining classroom. For more information, call (734) 458-4392.

Tuesday, Aug. 11 Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving; and is the perfect compliment to your diet program.

learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues.

Therabands. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242. Cardiac Education Support Group at 5 p.m. The free support group will meet the second Tuesday of each month to discuss important topics and provide valuable information.

members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join this free monthly support group. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building.

STOP SUICIDE! For every one completed suicide, 25 people attempt..... Third Annual Suicide Prevention Conference Saturday, September 12, 2009 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM with Keynote Speaker: Alexander E. Crosby, MD, MPH A conference addressing the concerns and unique challenges faced by families who have been affected by suicide Hyatt Regency Dearborn 600 Town Center Drive Dearborn, Michigan 48126 Open to the Public! • \$60 per person Register by Aug. 14 and pay only \$45! Limited scholarships available for college students, consumers and community members in Wayne County. Register online at: www.vceonline.org or call 888-785-7793 (select suicide prevention dept.)

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CRESTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT CAP Crestwood Accelerated Program PROGRAM DESCRIPTION Grades 2 & 3 The Crestwood Accelerated Program (CAP) is a program for eligible gifted and talented students in grades 2 & 3. Student eligibility is defined as those students demonstrating superior intelligence and high academic achievement. Students in CAP will be provided instruction, which is differentiated from the standard school program through acceleration and enrichment 50% of each class will be open to Wayne County residents residing outside the Crestwood School District meeting eligibility requirements. FOR MORE INFORMATION www.csdm.k12.mi.us

Wednesday, Aug. 12 CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, from 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 for more information. Alzheimer's Support at 7 p.m. Family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join this free monthly support group.



# Koalas are not your average bear

Not too many people know this, but the koala is not really a bear. Many people began calling them koala bears because of their apparent similarity to teddy bears. A baby koala is called a joey and is hairless, blind and earless. At birth, the joey is only a quarter of an inch

long and they spend the next six months of their lives living in their mother's pouch, drinking their mother's milk.

Koalas rest motionless for about 15 to 18 hours a day, sleeping most of that time because of their low metabolism. They usually spend three of their five waking hours a day eating 18 ounces of eucalypt leaves. Koalas have to eat constantly because their natural food is very low in protein. For most animals, eucalypt leaves are indigestible and contain substances that are toxic to many species.

There are only about 100,000 koalas left in the wild and are listed as a priority species for conservation status assessment by the Australian government. In the early part of the 20th century, koalas were almost driven to extinction because they were commonly hunted for their fur. Now they face the additional threats of a shrinking habitat.

If you want to see a koala in America you will have to visit a zoo, and if you want to learn more about koalas you can visit the Westland Public Library. You can start by checking out the book "Koalas: Australia's Ancient Ones" by Ken Phillips or watching the video, "World of the Koala."

We also have a number of books about koalas for children, including "Koalas, Koala Magic for Kids" by Kathy Feeney, "A Koala is Not a Bear!" by Hannelore Scztek and Bobbie Kalman and "The Koal Book" by Ann Sharp.

To learn more about how to save the koala visit the Australia Koala Foundation's website at [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com).

### Highlighted Activities

**D.I.Y. Auto Mechanics - Brake Service:** 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, Performance Pavilion.

Mark Batko, experienced Automobile Technology instructor at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, will demonstrate general preventative maintenance and fluids for your automobile. Some will be able to work on their own vehicle under Mark's supervision. Call or stop by the library to reserve your seat - (734) 326-6123.

**Adult Book Discussion Group:** 7 p.m. Aug. 18.

Join us as we discuss Peter Carey's "My Life As a Fake." The novel is a tale of historical fiction, which revolves around the obsession of complex and mysterious characters with a manuscript. Please read the book before the meeting. Copies are available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

**20s/30s Book Club:** 7 p.m. Aug. 19, Biggby Coffee, 37644 Ford, west of Newburgh.

We will be reading and discussing the Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction, "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" by Michael Chabon. This brilliant epic novel set in New York and Prague introduces us to two misfit young men who make it big by creating comic-book superheroes. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

**Creating a Professional Resume:** 7 p.m. Aug. 19.

Let Preston Banks of Resume Solutions answer all of your resume questions, whether you've never created a resume before and aren't sure where to start, or you would like to improve your existing resume. A few of the key points to be discussed are your resume's appearance, do you need an e-mail address, how far back should your history go, what should you omit from your resume, and what if you don't have professional experience? Call or stop by the library to reserve your seat - (734) 326-6123.

**Job Seekers Lab:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. Wednesday and 1-4 p.m. Friday.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job related activity? Stop by the library where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help.

**Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library:** Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

**Chess Night:** Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

**Information Central** was compiled by reference librarian Kristy Cooper. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

### ACHIEVERS

**Sean Taber** of Garden City has been named to the President's List for spring term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by Keith A. Pretty, president of the university.

Taber, a senior, had to earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale to receive the recognition.

**Mary Pritchard** of Garden City has been named to the

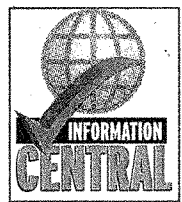
National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Grand Valley State University. The honor society recognizes superior scholarship and character in all academic disciplines. Undergraduate students are eligible for consideration have to have senior status and be scholastically in the upper 10 percent of their class or have reached the final period of their junior year and are in the top 5 percent scholastically.

Pritchard is the daughter of Karen and Mark Pritchard. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Parkside Credit Union recently awarded \$500 scholarships to two graduating seniors from the Wayne-Westland high school. The recipients were **Aaron Jackson** of John Glenn High School and **Ashley Hunt** of Wayne Memorial High School.

Parkside Credit Union's "Friend for Life" Scholarship is in its second year and is awarded to students who have overcome obstacles in their life and who want to pursue higher education. The ceremony was attended by State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, and Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy. "Parkside Credit Union

has operated in the Livonia and Westland communities since 1953. We are delighted to give a little back to these communities," said T. Scott Kreinbring, the CEO of Parkside Credit Union. "This group has demonstrated perseverance, drive and tenacity to get to where they are today. Parkside Credit Union is proud to recognize their accomplishments and provide a little help to achieve a bright future for them."



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# At 40, McLaren races to the future

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Racing legend Johnny Rutherford remembers when he started his association with McLaren Racing in the early 1970s.

He rattled off his Indy 500 finishes: a first-place win in 1974, a second-place finish in 1975 and another win in 1976, all with McLaren.

"For me it was perfect," Rutherford said. "In about seven years, it was a great experience and great relationships. It's the key to success in anything in business and in life. Tyler Alexander and I just really hit it off. It took us a year to get comfortable in 1974, but then it was 'High Ho Silver.'"

