

Check out the bargains at area garage sales inside today's Classified section

THURSDAY  
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2009

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# WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



## AROUND TOWN

### Tax deadline

Haven't paid your summer property tax bill yet? Better hurry, the deadline is Monday, Aug. 31.

Property taxes can be paid by cash, check, cashier's check or money order at the treasurer's office in Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford, west of Wayne Road.

For more information, call the treasurer's department at (734) 467-3172.

### Garage sale

The popular Westland Community Garage Sale will be back in the parking lot between the Westland City Hall and Police Department from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.

The garage sale is sponsored by Westland Parks and Recreation Department and Westland Youth Assistance Program. Proceeds will benefit Westland Youth Assistance, Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program and the parks and recreation department.

Prime spaces are available for \$25 each, while non-prime spaces are \$20. For more information or to reserve a spot, call (734) 722-7620 or e-mail mmartin@cityofwestland.com.

### School goods

School bells will ring in Michigan after Labor Day, and the Sav-On Drug store at 190 S. Wayne Road at Cherry Hill will be collecting notebooks, pencils, crayons, and more to help those children in metro Detroit who may not be able to afford school supplies this year.

A box has been put at the front of the store to collect the donated supplies. Simply purchase a folder, pens, or any other school supply item of your choosing. Pay for your purchase at the register when you're finished shopping and then drop your donation in the school supply collection box.

Sav-On Drugs will then match the supply donations collected at all store locations and contribute the same amount. Deserving school districts will be contacted and supplies will be distributed to those Michigan children in need.

### Auditions

Inspiration Theatre has put out a casting call for its upcoming production of KORK-TV, an original comedy that will be presented as a stage production in October and filmed as a pilot and shown on Access television.

Auditions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, at the Warren Road Light and Life Church on Warren Road east of Wayne Road in Westland. The production is in need of at least five men and five women.

The play is about Reg and Simon, defrocked televangelists who are convicted of fraud and sent to a minimum security prison. But on the way, they are offered a chance at community service — turn a defunct TV station in the small town of Cork, Idaho, into a profitable enterprise.

Performance dates are Oct. 22-24, 30 and 31.

Auditions will be 7-9 p.m. For more information, call (734) 751-7057 or e-mail inspire@inspiretheatre.com.

## City adds Nixle to communications tool box

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The City of Westland is now reaching out to residents through the latest technology to deliver the information they want the way they want it and when they want it.

The new community information service is provided free of charge to the city and the residents by Web-

based Nixle. The service which was launched last week, provides "trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community events notifications" by the Internet, e-mail and cell phone.

"Better communication builds stronger, safer communities," said Mayor William Wild. "This is a unique opportunity to use new technology to communicate with

citizens in a way we never have before."

According to Daniel Bordeau, the city's information technology director, Nixle is "very comfortable tool to use even for non-technology people."

"It's easy to register for and the information comes to you in the time and format you want," he said. Nixle's municipal wire is the first

standardized, secure and certified communication platform for local police departments, municipalities, and their agencies to communicate important, neighborhood-level information to residents. It delivers information to cell phones as text messages, to e-mails for computers and smart phone devices and

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Andrew Kruczynski of Westland plays a soldier in "Up in the Air," starring George Clooney. The movie was filmed in March at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport.

## Churchill grad pursues acting career

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan's sudden emergence as a filmmaking destination for Hollywood has Andrew Kruczynski hopeful that he can land a major role in a movie someday.

Kruczynski, a Westland resident and 2002 graduate of Churchill High School, had a speaking role in Lifetime's *Prayers for Bobby*, filmed in Royal Oak and Ferndale last year, and plays a U.S. soldier in the yet-to-be-released *Up in the Air* with George Clooney.

"It's definitely helped," Kruczynski said of the filming activity in Michigan since tax credits were granted to draw filmmakers to the state last year. The Detroit area has been a magnet of activity for many of these filmmakers, including Livonia.

"Most of the auditions are in Troy or Southfield," Kruczynski said. "I've also been getting a lot of commercials."

He recently filmed one for Travel Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Kruczynski played a football player in *Prayers for Bobby*, a story about a tormented gay high school student played by Ryan Kelly and starring Sigourney Weaver. That student has a crush on the football player played by Kruczynski.

Kruczynski had his own trailer at the film locations in Royal Oak and Ferndale last summer. The movie came out in January.

He did not meet Weaver, but managed to meet Clooney during filming for *Up in the Air* at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport in March.

"It was pretty cool," Kruczynski said, adding that the role of a soldier was a non-speaking part.

He hopes to build on those small parts in the future.

"I would like to land some bigger roles and take some acting classes to get auditions for bigger roles," Kruczynski said. "But it's nice hav-

ing all the small stuff like the commercials, too."

He's appeared in print ads for Homedics, a firm in Commerce Township; The Designate in Troy; and an Onstar ad, which is a print ad but is a commercial, too, he said.

"That's all happened within the last month," he said.

Kruczynski is hoping to land an audition for *Red Dawn*.

At 25, he knows he has work to do, but appreciates what he's landed so far.

"I think I need classes," he said. "It helps. My agent will continue to help me find parts I do well."

What's it like being part of movies like *Up in the Air* and *Prayers for Bobby*?

"It's exciting to be part of something that's big like that," Kruczynski said. "Just representing this area and representing Michigan. It's exciting."

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## Our Space develops high school leadership

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lynn Malinoff's excited about an after-school program starting this fall at Wayne Memorial High School.

"It'll be youth-governed," said Malinoff, project director for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers at Eastern Michigan University.

The Wayne Memorial "Our Space" program will develop leadership among students other than those who serve on groups like Student Council. The school day will be extended, possibly with some morning time, and academic support for credit will be included.

"We're hoping to get some mentoring going on," she said, adding information is online at [www.emubrightfutures.org](http://www.emubrightfutures.org).

"Now they're in a safe, enriching environment. Pretty cool stuff," she said of the "Our Space" endeavor.

Malinoff, with EMU's Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities, works mostly with Wayne-Westland. She's also working with Willow Run and Ypsilanti schools, focusing on the U.S. 12 corridor's needs.

She retired to EMU after a 30-year career with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, where she was known for her skill in getting grants. Malinoff described federal grants that have helped students at Wayne Memorial, Ypsilanti and Willow Run high schools.

Federal grants also help families at Jefferson-Barns Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and Adams Middle schools in Wayne-Westland. The five-year grant totals \$750,000 a year. Franklin and Marshall Middle schools are

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## Westland gets first Kroger fuel center

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kroger shoppers will be able to buy groceries and gas up following approval of a Kroger Fuel Station at its store at Merriman and Cherry Hill.

The Westland City Council has approved a site plan for the development which will offer shoppers per gallon discounts for shoppers with Kroger Plus cards.

"It's another example of a business investing more in the city," said Planning Director Bruce Thompson.

The approval came a day after a new Kroger Fuel Center opened in Dearborn Heights, which Councilman Charles Pickering described as "an attractive addition to the area."

"I like the idea of more competition in the area," he said. "I think

this will create some competition."

The first such fuel center in Westland, it will be located on the south end of the shopping center in an area currently occupied by a Charter One ATM machine. It will be a kiosk style gas station with five pumps, according to Thompson.