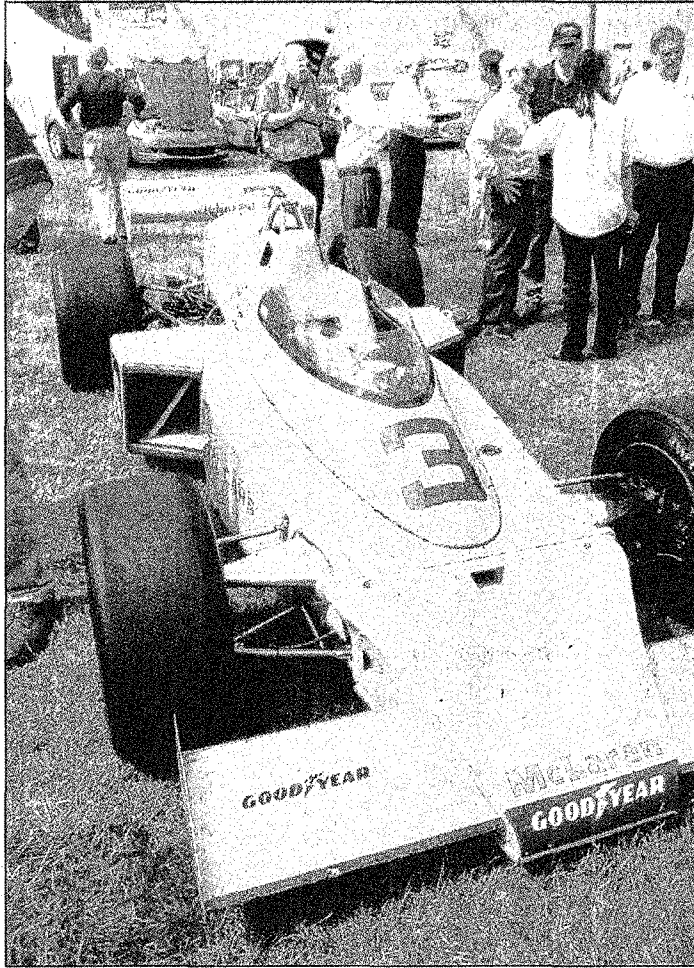
Rutherford, Alexander, racing legend Bobby Rahal and other racing officials gathered at McLaren Performance Technologies recently to celebrate the company's racing heritage and history, and catch a glimpse of the company's future in researching and developing powertrain and driveline engineering.

McLaren recently received tax breaks from the city of Livonia and the state to add a \$8.5 million 10,000-square-foot expansion for driveline development.

McLaren Performance Technologies was founded as McLaren Engines by Bruce McLaren, and partners Alexander H. William (Bill) Smith and Teddy Mayer to build racing engines for Team McLaren's Can Am and Indy Cars. After Bruce McLaren Motor Racing left the U.S. racing scene in 1980 to concentrate on Formula 1, McLaren Engines reinvented itself as an automotive powertrain engineering company and serving Detroit-based OEMs (original equipment manufacturers).

Today McLaren Performance Technologies is a subsidiary of Linamar Corp., a Canadian supplier of powertrain components.

The event celebrated the "Canadian-American spirit of cooperation, embodied by the original Can-Am Racing



Crowds gather behind Indy 500 cars.

Services," said Wiley McCoy, former McLaren CEO and organizer of the event.

McCoy highlighted several milestones for the company: the Can-Am racing series in 1969-72, the Cosworth turbo DFX engine for Indy in 1976, the BMW IMSA racing program in 1977, and the Cadillac LeMans in 1999.

"Not many companies can claim this (work) in a lot of different areas," McCoy said.

The company will focus its future on transmission development and energy, particularly with the company's expansion. The expansion will help the company set up a dynamometer development lab for gear train systems, according to Phil Guys, vice president, engineering for McLaren.

Two state-of-the-art driveline test cells measure accuracy of the gear transmission and durability, Guys said. "It's

extremely important for us to have tools to give us precise information to create the next generation of product," Guys said.

The company will test and develop power train units (which takes the torque from the front to the back) and rear differential units (distributes the torque to the two rear wheels).

McLaren also will embark on a solar energy project as well for its parent company.

In 2008 the company won a development contract with Sterling Energy Systems for a power conversion unit. Guys said the company has won two major driveline contracts with one American company and one European company, but he would not discuss details of those contracts.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com  
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Wiley McCoy, former McLaren CEO and organizer of the 40th anniversary celebration of McLaren Performance Technologies, greets racing legend Johnny Rutherford at McLaren's facility on Eight Mile Road.

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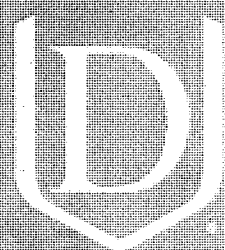
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## Kalamazoo kid

### Livonia netter Dube looks forward to nationals

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Joseph Dube doesn't hand out any easy grades when it comes to assessing his performance recently in the junior tennis ranks.

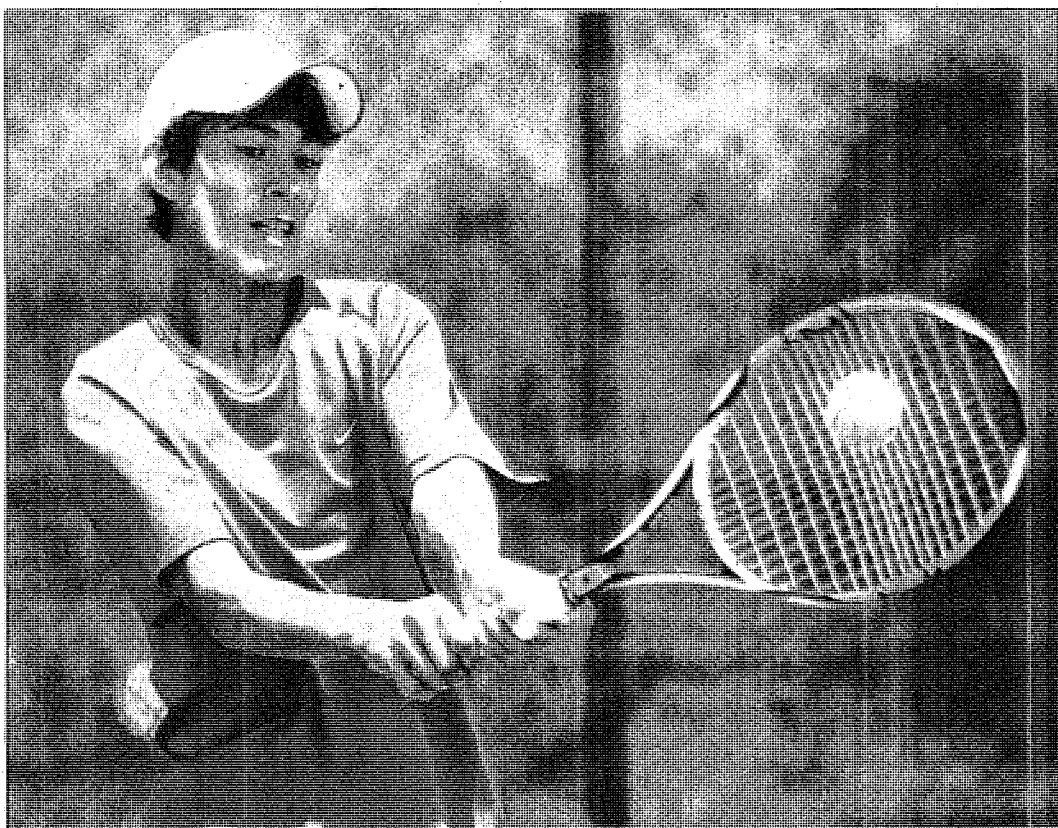
"It's been decent, but it could have been better," said Dube, a Livonia native who will be a junior this fall at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School. "I've had better summers."

Dube may be a bit too harsh on himself considering what he has accomplished during the past year, which includes a 66-31 overall record, a No. 1 ranking in the Southeastern

Michigan Tennis Association and a trip this weekend to the prestigious U.S. Tennis Association Junior Nationals in Kalamazoo.

Dube, ranked No. 171 nationally for his age group and sixth in the Midwest Tennis Association, earned a first-round bye in singles and will play the winner of Saturday's first-round match between Ryan Smith (Weston, Fla.) and Becker O'Shaughnessey (Macon, Ga.). Dube will also team up with Ben Shkyar (Riverwoods, Ill.), ranked No. 22 in the Midwest, in doubles.

Please see **KALAMAZOO, B2**



Livonia's Joe Dube is in Boys 16 singles and doubles draws at the U.S.T.A. National Junior Tennis Championships this weekend in Kalamazoo.

## GAME WRAPS

### It's Miller time

The University of Detroit Mercy will stage its Titan Baseball Alumni Reunion in honor of Redford's Bob Miller, UD's long-time ex-coach and former Philadelphia Phillies World Series pitcher, from 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14 at Ed & Brooks room inside UDM's Calihan Hall.

Enjoy an evening of fellowship and camaraderie with family members, who are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Beer, wine and ballpark fare will be compliments of UDM athletics.

To RSVP, call Titan Athletics at (313) 993-1700; or e-mail UDM Director of Athletics Keri Kaither at [keri.gaitner@udmery.edu](mailto:keri.gaitner@udmery.edu).

### Grid officials clinic

The 14th annual Detroit High School Football Officials Clinic will be held on Aug. 15, at Birmingham Groves High School.

The clinic is sponsored by the Metro Detroit Officials Association, Southeastern Michigan Officials Association, United Federation of Officials and the Detroit Officials Association.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the clinic running until 1 p.m. There is no fee. Veteran and rookie officials are welcome.

The guest speaker will be Big Ten official Mike Brown, who started his career officiating high school in the Metro Detroit area. The clinic will also feature veteran high school football officials who will be discussing mechanics, rule interpretations, and play situations.

There is also a rookie session for new officials. Nate Hampton, assistant director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association will be on hand to conduct the annual MHSAA football rules meeting.

For more information, e-mail [viaricher@hotmail.com](mailto:viaricher@hotmail.com).

### Hole-in-one club

On Aug. 1, Jason Bennett, 29, of Livonia, used a 9-iron to ace the 129-yard, No. 8 hole, at Burswood Golf Course in Northville.

Harold Diegel, a Westland resident of over 50 years and member of the Friendship Center Senior Golf League, used a 5-iron to ace the 135-yard, par-3 hole, July 30, at Westland Municipal Golf Course.

### Fall ball

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball/Softball Association is accepting registration from youths between the ages of 4-14 for the fall season. Games begin in mid August and continue through early October.

For more information, call (734) 483-5600 or email [cott@canton-mi.org](mailto:cott@canton-mi.org).



Josh Gatt, a soccer standout for Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and the Michigan Wolves, now is making an impact in the Discover Europe International Showcase.

## Plymouth's Gatt in 'Discovery' mode in Europe

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no denying that Josh Gatt is in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Gatt, a Plymouth resident, is an elite soccer player at home with Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and the developmental Michigan Wolves.

But he currently is competing until mid-August at the U.S. Football Club SuperElite Discover Europe International Showcase in places like Austria, Germany and Belgium.

"It is a huge honor to make it into such a great tournament," said Gatt, a talented outside midfielder for the Shamrocks and Wolves who one day would love to do a World Cup. "It is something that I have always dreamed of and for it to be a reality is simply amazing."

"To play with this much talent from all over the U.S. and to then take that team (Discover Europe) and compete against the top youth talent in Europe is something that I did not believe was possible. Now that it is here, I can only say that I am as fired up as I have ever been about soccer and playing at the next level."

Gatt said he earned a spot with Discover Europe by way of his performances at the Michigan Wolves/Derby County Wolves Academy Showcases and Adidas ESP (Elite Soccer Player) Camp.

"They have seen me play in all those showcases and apparently liked the way I played," noted Josh. "It was a process that has taken over a year."

The Michigan Wolves were considered the top

U18 team during the U.S. Development Academy regular season.

### LOOKING TO FUTURE

Meanwhile, there was plenty to like, namely Gatt's ability to attack from the outside or leave defenders in the dust with his combination of speed and power.

Of course, the current tour (which began on July 24 and is designed to spotlight U.S. talent to European pro scouts) is whetting Gatt's appetite about how far he can go in soccer.

First comes his senior season at Catholic Central.

"The impact this would have on my team is being able to take all my knowledge and experience I learned in Europe," Gatt said, "and see if I could relate what I learned to my fellow teammates and make us a stronger team and a contender for a state title."

He already has verbally committed to playing collegiate soccer at Indiana beginning in fall 2010 but is also at least thinking about turning pro someday.

"I am trying to put this all in perspective and be realistic about it and take whatever comes from this as a positive stepping stone for my soccer career," added Gatt, who certainly wouldn't mind returning to Europe to compete in the World Cup.

But first, there's some unfinished 'discovering' for Gatt to do.

[tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com)

## Michigan Rams' manager savors Johnstown trip

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The 6-hour car ride to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa. never gets old for Michigan Rams manager Rick Berryman.

Representing the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League, the 20-and-under Rams will open the 16-team, double-elimination tournament Monday following the draw on Sunday.

This will be Berryman's eighth trip to the hills of western Pennsylvania and the site of the historic flood.

Teams from Johnstown, Altoona (Pa.), Zanesville (Ohio), Brooklyn (N.Y.), Buffalo (N.Y.), Columbus (Ohio), Elk County (Pa.), Lansing, New Orleans (La.), Schenectady (N.Y.), Washington (D.C.), Youngstown (Ohio), Toledo (Ohio), New Brunswick (N.J.) and Philadelphia (Pa.) will join the Livonia-based Rams at the tournament.

And for the Rams manager, the novelty never wears off.

"Johnstown is a very historic and one of the unique towns," said Berryman, who also doubles as the baseball coach at Livonia Stevenson High School. "It's been going since the 1940s. It's a small town and the whole town gets into it. And if you draw that first (Monday) night game at Point Stadium, you'll see 8,000 or 9,000 fans. There's the parade and the fireworks - against the backdrop of the mountains - it's what makes it unique."

"The other thing that makes it special for the teams is that they pay for your housing and two meals per day, which most tournaments don't do."

Berryman's squad finished runner-up with a 22-10 record in the wooden-bat LCBL to the 22-and-under Michigan Bulls, who posted a league-best 26-6 mark.

The Rams, 23-13 overall, will start left-hander Tom Hansen in Monday's AAABA opener.

After a stellar season at Madonna University where he went 8-2 with a 3.52 earned run average, Hansen continued his strong mound work this summer with the Rams going 6-2 with an 0.46 ERA with 40 strikeouts.

"He was a late addition and he's been the biggest surprise," Berryman said of the Rochester Adams grad. "He's not a large man (5 feet, 11 inches, 158 pounds), but he's thrown wonderfully all year. He's got a good fastball, a great changeup and a great curveball. And he just gets people out."

Berryman said that Wayne State's Brady Cooper, who is 2-2 with an 0.88 ERA with 38 K's, will most likely get the call to start on Tuesday.

"He's another guy under a 1.00 ERA and the won-loss record doesn't reflect how well he's pitched," Berryman said.

Meanwhile, the offense starts with lead-off batter Aaron Cieslak, a Dearborn Divine Child High grad who has signed with Oakland University after playing this spring at Kellogg Community College.

The center fielder leads the Rams with a .388 batting average and sports a team-best .500 on base percentage. He also leads the Rams with 41 hits and is second in RBI with 22 only behind teammate Jason Forster, an infielder from Spring Arbor College who has 28 (while batting .366).

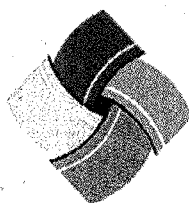
"Aaron came out hitting from the first game and has been hitting all year," Berryman said. "He's had no slumps and he's a tremendous center fielder, especially at (Livonia's) Ford Field because he's been worth so many outs."

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# KALAMAZOO

FROM PAGE B1

Needless to say, Dube is excited and is looking forward to the challenge. "This is my first time," he said. "It's the biggest tourney. I heard it's a lot of fun and good competition."

Dube's coach at the Franklin Racquet Club, Grant Asher, who played high school tennis in East Lansing with former

ATP pro Todd Martin, is one of the Joseph Dube's biggest advocates.

"He's separated himself by his work ethic and passion about the game," said Asher, who played at

Michigan State and currently serves as head men's tennis coach at the University of Detroit Mercy. "He's developing his game to another level and he's unique because he can play a variety of ways. He can take the net and play the power game, but also has the ability to outlast an opponent from the baseline.