Its location will be south of the Merriman entrance to the shopping mall and will have no effect on the Burger King restaurant on the north side of the entrance.

"They're providing the service basically for Kroger shoppers," said Thompson.

The fuel center will offer discount gasoline based on how much Kroger shoppers spend in the store. The discounts are earned for spending at participating Kroger stores. Shoppers can save 10 cents per gallon applicable to up to four fill-ups a month based on spending between \$150 and \$750. The

discounts are earned on a monthly basis and must be used in the following month.

Kroger has made improvements at several of its stores in the area. In addition to the fuel center, it also remodeled its store on Ford north of Inkster as well as its store on Middlebelt north of Ford in Garden City.

Mayor William Wild recognized Kroger representatives for their investment in Westland, noting that it "follows on the heels of \$5.8 million expansion" of its store at Ford and Central City Parkway.

"That's a \$6.5 million investment in the community in just over 12 months," he said. "It will create jobs in Westland, and we're appreciative that they have stepped up and invested in Westland and in Michigan."

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# W-W schools offices open for registration

The countdown is on and for the parents of Wayne-Westland middle and high schoolers, this is the week to register students for the 2009-2010 school year.

For families who are new to the district, now is the time to visit their local school to get students registered. All of the district's school offices, including the elementaries are open as of this week to get students enrolled.

The process isn't difficult, but parents do need to provide several documents with them to register their children in time for the Sept. 8 start of school. Only a parent or legal guardian with proper paperwork can register a student.

Parents will need to bring their child's original birth certificate with a raised seal. The certificate must contain the name or names of the parent or parents. A hospital record of birth will not be

accepted.

Also required is a current immunization record as well as three proofs of residency. A parent must provide a current mortgage or lease agreement or tax statement or a Residency Affidavit, if they are living with someone and do not have a mortgage or lease agreement in their name. The individual with whom they are living with also must sign a "Support of Residency Consent Agreement" in the Department of Instruction and provide similar proofs of residency.

Any two of the following that show correct name and address will be accepted as further proof of residency - cellular phone statement, current bank statement, current charge card statement, current utility bills, current health insurance document, current auto insurance document, current IRS information, current

employment record, current DSS document, current court document or moving company statement.

Examples for those with a Residency Affidavit are a Michigan driver's license or state ID and any two pieces of business U.S. mail within 30 days of registration for the parent and a Michigan driver's license or state ID, mortgage coupon, warranty deed or original lease, two proofs of such things as utilities for the owner.

Families having trouble providing all of the required documentation can go to the pupil accounting office at the district's administrative offices at 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, or call (734) 419-2092 for more information.

All documents must be current and within the last 30 days of the registration date.



### Who will it be?

Eight women are vying for the opportunity to serve as Miss Wayne County in a pageant planned for Sept. 12, at Livonia Churchill High School. Posing with reigning Miss Wayne County Nicole Blaszczy (center) are Paula Langley (from left), Lauren Allen, Rachel Manna, Elyse Losen, Danielle Williams, Anjel Francisco, Jessica Wells and Teresha Hendricks. Langley of Novi, Manna of Farmington Hills and Williams of Newport all attend school in Wayne County. Allen lives in Inkster, Losen and Wells in Belleville; Francisco in Ypsilanti. Hendricks is a Westland resident. The pageant will be at 4:30 p.m. Churchill High School is on Newburgh Road just north of Joy.

### AROUND WESTLAND

#### Used Book Sale

Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, 6123 Central City Parkway, will have a Used Book Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 18-19, with a special of buy 4 and get one free of same type item. The hours will be noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, which also will be the Bag Day Sale. Bring in a medium size bag or buy a cool green reusable Friends

bag at the sale for \$2. Fill a bag for \$4. Money raised pays for many of the programs at the library for all ages. For information, call (734) 326-6123.

#### Mom-to-Mom sale

Table space is available for a Mom 2 Mom sale Saturday, Sept. 12, at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Rental fees are \$20 for an 8-foot long table and \$10 for 5-foot circular table. Rack space is \$5 and large

item space \$1 per item. 9 a.m. to noon. Admission will be \$2 for 9 a.m. early birds and \$1 after 10 a.m. Strollers will be allowed after 11 a.m. For more information, call Cheryl at (734) 425-3561 or (734) 765-8115.

#### Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in September. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have. Office hours for Tuesday,

Sept. 1, 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. The Thursday, Sept. 3, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-

0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

#### Golf outing

The John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 12th Annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn and dinner. Dinner only guests are welcome, cost is \$25. Contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. More information also is available online at glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and donations are being accepted. All donations

are welcome.

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## PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

being added. The elementary and middle school components include a nutritious meal, homework help, enrichment and clubs. "The kids tell us what they want to learn," Malinoff said. Music, drama, karate and writ-

ing have been included.

Resources from EMU and the University of Michigan, where Malinoff also teaches, are used. U-M student-athletes from the baseball team used the sport to teach math at Wayne-Westland elementaries and Adams Middle School. They worked with second-fifth-graders in elementaries on graphing, ratios and per-

centages. The young men talked about college, with business students focusing on rigors of that program at U-M.

"They also come from humble roots and they're good role models for the children," she said.

"We just treat them like they can do it and they do," she added, noting some children and teens have attention defi-

cit disorder issues. The U-M players invited local students and their families to a baseball game, where they were a vocal cheering section.

Laura Beckman, principal at Jefferson-Barns Elementary, praised Malinoff's work in student enrichment.

"We know how important it is for the kids to give back to the community," Beckman said.

## NIXLE

FROM PAGE A1

on the Nixle Web site at www.nixle.com.

"Nixle is the first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents," said Nixle founder and CEO Craig Mitnick. "When it comes to public safety information, you have to trust the course. Residents can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic."

The service utilizes the same applications as Twitter and Facebook, but with an added identity certification to ensure that the information is "trusted and accurate." Signing up is

simple and can be completed by clicking on the Nixle box on the city's home page at www.cityofwestland.com.

Once signed up, subscribers can use the locations button to add as many addresses throughout the country as they want. They can also use the settings button to subscribe to only the information they want and whether they want it sent by text message, to a cell phone, by e-mail or through the Internet.

"It's a communication tool that people have to chose to receive the information," said Bordeau, who spent almost two months investigating the application which Wild was introduced to at the Conference of Mayors.

"Obviously, the administration sees a benefit for the community with as many residents as possible signing up."

Bordeau added that the city will have the ability to target information for specific areas or blocks in the city. He pointed to the recent barricade gunman of Harvey Street as an example.

City department heads spent three weeks get used to the system in advance of its rollout, posting items on a daily basis. Those messages included everything from an update of the H2O Spray Playground construction, energy tips from Mission: Green and invitation to the mayor's State of the City Address this evening to how

to get \$1 off at the Bailey Recreation Center Pool by singing up for the service.

"It was very well received," he said. "Each department posted information about their operations every day for three weeks."

In its first four days following its announcement, 150 users had signed up for Nixle. Bordeau doesn't expect community participation to reach the "gold standard" of curbside recycling, he hopes people will opt in for the service.

"Our marketing campaign isn't fully launched, so to have 150 users, that's a good sign," he said. "It's a great communications tool."

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

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# County, IT firm open western Wayne tech center

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's appropriate that football season has started, because Wayne County and Plymouth Township officials apparently made a game-saving tackle that kept alive a partnership with technology expert Secure-24 both sides say should be mutually lucrative.