"And he has the desire. He wants to continue to develop his game."

Dube is a tireless worker who is always willing to improve. Just during the past month he played in the Northeast Zone Team Championships in St. Louis, Mo. (sporting a 3-2 record representing SEMTA); captured the Schoolcraft College Junior Open (July 17-19); and played in the Lexington, Ky. Hard Courts.

What earned Dube's ticket to Kalamazoo was winning the SEMTA Qualifier (the highlight of his season) in May followed by a 6-2 record at the Midwest Closed Junior Championships held in June in Indianapolis, Ind.

"I've been working on my footwork, moving quicker from side-to-side," Dube said. "They (Franklin Racquet Club) have a program through the

DMC (Detroit Medical Center) where I work out two times per week on my strength and flexibility.

"My strengths are that I can play all-court. I can come to the net, but I pick my spots.

I have a good relationship with my coach. He's a nice guy, but he is pushing me to the limits."

Dube began playing tennis at the Livonia Family Y at age six under the direction of head pro Jack Kingsbury and teaching pro Bob Miller. He began to play competitive tournaments at age nine.

His father Dan, a French Canadian, is retired from United Parcel Service, will accompany him to Kalamazoo. His mother Seny, a nurse assistant at Angela Hospice and a native of the Philippines, will stay with younger brother Michael, another promising tennis player in the Dube family who is ranked No. 19 in the Midwest and No. 5 in SEMTA in the Boys 14s.

Joseph Dube, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average at CC and would like to study medicine, is undecided where he would like to go to college.

He enters the fall high school season as the MHSAA Division 1 runner-up at No. 1 singles after leading the Shamrocks to a runner-up team finish.

"I haven't really looked at colleges yet, I really haven't thought about it," said Dube, who is rated a four-star Rising Junior in the Class of 2011 by TennisRecruiting.Net.

That could all change after a week in Kalamazoo as Dube looks to make the grade.

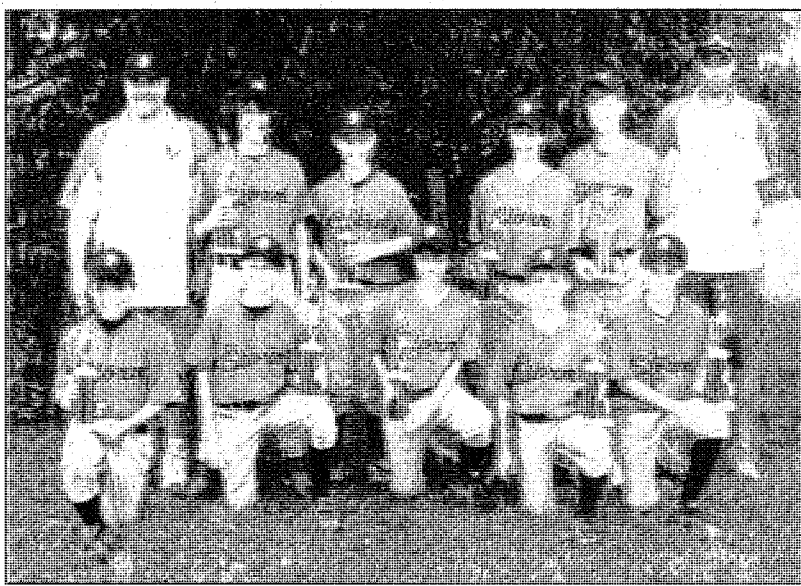
"He's going to go this weekend to the premier junior tourney in the country and he's one of the 196 best players," Asher said. "Sure, there's pressure with all the college coaches being there, but we're just going to keep the blinders on, make sure he continues to concentrate on his footwork and his game. He should fare well, and he has the game to do it."

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## Quite a bite

The Motor City Bulldogs wrapped up a successful 2009 campaign by placing fifth in the 24-team BPA World Series recently held in Indiana. Coached by Ken Montroy, Rob Moyers, Dallas Kidd and Ron Hollenbeck, the Garden City-based Bulldogs compiled a 38-5-1 season mark that included a perfect 17-0-1 ledger in Northwest Suburban League 11U play. The team also placed first in three tournaments. Making it all happen were team members pictured above (front row, l-r) Sammy Hollenbeck, Donovan Sheridan, Jacob Lesdesma, Jordan Pressley, (middle) Jarid Latham, Vinnie Bakerian, Robbie Moyers, Cody Montroy, Frankie Lucska, A.J. Montie, Brendan Wetmore, Travis Kidd, (top) coach Montroy, coach Moyers, coach Kidd and coach Hollenbeck.



## Storm-ing through Almont

What a season for the 12U Canton Storm, winning all five games at the recent Almont Baseball Tournament for yet another tourney victory. Members of the Storm include: (front row, from left) Mike Noe, Pete Carravallah, Ryan Watson, Alex Zoltowski, Mike Vernon; (back row, from left) coach Mike Noe, Dom Murphy, Colin Staub, Dante Toppi, Tyler Brooks, coach Pat Watson. Not pictured are Kyle Bauer and Josh Penn.

# Popular Gavie tourney rolls on

The 73rd Annual John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament will take place on Monday, Aug. 17, at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. As in past seasons, this event marks the actual "kick-off" of the new bowling season.

What is different this year is that the newly formed World Series of Bowling is taking up the entire month of August at Thunderbowl, and then some. Some very smart people got together and figured out a way to squeeze in the Gavie, so this grand Detroit tradition rolls on.

The Gavie has always been a popular event among our local bowlers and enthusiasts, with a rich history dating way back to the '40s. In those days this tournament was organized and run by John P. Gavie who was also known as the Night Mayor of Detroit.

Back then one of the highlights was the motorcade parade up Woodward Avenue to the State Fair Grounds.

This is a five-member team tournament with separate divisions for Seniors (3 p.m.), Women and Open entry divisions starting at 7 p.m. The 4th Annual Frank Gavie Youth Tournament is slated for Saturday, Aug. 15, with scholarship money to be awarded. For entry forms and additional information, call Kathy King at (313) 928-4688 iddingthunderbowl@yahoo.com or Frank Gavie (586) 773-1544.

Ed Burns of Westland brings sad news that Doug Uhl passed away recently. He was 83 and had retired to Seminole, Fla. He had moved there from Livonia in 1996.

Many bowlers in the Wayne/Westland area will have fond memories as Doug had been in the Wayne-Westland Men's Bowling Association (WWMBA) and served in the American Bowling Congress on a part-time basis for 23 years.

He was buried with military honors on July 28 at Bay Pines National Cemetery. He had served his country in World War II and Korea. He had worked for General Motors as a contract salesman. He was a great guy and long time secretary of the association.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield, a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by email: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.

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**TEAM TRYOUTS**

• Compuware 2010 18U girls softball team will be conducting tryouts Saturday, Aug. 29, from 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 30, from 8-10 a.m. at Shell Park in Waterford.

• St. Fabian CYO will be conducting fall tryouts for its volleyball, boys soccer and coed cross country teams, beginning Aug. 11.

Volleyball tryouts for fifth and sixth graders will be held inside the St. Fabian gymnasium Aug. 12 and Aug. 14 from 7-9 p.m., while seventh and eighth graders will go from 5-7 p.m. the same two days. Boys soccer tryouts for fifth through eighth graders will run Aug. 12-13 from 6-8 p.m., while fifth through eighth grade co-ed cross country tryouts will be held 6 p.m. Aug. 12-13.

For more information, contact John Mulroy, athletic director, at (248) 477-5749 or (248) 514-1772.

• Redford Union's girls volleyball team will be conducting tryouts for the freshman, junior varsity and varsity squads, Aug. 12-14, from 6-8 p.m. at the high school, located at 17711 Kinloch.

• Tryouts for the 2010 Plymouth Canton Vipers baseball team will be from 10 a.m. until noon Sunday, Aug. 16 at the Canton High School varsity baseball field.

For more information, call Tony Boucher at (734) 454-4992; or e-mail [tboucher14@yahoo.com](mailto:tboucher14@yahoo.com).

• Redford Union's boys soccer program will be holding tryouts for its varsity and junior varsity squads Aug. 12-14 from 3-5 p.m. at MacGowan School, 18255 Kinloch, in Redford. For more information, call (313) 995-4234.

• Baseball travel tryouts for the Livonia Baseball-Softball Association will be available for the following age groups at Bicentennial Park (field No. 8): 9-and-under - 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22; 11-and-under (Titans) - 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22; 10-and-under - noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23; and 12-and-under (Tarheels) - 2-4 p.m.

Report a half-hour early prior to the tryout time to register. Age is determined as of May 1, 2010.

Manager are also wanted for the 9- and 10-and-under teams.

For more information, call director Bruce Rosen at (313) 531-0721; or visit [www.livoniabsa.com](http://www.livoniabsa.com). You can also e-mail Rosen at [MBLR1218@aol.com](mailto:MBLR1218@aol.com).

• Tryouts for the 2010 Canton Cardinals travel baseball teams are continuing throughout August.

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association's travel baseball program seeks competitive and serious athletes willing to commit to weekend tournaments and games outside the community.

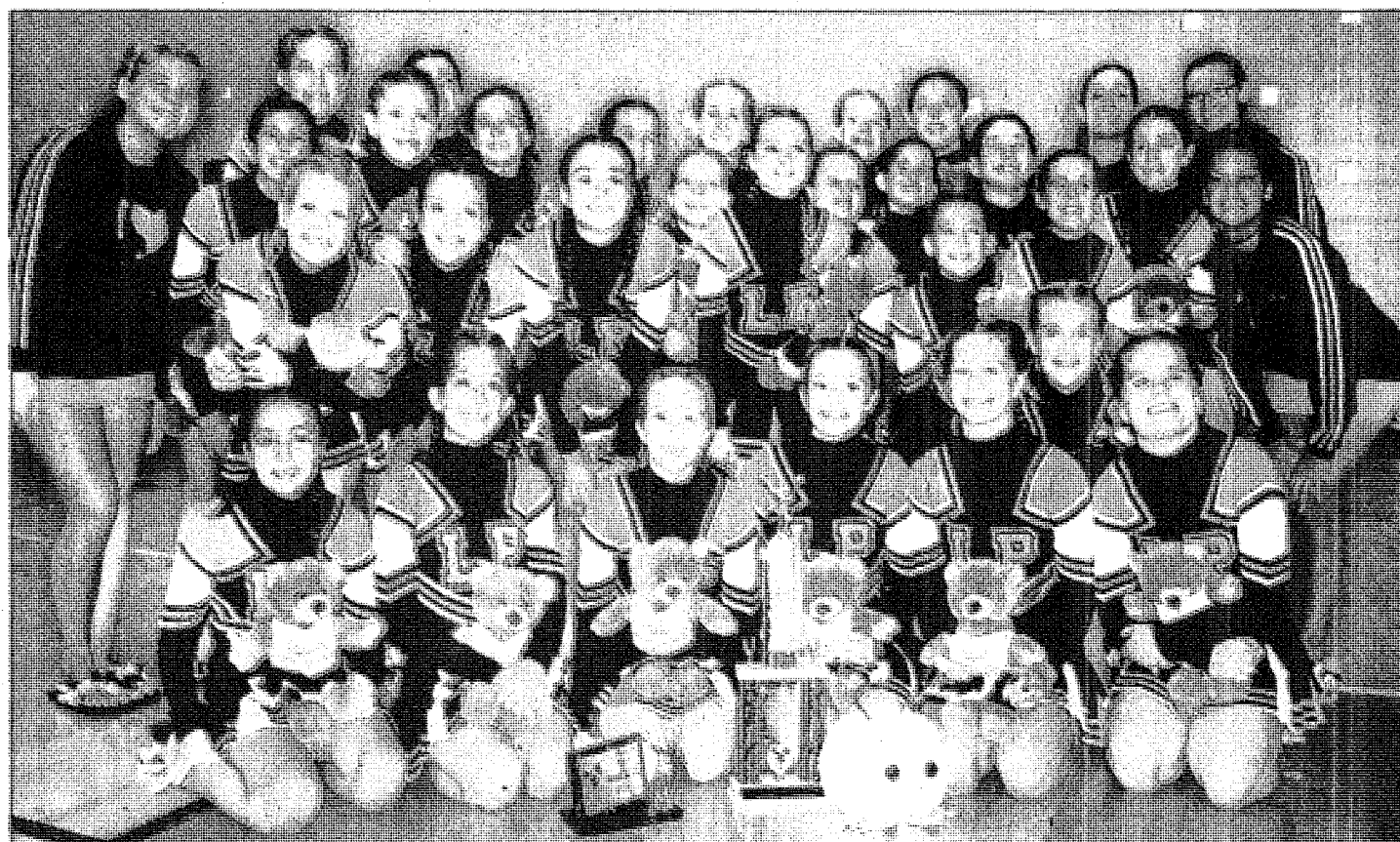
Pre-registration for the tryouts is required.

To do so, e-mail or call the following coaches and provide name, birth date, phone number and address (for residency requirements): 9U, Alan Zidsik, [lzidsik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lzidsik@sbcglobal.net), (734) 397-5739; 10U, Jim Good, [goodjames@comcast.net](mailto:goodjames@comcast.net), (810) 397-6272; 11U, Rob Hirshman, [hirshmal@yahoo.com](mailto:hirshmal@yahoo.com), (734) 981-1402; 12U, Dan Hejka, [cantoncardinalcoach@yahoo.com](mailto:cantoncardinalcoach@yahoo.com), (734) 776-3918; 13U, Jim Hejka, [jhejkacardinals@yahoo.com](mailto:jhejkacardinals@yahoo.com), (734) 658-2446; 14U, Mike Driscoll, [miked.amfinancial@tds.net](mailto:miked.amfinancial@tds.net), (734) 968-8700.



**Eagles take off**

The Livonia Eagles Maroon recently posted a 10-2 record to capture the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Mustang Major Division 10-and-under baseball title. Members of the Eagles Maroon include (bottom row, from left): Jack Summers, Alex Walkuski, Chris Berrelez, Nick Hourigan, Jacob Anderson, Joe Wozniak; (middle row, from left) Jack Chartier, Justin Alton, Kyle McCullough, Hugh Larkin, John Doyle, Evan Kuczmariski, Nate Leach; (top row, from left) head coach Mike Wozniak, Drew Hunter and assistant coach Craig Hunter. (Not pictured are assistant coaches Joe Larkin and Bob Hourigan, along with team manager Liz Alton.)



**Pom champions**

The Livonia Middle School Pom Team, made up of grades 6-8 and representing three upper elementary and three Livonia middle schools, earned the Grand Champs award, July 19-22, at the Mid American Pom summer camp held at Northwood University in Midland. The squad also earned Peppy Pom, Knock Your Socks Off, Overall Peppy Pom and Showmanship accolades. Members of the team include: co-captain Jessyca DelCotto, co-captain Madison Pettit, captain Heather Swirles, captain Megan Mila, captain Kari Barden, co-captain Michaela Harter, Heather Vallance, Jamie Brda, Maria Castrodale, Maria Leopardi, Lauren Alcantara, Julia Alcantara, Lindsey Carpenter, Alyssa DiDomenico, Katie Clark, Madison Fret, Allison O'Brien, Rachel Pettie, Natalie Alcantara, Lindsay Hickox, Leah Dempsey, Kendall Secord, Alesandra D'Agostino, Darrrian Wasil, Sydney Wynns, Julianna Jarosz and Savannah Sikorski. The team is coached by Andrea McCleary, Lisa Earhart, Heather De Priest, and Allison Estes.