The county and Secure-24, which provides IT security products and systems, along with Plymouth Township and various government officials, cut the ribbon Tuesday on the \$5 million, 18,000-square-foot Wayne County Technology Resource Center on Helm Court in Plymouth Township. Among the guests were Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards and Wayne County Commissioners Laura Cox, R-Livonia, whose district includes Plymouth, and Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, whose district includes Westland and part of Livonia.

The facility was designed to "offer and deliver critical IT services" to all 43 communities in Wayne County, as well as "creating capacity for private business IT services," according to Secure-24 vice president of sales Matt Wenzler. The center provides communities Information Technology infrastructure and disaster recovery services.

"Michigan doesn't have the kind of inclement weather issues that would cause us problems," said Wenzler, who pointed out Michigan is one of three states never to have a federally declared natural disaster. "They're using it as an economic incentive for out-of-state business to come here."

It was almost built to attract business to north-



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano talks on the phone while touring the new technology center, with which Wayne County partnered with IT expert Secure-24, after ribbon-cutting ceremonies in Plymouth Township Tuesday.

ern Ohio, which is where Secure-24 management had actually decided to build the center before Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Plymouth Township officials made them an offer they decided not to refuse, a deal that included tax incentives that drew the firm back into the state.

"We were going to leave until we were arm-wrestled to the ground by Wayne County and Plymouth Township," Wenzler said. "We were headed to Ohio, but Wayne County and Plymouth Township enticed us to stay here."

Both sides are calling the deal "a unique private/public partnership" that will reduce costs and create capacity for IT services for both government and private enterprise.

"It's the wave of the future," said Ficano, who said the deal would save the county some \$2 million per year. "In the past, government did its own IT work, and we couldn't keep up with the private sector. This shows we have the ability

to think out of the box, and it shows government can function with a private entity."

Secure-24 invested an initial \$5 million to build the facility and expects its total investment to exceed \$10 million over the next several years. The facility, officials said, brings 40-50 jobs to the township now, but Secure-24 officials say the facility will generate more than 250 jobs in the county.

"It's not just the jobs we are creating, it's the jobs other companies create," said Secure-24 CEO Matthias Horch. "We're enabling them to grow their businesses."

Edwards said Secure-24's decision to build in the township, while helped along by the tax incentives, still shows "Plymouth Township keeps attracting businesses to the community."

"There's a quality of life here that's outstanding," Edwards said. "This community has a lot to offer."

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PHOTOS BY JAMES WALLACE

Matt Wenzler of Secure-24, Tahir Kazmi of Wayne County, Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Wayne County Commissioners Laura Cox and Joan Gebhardt cut the ribbon on the new technology center in Plymouth Township.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Resident finds furniture missing from patio

**Larceny**  
 1 A resident in the 29000 block of Hanover told police someone entered the garage and removed a John Deere generator sometime between noon July 3 and noon July 5.

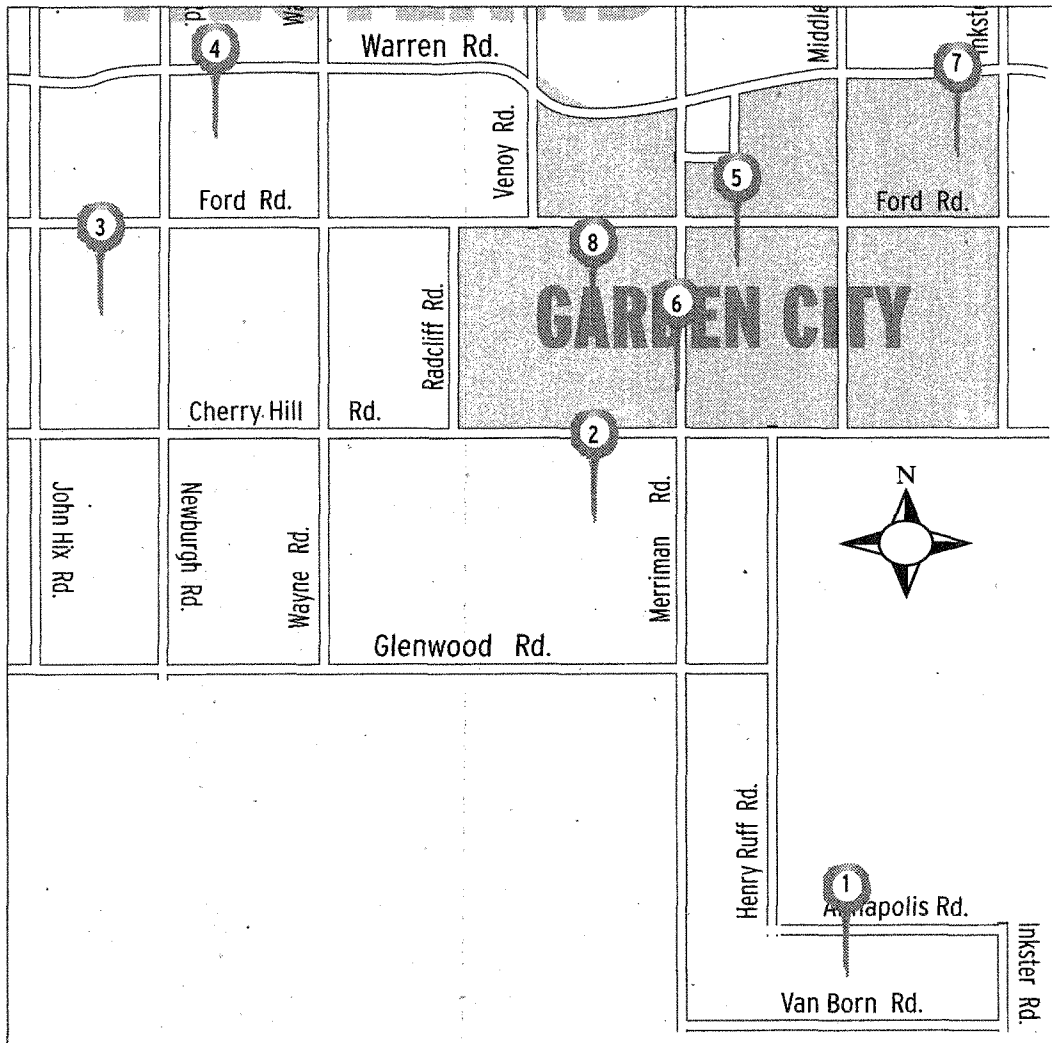
**WESTLAND COP CALLS**  
 The man told police he wasn't certain if the garage was open and that the side door could be locked. Police found no signs of forced entry.

• A resident of Colonial Village on North Wayne Road came home to find her white wicker patio furniture missing from her patio. The theft occurred between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Aug. 20.

**Vandalism**  
 A resident of the 6000 block of Lakeview Boulevard told police that someone put a hole in the rear quarter panel of her 1999 Grand Am with an unknown object while it was parked at the Landings Apartment complex.

**Stolen license plate**  
 2 A resident of the 32000 block of Hazelwood discovered someone had removed the license plate from her car between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. Aug. 20. The woman said the car had been parked in the driveway behind the house and a closed gate and that the screws had been removed.