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# NEIGHBORS

## Jump-start the school year with reading, routines

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The start of school's still a ways off, but local educators have some common sense advice for parents on getting young kids off to a good start.

Jan Blumberg, principal of Henry Ruff Elementary in the Garden City district, says parents can begin developing a routine for September now. They can start gradually with earlier bedtimes and evening rituals.

Morning wakeup times also should be earlier. Children need time for a good breakfast, as well as grooming, and should be able to pick clothes independently. Children need comfortable, washable clothes, layered and clearly labeled with the child's name.

Blumberg, a Canton resident, suggests talking about school, perhaps with a countdown calendar. Kids need time to voice hopes, dreams and fears about school.

Walking the school route now is a good idea, especially for kindergartners, and parents can drive the school route now "so that it becomes a comfortable part of normal routine," Blumberg said.

Parents can talk about expectations and beliefs. Parents who didn't have positive school experiences should "think before they speak and talk about how important it (education) is."

Children should understand appropriate behavior and expectations, such as the need to wait and use "manner words" like please and thank you. It's good to work on reading, writing and math in the summer, and public library resources and good Web sites will help.

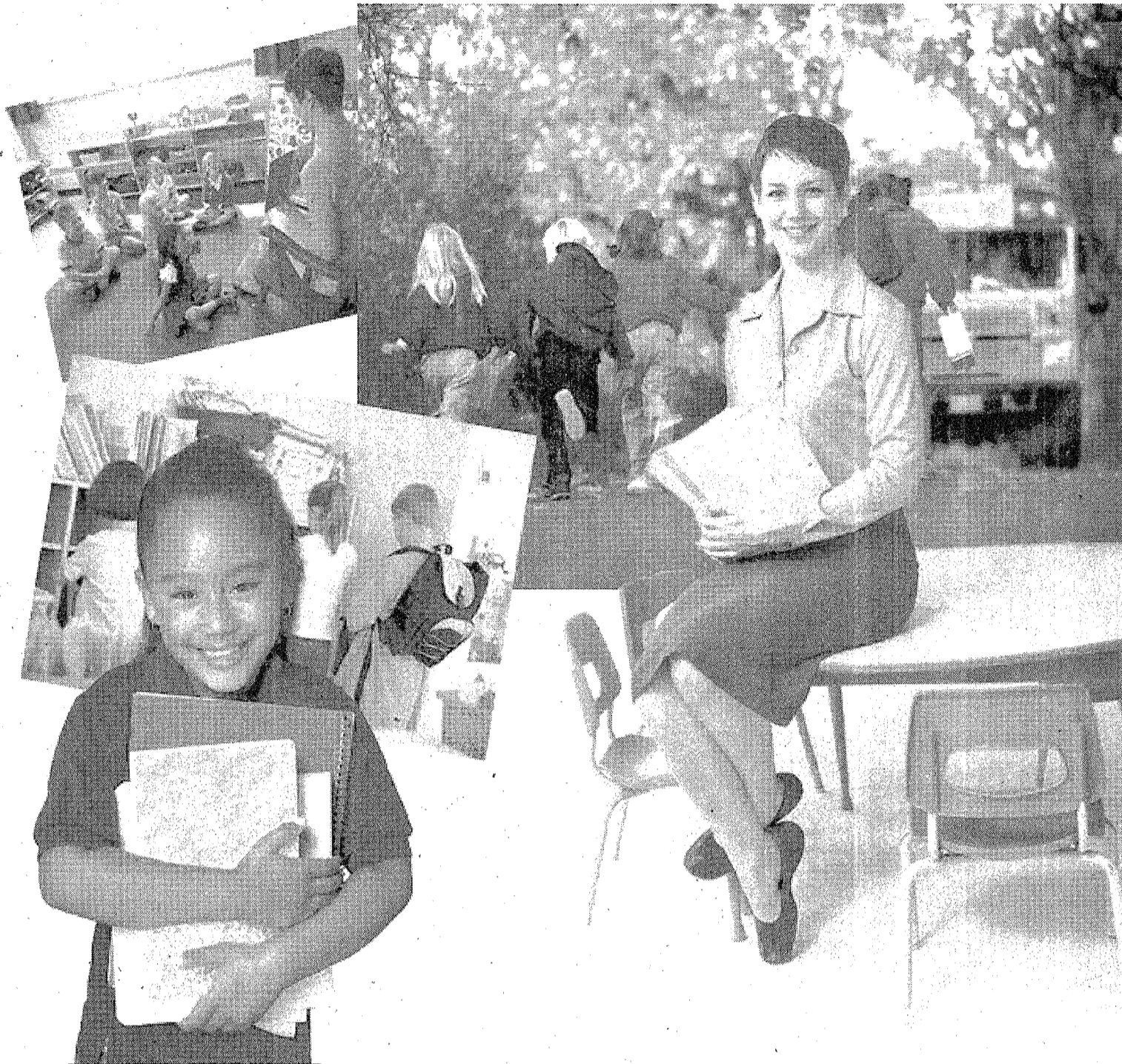
A good idea is a journal or album of the child's summer, with writing and artwork, Blumberg said.

"Have fun with the children during the year," she said. Many worry now about making ends meet financially, but they need to remember the kids. "If they can put their kids first, everything's going to work out," Blumberg said.

### FAMILY DINNER

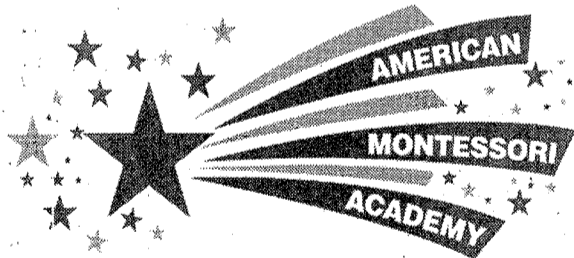
Priscilla David, a fourth-grade teacher at Grant Elementary in the Livonia district, also looks forward to a great school year. Livonia resident David agreed starting school year routines now is good. That includes a good breakfast and dinners together as a family.

It's vital to work out how to handle homework and



Please see **SCHOOL, B8**

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GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Bromeliad show

The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society will present its annual show and sale 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 15-16 at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. See a wide range of specimen bromeliads of many genera in peak color and condition. "Bromeliads, Ideal Plants for House and Garden," a lecture and demonstration, will start at 12:30 p.m., both days. "Fun with Air Plants: Tips on Mounting Tillandsias" will run at 1 p.m., both days. Seedlings, pups, mature and blooming bromeliads will be sold, along with air plants, including specimen clumps, mounting supplies, and potting mix, a selection of cacti and succulents, books, manuals

and art. Free admission. Anyone joining the society during the show will receive a free bromeliad plant. For additional information, call Penrith Goff at (248) 380-7359.

Landscaping workshop

7-8:30 p.m., Aug. 11, The Alliance of Rouge Communities will present a Rouge-friendly landscaping workshop for Canton residents at Summit on the Park. In addition to the workshop, a bus tour of local parks, homes and areas of interest in the Rouge River Watershed will be offered on Saturday, Aug. 15. The tour will leave from the parking lot of the Summit and will last from 8:30 a.m. - noon. The workshop and bus tour is free, however space is limited and reservations are required. To register visit, www.allianceofrougecommunities.com or call (734) 272-0581.

At English Gardens

"Adding Fragrance to the Garden," 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, at all stores.

"How to Arrange Garden Flowers," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, at all stores.