**Aggravated assault**  
 3 A 34-year-old Westland man was arrested for aggravated assault and possession of marijuana following an altercation with another Westland man outside an apartment on Oakview Aug. 20.



The man told police that the victim, a 27-year-old Westland man, had approached him while he was getting his tools from his vehicle and hit him in the head several times. The men began fighting and the suspect told police that he grabbed a tuck knife from his tool box and that while wrestling with the suspect cut him on his back.

He told police the victim was much bigger than him and that he was trying to protect himself.

A witness told police she had heard arguing and looked in the hallway to see the two men. She also saw them wrestling and the victim step away and tell the suspect he had stabbed him.

The victim, who was transported to Oakwood Annapolis

Hospital in Wayne, told police he had his back turned to the suspect when he cut him with a knife four times. He said he fainted and when he regained consciousness, he was on his way to the hospital.

The victim had four lacerations on his left shoulder, left elbow, left rib area and his mid back on the right side.

**Shoplifting**  
 4 A 37-year-old Southgate man is wanted in connection with a shoplifting incident at the Westland Meijer store Aug. 18.

Store security told police she watched the suspect take a Detroit Tigers shirt and walk to the shoe department where he put it on and removed the tags from a pair of New

Balance shoes before hiding them in the waistband of his pants.

The security officer said the man then left the store without stopping to pay for the items. She added that she recognized the man from an alert about a theft at the Allen Park Meijer store where he was warned about trespassing at all Meijer properties.

**Larceny from a vehicle**  
 A resident told police someone broke into her car while it was parked in the 2000 block of Alberta between 10 p.m. Aug. 17 and 6 a.m. Aug. 18 and stole her care stereo system. According to police, there was damage to the vehicle and the woman didn't know how the culprit got into the car.

## Suspect treats self to ice cream in King Kone break-in

**Break-in**  
 5 Someone broke into the King Kone ice cream stand at 31051 Ford Road before noon Aug. 19 by removing a window. No money was stolen, however, the culprit helped himself to ice cream while he was there, according to the police report.

**Drunk driving**  
 6 A 26-year-old Westland man driving a 2004 Honda Accord was arrested at Cherry Hill and Merriman Aug. 19 for driving drunk. The police observed him swerving in and out of his lane.

**Property damage**  
 7 Someone defaced a vehicle parked in the driveway in the 6000 block of Cardwell. The damage was discovered about 3 p.m. Aug. 10. The word "Die" was scratched on the rear quarter of the driver's side. Swear words also were found on the driver's door.

**Stolen bike**  
 Someone stole a Schwinn bike Aug. 18 in the 29500 block of Winder. The bike was parked in the driveway about 45 minutes.

**Property damage**  
 Someone struck a car mirror and left it dangling by the wires sometime before 7:15

**GARDEN CITY COP CALLS**  
 a.m. Aug. 19 in the 31700 block of Pardo.

**Stolen property**  
 8 The owners of a 1998 Ford Explorer and a 2004 F150 parked in the 31700 block of Sheridan Aug. 19, discovered that items were stolen from the vehicle.

About 50 CDs, a cell phone charger, change and an iPod accessory were taken from the SUV. Two cell phone chargers, change, sunglasses, five CDs and a ball and hitch were taken from inside the truck.

These vehicles were parked in the street unlocked along with a 2009 Ford from which an iPod, USB cable and a cell phone charger were taken.

**Larceny**  
 Several items were reported stolen about 9 a.m. Aug. 9 from the Merriman Road Baptist Church at 2055 Merriman. Taken were a video camera, a TV lens, a zoom, mounting, bracket, adapter and view finder.

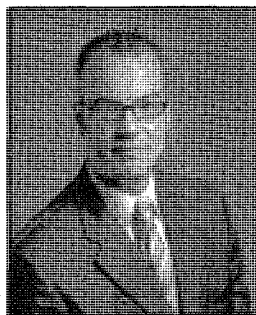
**Larceny**  
 A 30-year-old Dearborn Heights man said that during the time he was inside a building at 28050 Ford on Aug. 16 getting a hair cut, someone broke the driver's side window on his 2004 Land Rover and stole his wife's purse.

- By Sue Buck

# Expert Care Close to Home

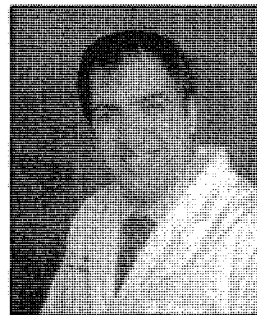
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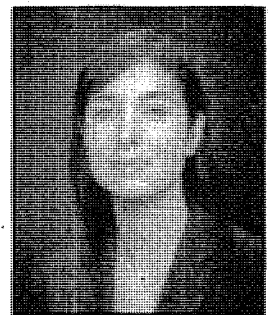
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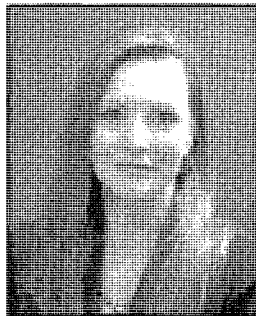
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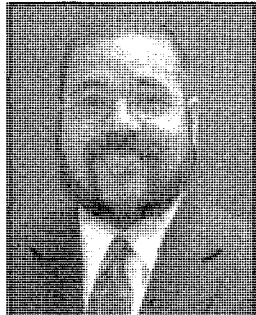
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# PROVIDENCE



# Lawmakers press for passage of bills to help unemployed

As unemployment hovers at 15 percent with 731,000 residents out of work, State Reps. Bob Constan, D-Dearborn Heights, Dian Slavens, D-Canton, and Deb Kennedy, D-Brownstown are calling on the State Senate to act immediately to extend unemployment benefits to Michigan's struggling workers.

With a massive surge in the number of workers exhausting their benefits expected to begin today (Aug. 27), the lawmakers warned that by year's end nearly 100,000 Michigan workers will have their unemployment lifeline cut unless action is taken.

"More and more of our hard-

working men and women right here in southeast Michigan are losing their unemployment lifeline, even as they continue to search for a good-paying job," Slavens said. "Michigan's workers are second to none, and we must stand by them through these trying times. It's time for the Senate to put the pedal to the metal and vote to extend this much-needed funding to our working families before it's too late."

Under the lawmakers' plan, House Bills 4785 and 4786, which passed the House in May, unemployed workers who seek new skills by enrolling in a vocational or retraining program would be eligible

for an additional 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. These benefits will be automatically provided to workers who are in a declining industry and enter an approved training program that prepares them for entry into new fields.

These benefits also would be provided to workers who lost their job through no fault of their own and are now working part-time. For more than three months, the State Senate has failed to act on the plan, while more displaced workers fall behind, the three Democrats said.

Federal stimulus dollars would cover unemployment benefits for workers in retrain-

ing for at least the next two-three years. Without Senate passage of the plan, Michigan stands to lose out on more than \$138 million in unemployment assistance to struggling workers and their families as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In July, 731,000 residents reported being unemployed, according to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth. Through December, the number of workers statewide who will exhaust their unemployment benefits claims is expected to reach nearly 100,000, including 25,689 in

Wayne County.