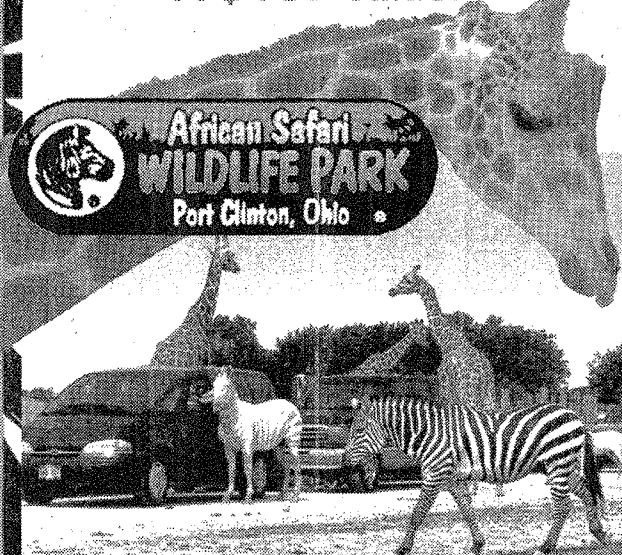
Learn how to treat pests and problems in the garden, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at all stores. Local stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313)278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Garden photos

"Secrets of the Garden: Photographs by Phyllis Ponvert" are on display through Aug. 14 in the auditorium at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro, Ann Arbor. Ponvert captures objects such as flowers and leaves using a flatbed scanner as a camera, resulting in evocative images and a fresh way to look at plants. The exhibit is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

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Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

Large advertisement for employment services featuring various job listings such as Collector, Tanker Driver, Production Technicians, Receptionist, Physician, and more. Includes contact information for HometownLife.com.

Advertisement for 1-800-579-SELL (A E F U I J K O M P) featuring a cartoon character and contact info for The Observer & Eccentric Classifieds.

Advertisement for Air Force Reserve featuring a soldier in uniform and the slogan "Above & Beyond". Includes contact information for recruitment.

# Some problems remain the same

The gentleman called the radio show and informed me that his 20-year-old side by side refrigerator was no longer cooling at all. It was kitchen temperature inside the product and he wondered if he should just junk it and go out and purchase a new one.

After asking a few questions I directed the man to pull the refrigerator out away from the wall and remove the cardboard cover on the lower back portion of the refrigerator. He did so and informed me that the compressor was hot to the touch. He noticed that the fan blade on the cooling



**Appliance Doctor**

**Joe Gagnon**

motor was not turning and he touched it with his finger which prompted it turn at full speed. Through trial and error this person discovered what was wrong with his refrigerator. Now it was a simple matter of changing the fan motor. Not a difficult job for any homeowner, he removed the three screws that hold the motor into a bracket

and replaced it himself. The old motor had a dry bearing and would only work some of the time. The compressor overheated and stopped cooling. Another person called and said the jam on the top shelf in the refrigerator was warm and so was the rest of the refrigerator section. I asked him to open the door and press in on the light switch button to see if the light goes out. It didn't and so the light stayed on while the refrigerator was operating. The person replaced the light switch and solved the problem themselves.

Speaking of light switches

I've read where there is a problem with a certain model of LG refrigerators. The light switch is failing and causing the plastic covers to melt and create smoke inside the refrigerator. They are using two 60-watt light bulbs which will cause any plastic piece to possibly catch fire. I expect we will hear more on this problem as soon as it has been reported to the Product Safety Commission.

The major appliances of today are still made with many of the basic concepts incorporated many years ago. Yes, there is a ton of electronics designed to make appliances more energy efficient than ever before and these have proven to be very expensive repair tabs for consumers

needing service. Even so, I still maintain that the do-it-yourselfer can do many of the repairs necessary when the need arises. Many times all a homeowner needs is a little direction on how to take the product apart and the rest is common sense. The problem is sometimes finding a place to call or a service technician who will take the time to explain what has to be done in order to save the expense of a service call. This has always been an age-old problem. The manufacturers may direct you to a toll-free number which allows you to speak to someone in a far off land. The conversation sometimes turns out to be far-out and you're more irritated than before you called.

A few months ago my son Mark decided to open his own business in appliance repair and do what I spent years teaching him. Located in Livonia, he is doing quite well and I am receiving compliments from his customers and thankfully no complaints. I asked him for a part time job recently as I need something more to do with my old age. In the near future I will sit behind a desk in his office and answer the telephone continuing to help consumers who have a question on how to fix an appliance. People will be able to contact me at (734) 953-6991 or on the Web at [appliancedoctorgagnon@yahoo.com](mailto:appliancedoctorgagnon@yahoo.com).

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## SCHOOL

FROM PAGE B6

any sports played, said David, a former second-grade teacher.

"It's always a good idea to let children know what your expectations are ahead," said David, a 14-year veteran of teaching, mostly at Grant. Routines help children feel more secure, she said.

David recommends sticking to the school supply list and avoiding unnecessary purchases. There are sales now for supplies, and kids will need such basics as crayons, markers and pencils. "The moderation thing applies," she said, adding some items are available at garage sales.

Younger kids need help with homework, so parents can sit with them to boost confidence. Parents can check over work of older kids, circling problem areas or adding a question mark to give a hint.

"Sometimes they speed through it and they think nobody's going to notice," she said of checking homework.

30 minutes of pleasure reading a night.

Parents may tire of a certain book, but children benefit from rereading. "Sometimes you comprehend new things," the Livonia teacher said. "It helps build your confidence level."

David was just back from a Wayne RESA conference and excited about the new school year. "It's always a good school year," she said. "It always turns out that way. It's what we make of it."

Also excited is Laura Beckman, principal of Jefferson-Barns Elementary in the Wayne-Westland district. "Routines are the key to success," agreed Beckman, who lives in the Wayne-Westland district part of Canton.

Beckman cites bedtimes, evening routines and having the child's backpack and lunch ready "so students come to school rested and ready to learn."

school newsletter on the fridge to help keep organized.

She urges parents to meet the teacher early and keep lines of communication open. Open houses are a great meet and greet, and a chance to learn homework procedures.

You can meet the teacher at another time if you have a work conflict, she added.

"It's going to be a great school year. I'm looking forward to it," Beckman said.

The educators agree teachers need to know about family issues like a divorce or major illness at home. A family death will be shared with classmates as appropriate, David said, noting children will be encouraged to show sympathy to the grieving child.

Blumberg finds there's some sense of entitlement and an assumption of "My child is perfect" among some parents. She said parents "have to come in with an open mind," and have the ability to sit back and listen.

David urges parents to maintain a positive attitude toward learning and not to badmouth a teacher. If there's a problem, parents should talk to the teacher first and not the child.

"We're the adults, they're the children," David said. "You can talk it out" by being honest and forthright, she said. "Communication is really important."

**TURN OFF TV**

The Westland principal recommends a well-lit homework area with needed supplies. Getting into the routine of doing homework and reading each night will help.

"That will make the biggest difference, especially with the early learners," Beckman said.

"Turn the TV off," she added of nightly reading time. She does that herself as a mom.

Beckman likes to post the

**OPEN A BOOK**

"Children should be reading every single night," said David, a view echoed by Blumberg. Parents can read to young children, reminding them of left to right and beginning to end. "The pleasure reading is most important," she added, noting fourth-graders typically read

# Family Fun Contest

Show us how your family spends fun family times together and you could win a \$60 gift certificate from Beans & Cornbread Soulful Bistro in Southfield, MI. Simply take a photo of your family fun along with a brief caption explaining the family activity.

As a bonus, if you include the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, Hometown Newspaper, or Beans & Cornbread Soulful Bistro in the photo, you're entered for a chance to win movie passes.

All entries will be judged based on fun and creativity. Email pictures to: [cbjordan@hometownlife.com](mailto:cbjordan@hometownlife.com) with the subject line "Family Fun" or mail to Choya Jordan, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Contest runs July 26 - Aug 23, 2009. Winners will be notified. Pictures may be selected for publication. Pictures will not be returned. Pictures size must not exceed 10 MB.