"While investment firms and banks get rewarded despite making poor business decisions, Michigan families who worked hard and played by the rules are being ignored," Kennedy said. "This is unacceptable. Our workers built the middle class, and they deserve the opportunity to enter training programs that will help them land a good-paying job in a high-demand field."

House lawmakers have launched an online petition to rally support for the plan to extend the unemployment lifeline to Michigan's struggling workers. Residents can sign

the petition by visiting [www.housedems.com/petitions](http://www.housedems.com/petitions) and clicking on the unemployment petition graphic.

"Too many of our workers have lost their jobs because of outsourcing or downsizing, leaving many families struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table," Constan said. "Unless the Senate takes action on our plan, thousands of these working families will see their last lifeline slip away. I urge the Senate to join us in supporting our workers through these tough economic times and ensuring they have the skills they need to get back on their feet."

# Handle college savings plans with careful thought

It's hard to believe that there's only another month or so of summer. One issue many families face every fall is how to pay for their child's college education. This puts pressure on families and this year more than even because of the recession and the high unemployment in Michigan.

Most of the time when I discuss a college education it generally deals with saving. My advice is always to start early and to recognize that the cost of college is increasing faster than anything in our society other than health care.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

It is important that parents have a strategy on how to deal with the withdrawals from investments when the money is needed. There is no one right answer when it comes to withdrawals. It all depends upon one's individual situation. However, there are some factors to take into consideration when it's time to

**I prefer to use the taxable accounts first and once those are exhausted begin withdrawing from the 529 accounts. My reasoning is partly based on what has happened to the market over the last year. Many college saving accounts have taken a beating and the tax ramifications can be considerable.**

withdraw money from a college savings account.

Typically, a college savings plan can be divided into two separate areas - money that is invested in taxable accounts and money that is invested in tax-free accounts, such as 529 plans. I prefer to use the tax-

able accounts first and once those are exhausted begin withdrawing from the 529 accounts. My reasoning is partly based on what has happened to the market over the last year. Many college saving accounts have taken a beating and the tax ramifications can be considerable.

In a taxable account, if you sell the investment and have a loss, you are going to be able to deduct that loss on your tax return. On the other hand, because of the nature of 529 accounts, losses are not deductible. Therefore, if you have losses, like many people do, you might as well take advantage of them. And because 529 plans grow tax free, you want to take advantage of that opportunity for as long as you can.

Another reason to use taxable money first is the new American Opportunity Tax Credit. We used to have some-

thing called the Hope Credit to provide relief for college tuition. The Hope Credit expired last year and has been replaced by the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit is available only for 2009 and 2010 and provides a \$2,500 credit for qualified education expenses. The old Hope Credit was an \$1,800 credit.

Another good thing about the American Opportunity Tax Credit is it can be used for any year of college. The Hope Credit was only available for the first two years of college.

In addition, the income limits to take advantage of the American Opportunity Tax Credit have increased from the Hope Credit. If you were single, the maximum amount of income to qualify for the Hope Credit was \$58,000. That has now been increased to \$90,000. For married couples who filed returns jointly, the income limit has risen from \$160,000 to \$180,000.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit allows you to obtain the tax credit on your federal return for 100 percent of eligible costs up to \$2,000, plus 25 percent of college cost of more

than \$2,000. In other words, to take advantage of the full \$2,500 credit you will need at least \$4,000 in college costs.

The one hiccup with the American Opportunity Tax Credit is that eligible college costs cannot be paid from a 529 or even a Coverdell Education Savings account. Therefore, depending upon the cost of college you need to make sure you coordinate the 529 and American Opportunity Tax Credit.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit is only available for 2009 and 2010, therefore, you generally want to use this credit first before you touch your 529 plan.

For those who have children going to college in the fall, now is the time to coordinate the different accounts and know what accounts you should access and what accounts you should let grow. A good, well-thought-out strategy always works to your benefit. Good luck!

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

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# Goin' Hollywood

## Local teens win shot at filmmaking contest

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After shooting a short film about a quiet, bullied high school boy who becomes a superhero, a young movie-making crew including five Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township teens will compete to win a nationwide competition.

But they'll need all the support they can get during a seven-day, online voting contest.

The teens shot their film, *Zero to Hero*, in July at the vacant Parker High School in Howell, after beating out thousands of youngsters who sought an opportunity to work with Chicago-based Fresh Films, the nation's top filmmaking competition for teens.

Fresh Films assembled teen film crews in six U.S. cities, including the Detroit area, and chose youngsters who stood out after going online to fresh-films.com and making a personal sales pitch including essays about their interest in movies.

Fresh Films, using short film scripts from a separate contest, rolled into town in July after assigning *Zero to Hero* to teen filmmakers Danielle Allen, Kristen Riggs and Eric Schendel of Canton; Ben Corona of Plymouth Township; Joe Wafer of Plymouth; Nicholas Rossano of Detroit; Jesse Gilbert of Shelby Township; Garrett Roodbergen of Vicksburg; and Peter Kangas, who came all the way from Iowa City, Iowa.



Danielle Allen of Canton and Ben Corona of Plymouth Township, here in front of the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth, are part of a team of young filmmakers vying to win a national competition.

### FRESH FILMS

- **Who:** Canton teens Danielle Allen, Kristen Riggs and Eric Schendel, Ben Corona of Plymouth Township and Joe Wafer of Plymouth, among other teen filmmakers
- **What:** Online movie challenge
- **Where:** Vote at fresh-films.com
- **When:** Aug. 27 through Sept. 2
- **Why:** Movie shot by local teens will compete against two other films for an eventual shot at screening at a major film festival.

Sitting in a grassy area of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, Allen, 14, and Corona, 17, discussed the film crew's project during an interview arranged by Alana Bardauskis, who handles publicity for Dreaming Tree Films, producers of Fresh Films.

Allen, who will be a freshman this year at Plymouth

High School, recalls her reaction when she received a phone call in late June confirming she had been chosen to help make *Zero to Hero*.

"I screamed," said Allen, who has dreamed of working in the film industry after acting in school plays since early childhood and performing at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill. "It was unbelievable."

Allen had studied media production at Pioneer Middle School, and Corona had taken an advanced video class at Plymouth High, where he will be a senior this year. They both aspire to work in the film industry, but they hadn't dreamed of getting a chance this early in life.

Fresh Films set up shop at Staybridge Suites in Novi for a seven-day production, but *Zero to Hero* was actually shot during one long, 12-hour day in July at the Howell school. The

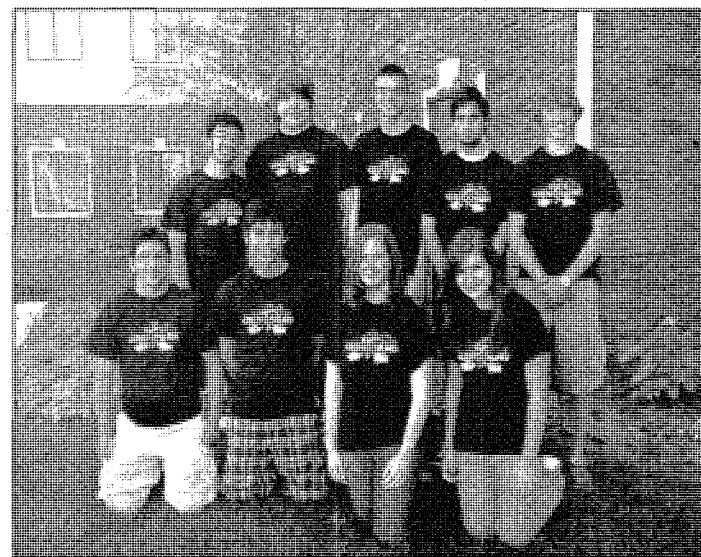
teen crew earlier had to grasp movie-making duties such as handling auditions of nearly 200 people, choosing five actors, working the film equipment and arranging for on-set food catering. They worked cameras, sound mixers and boom microphones.

"I could definitely see myself directing motion pictures as a career," Corona said.

The film crew rotated their movie-making responsibilities, and Allen said one of the most difficult jobs included shooting a fast-paced scene as an actor rushed up a stairwell. Small duties, like making sure no one tripped over electrical cords, became a challenge.

"But all of our hard work has finally paid off," Allen said.

The teens haven't yet seen the final film, which will be no longer than 10 minutes. It tells the story of a loner, Arthur, who ultimately uses his telekinetic powers to rescue a



Members of the Fresh Film-Detroit film crew include (front, from left) Joe Wafer of Plymouth, Ben Corona of Plymouth Township, Kristen Riggs and Danielle Allen of Canton, and (back) Nick Rossano of Detroit, Jesse Gilbert of Shelby Township, Eric Schendel of Canton, Peter Kangas of Iowa City, Iowa, and Garrett Roodbergen of Vicksburg.

classmate, Aubrey, from what Corona described as "this psycho guy."

Now comes the real challenge: *Zero to Hero* will compete against two other superheroes, Slurpee-sponsored films Aug. 27 through Sept. 2 during a free, unlimited, online voting competition at fresh-films.com. It will be up against films made in Dallas, Texas, and Orlando, Fla., and all the movies will be shown on the Fresh Films site.

"Log on and rock the vote," Corona said, "so we can start putting Detroit on the map to have another film capital."

Voters will be able to see online how the films are faring in competition. For now, teen filmmakers are promoting their movie on social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, and they are arranging a laptop computer voting party for 6-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at the Oasis Cafe, 33523 Eight Mile Road, in Livonia, Allen said.

The superhero film receiving the most votes will face yet another — and final — voting competition Sept. 10-16, also at fresh-films.com. It will square off against the top vote-getter

among three teen-made comedy films from New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

"Last year, we had more than three million votes come through," Bardauskis said.

The overall winner will be shown at a yet-to-be-announced, major film festival, she said, and all the movies are eventually expected to debut nationwide on DIRECTV. Moreover, they will be reviewed around voting time on the Fresh Films site by writer-director Adam McKay (*Anchorman and Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*) and writer-producer Chris Henchy (*Land of the Lost*) — two of the creative minds behind the Web site Funny or Die, www.funnyordie.com.

Teens who made the overall winning film will receive film editing software and small, handheld movie cameras, and it's possible they could get to attend their film festival debut.

"We're still exploring that," Bardauskis said.

Regardless, the filmmakers have had an experience they will remember a lifetime.

"It has been amazing," Allen said.

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Fri. 7:30 pm	\$10	\$5,000	20 Minutes	Only 1 Re-buy \$5000 TC's for \$10 Must be \$10000 or less to RB	\$10000 in chips for \$10	\$1200* 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$520* Pays 8 places
Sat. 5:00 pm	\$125	\$10,000	30 Minutes First 4 levels	No Re-buys	\$10000 in chips for \$10	\$5000* 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$2000* Pays 8 places
Sun. 5:00 pm	\$100	\$10,000	30 Minutes First 4 levels	Unlimited (till 1 <sup>st</sup> break) \$5000 TC's for \$40 Must be \$10000 or less to RB	\$10000 in chips for \$10	\$7000* 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$3000* Pays 8 places

((RB = Re-buy, TC's = Tournament Chips) \* estimated)

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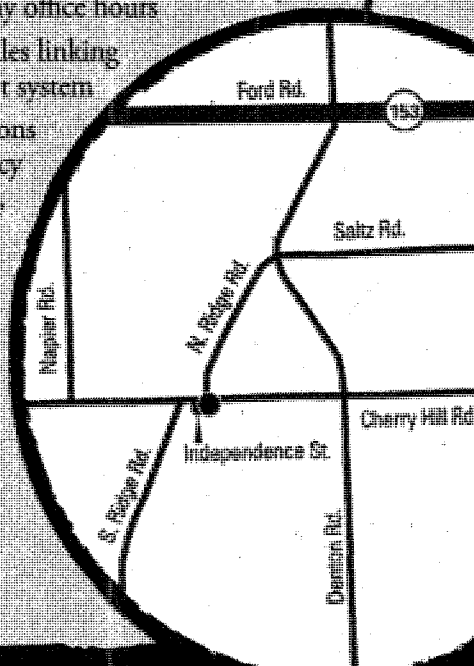
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# LOCAL OPINION

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## OUR VIEWS

### Soccer complex a positive reuse of contaminated school site

The Livonia school board did the right thing last week in approving a cooperative agreement with a sports management company to turn the old Cooper School site into a soccer complex.

The school, built in the 1960s on a former landfill in Westland, was closed in 1991 because of contamination. The district has since torn the building down and erected a fence to keep people out, but the site has remained an eyesore along Ann Arbor Trail all these years.

Under the terms of the agreement, the school district will spend about \$1 million from its sinking fund and use another \$800,000 from a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grant to grade the property, cap the landfill, erect a soccer dome provided by the company, plant grass, build a retention pond, install an irrigation system and add a parking lot and lights.

Breeze Sports Management of West Bloomfield will lease about half of the 40-acre site for 35 years, paying the school district about \$2 million over that time period. Breeze would pay \$55,000 for each of the first three lease years, then increase that total \$5,000 periodically to \$75,000 annually in lease years 26 through 35.

The company will manage the complex, which would include four outdoor soccer fields, a couple of training fields and a dome for indoor soccer. If the company defaults, the school district gets to keep the dome.

While the agreement, approved in a 5-2 vote, doesn't take care of the entire site, it's a good start.

If the school board had not approved it, the district likely would have lost the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grant, set to expire Sept. 30.

The school district is fortunate to have an interested lessee for its vacant property in this economy, especially given the property's history. As Trustee Daniel Lessard pointed out, "There's not a big market for contaminated property."

A soccer complex may increase business in the area as families traveling from other communities stop to eat at local restaurants or purchase items needed last minute from local stores.

With obesity on the rise in Michigan, a soccer complex will provide residents with another place to get and stay in shape.

The agreement is contingent on many things, including state approval because of the contamination.

We hope it works out. There have been previous proposals, including a medical office complex and senior housing, that never took off, mostly because of the economy.

We applaud Westland city officials, Livonia Public Schools and Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who served as a project consultant before being elected mayor, for working hard on getting help to remediate the property and for trying their hardest to get the property developed.

It's been almost two decades since the *Observer* broke the story about the contamination and we're glad to finally see something positive happening there.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What do you think about the president's health care plan?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"I'm 30 years old and I don't have insurance because my job doesn't offer it. I think something for everybody would be good. Anything that helps me get insurance would definitely be a plus."

Adam Tasselmyer  
Brighton



"I don't like the idea of the government telling me when I can go to the doctor and when I'm going to get treatment."