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# WIN DETROIT TIGER TICKETS

## WIN a "Be a Tiger for Kids" gift pack which includes:

- 2 tickets to the Detroit Tiger Game, August 18th vs. the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m.
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- 2 "Be a Tiger for Kids" T-Shirts

Meet the Hometownlife.com community street team at the following locations for a chance to win a "Be A Tiger for Kids" gift pack and other great prizes during this onsite reader promotion.

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"Be a Tiger for Kids" benefits Cornerstone Schools

For more information and updates go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Go back to school healthy Walks raise donations, awareness, memory

With the start of school just around the corner, Deepa Pai, M.D., a physician in Family Medicine at Henry Ford Medical Center - Canton, talks about the importance of back-to-school physicals.

**Q - How often do children need a complete physical?**

A - At least once a year, a health care provider needs to examine the child and touch base with the parents. The beginning of the school year is a good time for this. Students who will be participating in athletic programs need sports physicals.

**Q - Aside from examining the child, what else is included in a physical?**

A - I am going to be looking at age-appropriate development, activity levels, nutrition, safety and check that immunizations are up to date. A good family history from the parents is important, as any significant family history can indicate if a child is in a high-risk group for a future condition. In that case, further screening may be needed.

The annual physical is a good time to review any prescriptions. Although most children do not take medications regularly, those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), diabetes, or asthma need to have their medications adjusted periodically.

**Q - Don't children with asthma have some restrictions on their activities?**

A - I don't recommend restricting their activities, as long as the asthma is under control.

However, it's important for coaches to be informed about medical concerns, so they will know what to watch for in students on their teams. A doctor may need to consider whether the child should be using rescue medications (bronchodilators) prior to activities.

**Q - Do you talk to families about healthy eating?**

A - Yes, nutrition concerns are becoming increasingly important. Working parents don't always have time for cooking healthy meals, but they are in charge of what foods are available in the home for children to select. The alternative is that the next generation of children will be obese and at high-risk of heart disease. I'm seeing more teenagers with elevated blood pressure and diabetes, and they are taking medications at a younger age than in previous years. This definitely tells us the next generation is



Pai

going to have more advanced cardiovascular issues.

**Q - Even kids have full schedules. What about getting enough rest?**

A - Eight to 12 hours of sleep a night is recommended for children. I always emphasize a good bedtime routine. Proper rest helps to keep metabolism at an optimum level.

**Q - Is there anything parents need to bring to their child's physical?**

A - Bring your child's current immunization records, medications the child is taking, any test results from other doctors, medical issues, and your questions. It's a good idea to write down your questions in advance, so you will remember to discuss them with the doctor.

**Q - So parents and doctors are equal partners in their children's health care?**

A - Parents need to take an active part in their children's health care. The doctor only gets about 20 minutes with the child. Parents have the best effect on their children's health and can always ask their health care provider for advice. That's the way it should be.

Lace up those sneakers and go "Walkin' on the Wild Side" with the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Detroit Zoo.

Walkers can form a team, walk as individuals or "walk" virtually by supporting the cause without actually pounding the pavement.

Adults, children, families, co-workers, and friends; people of all ages may join the cause. Registration (with breakfast) begins at 7:45 a.m.; the 2.1 mile walk kicks off at 9 a.m. There will be entertainment, prizes, and fun for all ages. Walkers may stay and enjoy a day at the zoo after the event.

The foundation's fund-raising goal is \$100,000 - nearly the annual cost of treatment for a person with hemophilia. Each walker who raises at least \$100 will receive a Walkin' on the Wild Side T-shirt, souvenir water bottle, and \$5 in "Zoo Bucks," good at any concession within the zoo.

A minimum donation of \$10 is required for entry to the event. There is no admission charge for children under 2. To form a team online or donate to a team, go to <http://www.active.com/donate/wild-walk> or contact Dawn at (800) 482-3041.

**SLEEP WALKING**

Sweet Dreamzzz, a non-profit organization committed to providing bedtime essentials and sleep education to at-risk children in preparation for classroom learning, will hold its 5.4K Sleepwalk



Run Saturday, Sept. 26 in Shiawassee Park, Shiawassee Road in Farmington.

Registration will start at 8 a.m., the race beginning at 9 a.m. Fitness expert Peter Nielsen will kick off the event.

Pre-registration is required. Call (248) 478-3242. Or e-mail to [sweetdreamzzzdet@ameri-](mailto:sweetdreamzzzdet@ameri-)

tech.net. Visit the organization's Web site at [www.sweetdreamzzzdet.com](http://www.sweetdreamzzzdet.com). The walk is aimed at bringing awareness to the 540 minutes of sleep a child needs each night.

Standard entry fee is \$25; youth fee is \$15; senior fee, age 55 and over, \$10 and day-of entry fee, \$30.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Angela Hospice will hold its second annual Walk of Remembrance Saturday, Sept. 12, on the grounds of the Felician Sisters, including the Angela Hospice Care Center, 14100 Newburgh, Livonia. Registration will start at 8 a.m., with the walk beginning at 9 a.m.

Walkers honor, remember and celebrate loved ones who have died. Refreshments will be available after the 3K and a 5K walks.

Download a registration form from [www.angelahospice.org](http://www.angelahospice.org).

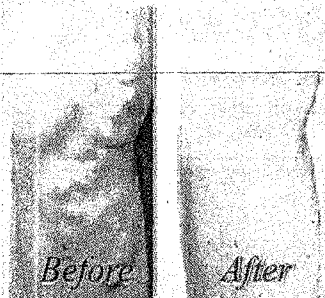
For more information call Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045.

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Phone: (248) 478-7860

**ARTHRITIS AND ACTIVITY**

Activity is the most important medicine the elderly individual can self prescribe. Both common sense and the medical literature confirm that keeping active yields benefits of the mind, lungs, bear bones and muscles. Networking and social interaction depend on the ability to leave the home and join others at church and social luncheons, and meet with the extended family at anniversaries, weddings and impromptu outings.

Furthermore, with good reason, any manual on elder care emphasizes the importance of walking or undertaking a similar activity for at least 45 minutes daily.

Arthritis of the hips or knees can bring an active way of life to a halt. As soon as the person or someone in the family notes a slowdown in activity, that elderly individual should see his or her physician. The change cannot be waved for as just "growing old." A cause exists, and often the cause is an arthritis in a knee or hip that has been coming on for years and has now reached a point the individual cannot overcome.

Diagnosing arthritis is important. Improvements in surgical care mean that a person who needs hip or knee replacement should get one. Age is seldom a barrier. If an individual does not want surgery or has a condition that precludes operations, physical therapy or joint injection can provide marked improvement and rekindle a willingness to return to an active life.

[www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com](http://www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com)

**Public Notice**

Office Of The Wayne County Treasurer  
Public Auction of Tax Foreclosed Property  
September 14, 15\*, 16\* & 17\*, 2009  
International Center Building  
400 Monroe, 8th Floor  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

BIDDER REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.  
ACTION BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. ON SEPT. 14,  
THEREAFTER AUCTION BEGINS AT 9:00 AM.

A \$1,000 cashiers check (U.S. funds) payable to the Wayne County Treasurer must be shown at registration and is required as a deposit for each parcel successfully bid.

**Auction Rules and Regulations and list of properties:\*\***  
[www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com)

The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids.

\*if necessary. \*\*Information available on the web page after August 20.

**RAYMOND J. WOJTCWICZ**  
Wayne County Treasurer  
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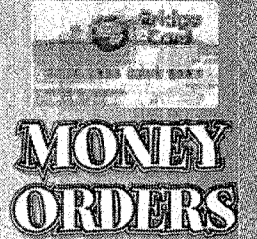
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