Lori Echols  
Garden City



"I'm all for it. I make a decent amount of money and pay \$300 for health care and it doesn't cover having babies. It would be great to get insurance."

Laurel Lasser  
Westland



"You have to be crazy not to understand that the U.S. Has to get health care under control. I wish I could hear what the content is so I could form an opinion."

Joe Hartman  
Garden City

## LETTERS

### Electric mpg?

I realize that the *Observer* doesn't really get involved with news outside of the local community, but will there be any mention of the "news" from General Motors and the direction of journalism?

General Motors sent out a "message" that the Chevy Volt gets 230 mpg. I don't want to sound like a smart-aleck but isn't the Chevy Volt an "electric" car? I recollect a joke or pundit a long time ago asking, "If an electric train was going from North to South, what direction will the smoke be going?"

I hope this type of "press" doesn't impact the intelligence of society at large.

Chad Cox  
Westland

### Facts about health care reform

A lot of angry, over-the-top rhetoric and infantile behavior by right-wing opponents is muddying the discussion of health care reform. To help clear things up, here's a brief summary of President Obama's plan, including how it will stop insurance com-

panies to pay their fair share, we'll stop them from dumping their health care costs on the rest of us.

Health reform means affordable health care will be there for you, no matter what. It will be there if you lose your job, or your child loses his. It will be there if you get sick and when you retire. That means you and your family can't fall through the cracks and won't go broke because of health care bills.

Under the president's plan, health care reform will stop insurance company abuses. Insurance companies won't be able to refuse to pay a claim or give you coverage because of "pre-existing" conditions. Your out-of-pocket expenses will be capped. No more going broke because of a serious illness or injury. Insurance companies won't be allowed to charge women higher rates than men or drop you, if you get sick. Insurance companies will have to cover your children until age 26 instead of dumping them at 19.

Health care reform will hold down rising costs. A public health insurance option will force private insurers to compete and will lower costs for everyone. By requiring

companies to pay their fair share, we'll stop them from dumping their health care costs on the rest of us.

Health reform means affordable health care will be there for you, no matter what. It will be there if you lose your job, or your child loses his. It will be there if you get sick and when you retire. That means you and your family can't fall through the cracks and won't go broke because of health care bills.

We are close to real reform, but getting over the finish line will be a battle. We are up against giant insurance companies, a discredited Republican Party that wants President Obama to fail and the corporate media like Fox as well as vile hate mongers like Glen Beck and Rush Limbaugh. The reality is that health care costs are spiraling out of control, and everyone in America deserves quality and affordable care. Health care reform simply can't wait. All Americans will all be better off with real reform.

Want more of the truth? Simply go to [www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/).

Joe Golonka  
Westland

## Michigan budget cuts are eating our seed corn

The Lansing-based Early Childhood Investment Corporation report a third of the state's children arrive at kindergarten unprepared for learning. These findings are based on 675 state kindergarten teachers who completed an online survey about how well students are prepared for learning.

State leaders know how to fix this problem. The question is: will they?



Tom Watkins

Investing in high quality preschool is one of the best investments we can make as a state and nation, so says a Nobel Prize-winning economist.

Dr. James Heckman, no bleeding heart educator or child advocate, but a 2000 Nobel Laureate in economics, predicts a grim picture for the U.S., unless begin investing in our youngest children.

In his research paper, "The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children," he argues: "Over 20 percent of U.S. workers are functionally illiterate and enumerate, a much higher percentage than leading European countries." "On productivity grounds, it makes sound business sense to invest in young children, especially from disadvantaged environments."

Heckman's research demonstrates that children who participate in high quality preschool programs "experience increased achievement test scores and high school graduation and decreased grade retention, time in special education, or experience with crime and delinquency."

Further, medical brain research has been clear for a number of years that nearly 85 percent of the human brain's capacity is developed in the first five years of life. Seems to me, we should be listening to brain researchers and Nobel Prize winning

economist that tell us to invest in our kids.

As state superintendent of schools I proposed in November 2002 the following:

"Every 4-year-old in Michigan shall be offered a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity by the 2006 school year. This voluntary early childhood development and educational program shall be established according to nationally recognized, high quality standards. It shall be provided at no additional charge to all Michigan 4-year-olds without reducing funding for existing education, health and child development programs."

However, due to other priorities, and the economic whirlpool the state has been facing, resources for early childhood have been anemic, and in many cases disappeared.

### THE FEDS ARE IN TOWN

The Obama administration proposed budget has set aside \$20 billion dollars as a down payment for states to invest in our youngest children. Michigan must be at the head of the line for these resources.

The feds were in town recently, no, not the FBI, but Dr. Arthur J. Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Rolnick has also produced research that clearly shows the economic and societal return on investment in providing high quality early childhood education.

"Investing in high-quality education for 3- and 4-year-olds yields a higher return than any other public investment," Rolnick said.

Rolnick helped create an Early Childhood Scholarship Program in Minneapolis and is hoping to bring the successful initiative to Michigan. The Early Childhood Scholarship Program consists of three basic elements: parental mentoring, scholarships for low-income families to pay for high-quality early childhood education

for 3- and 4-year olds, and a quality-rating system to provide parents with information on quality early childhood programs.

Rolnick and his colleagues have helped mobilize the Michigan business community, United Way, Wayne State University, key legislators, Visiting Nursing Association, Beaumont Hospital, the Governors Office and Michigan foundation leaders to form the nucleus of a leadership team to tap federal and other resources for our youngest citizens.

### MAKE MICHIGAN THE BRAIN BANK OF THE WORLD

If Michigan is going to compete in the hyper-competitive, disruptive, transformational, global economy, we must invest in our human talent from the cradle to the grave. A child and society, without a solid educational foundation on which to build is the equivalent of building a deck of cards on a pile of sand. A lack of public investment in our human capital is not a winning strategy for the 21st century talent driven knowledge economy.

Our goal must be to make Michigan the talent bank of the world. Investing in our youngest children will get us closer to this goal and will have a positive pay off for our collective future.

Don't take my word for it — ask a brain researcher or a Nobel Prize-winning economist!

If you want to help, contact Rolnick at: (612) 204-5441 or e-mail: [art.rolnick@mpls.frb.org](mailto:art.rolnick@mpls.frb.org).

Tom Watkins is a business and educational consultant. He served the State of Michigan as state superintendent of schools 2001-05 and state mental health director 1986-90. He can be reached at: [tdwatkins@aol.com](mailto:tdwatkins@aol.com).

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

### • Shocked by carjacking

Wow, is it really getting that bad around here? What on earth are parents teaching their children these days?

jd81107

### • The downside of recycling

This is all well and good, but now how about the trash workers off of their route by noon? Won't this seriously effect their jobs? Are we looking at more layoffs/cuts?

Aeslsoh

### • Recycling: Every bit helps

I stay in an apartment and only wish they could participate too. I now store my recyclables in my unit's storage then take it away to the recycle center on Marquette. Every bit helps weather you get a bin or not, you can recycle if you wanted to.

MzSunnyJeep

## WESTLAND OBSERVER

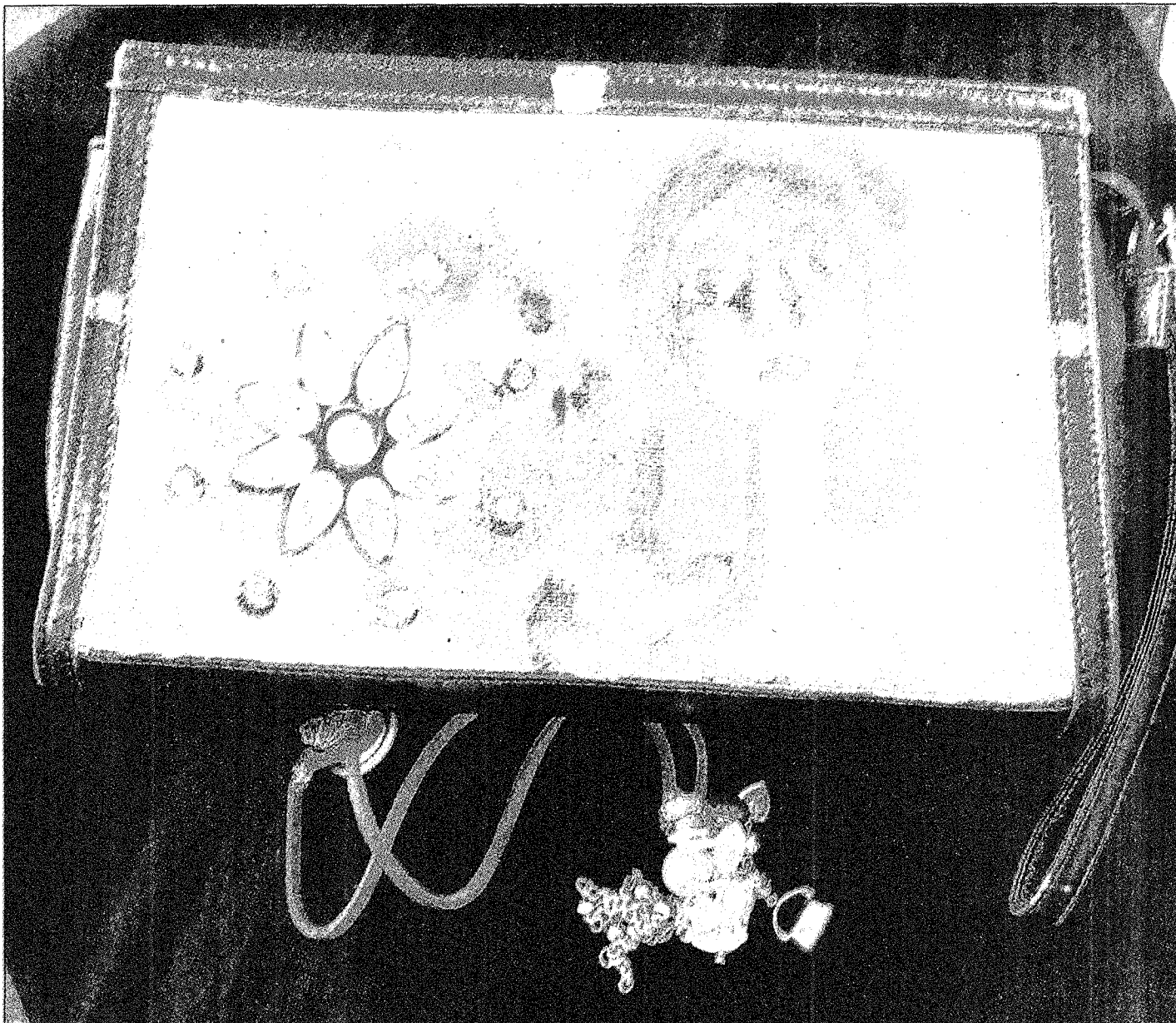


Sue Mason  
Community  
Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor

Grace Perry  
Director of  
Advertising





Gwen Joy of Redford is known for her whimsical works, such as this hand-painted purse at 'Handbags & Heels,' at River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, in Wyandotte.



Farmington Hills artist Mary Brombach crafted this glass purse with glass 'surprises' inside at 'Handbags & Heels,' at River's Edge Gallery.

**Legally Blonde**

Ticketmaster in the center court location at Twelve Oaks mall will begin selling tickets to *Legally Blonde The Musical* from 8-10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28. Metro Detroiters, theatre lovers and *Legally Blonde* fans alike will have the opportunity to purchase tickets to the Fisher Theatre's presentation of *Legally Blonde The Musical* before the general public, exclusively at Twelve Oaks Mall, in Novi.

The first 50 people in line will receive *Legally Blonde* T-shirts. Breakfast goodies will be available while supplies last. All attendees will receive a Twelve Oaks VIP Pass, with special discounts and giveaways from more than 50 stores and restaurants throughout the mall. A look-alike of Elle's four-legged friend Bruiser will be on site.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public at 10 a.m. following the presale.

Customers can also enter the "Live Like Elle" contest in Center Court or online at [www.shoptwelveoaks.com](http://www.shoptwelveoaks.com) through Aug. 28. The grand prize winner will win two tickets to the show, a one-night stay at the Hotel Baronette, a \$50 dinner at California Pizza Kitchen and a \$200 Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card. One



Denim purse by Westland artist Kelly Darke at 'Handbags & Heels,' at River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, in Wyandotte.

runner up will receive two tickets to the show.

Donating to hunger In celebration of Macy's partnership with Feeding America through a campaign called Come Together, more than 650 Macy's stores will host the World's Largest Dinner Party at 6 p.m., Sept. 15. Macy's stores across the country will serve a first course to the first 100 customers to officially kick-off

Come Together. Through Come Together, Macy's is asking customers to host dinner parties and raise funds for Feeding America and local food banks across the country. Customers can donate online at [www.macys.com/cometogether](http://www.macys.com/cometogether) or in any Macy's store. Macy's will match donations up to 5 million meals. Visit the Macy's store at Westland Mall, Warren and Wayne roads in Westland or Twelve Oaks

Mall in Novi. **Fashionable art** Local artists, Mary Brombach of Farmington Hills, Kelly Darke of Westland and Gwen Joy of Redford, are showing their works in an accessory-themed exhibition called "Handbags & Heels," at River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, in Wyandotte. Brombach is a glass artist who works with "slumping"

techniques. She made a life size glass purse sculpture with handmade glass surprises inside for the exhibit.

Darke, a multi-media and textile artist known for a funky style, reuses designer fabric swatches, wire and bright colorful threads.

Joy breathes new life into old objects. She creates fashionable necklaces out of old antique jewelry and broken musical instrument parts. Her purses are recycled as well and hand painted.

For more about Handbags & Heels, call (734) 246-9880.

**New product**

Neiman Marcus is offering neuLash, in eleven stores nationwide, including it's store at Somerset Collection, in Troy.

neuLash is a conditioner, created by Skin Research Laboratories, that naturally improves the overall appearance of lashes and brows in as little as two weeks. neuLash protects against breakage by hydrating and nourishing lashes. It allows lashes to

stay on the lid longer, giving them the appearance of fuller, thicker and healthier-looking lashes. neuLash can be used on the eyebrows as well.

Ophthalmologist and dermatologist approved, neuLash has been found to be safe and gentle to eyes without any known adverse side effects. There have not been any cases of eye color change with neuLash.

neuLash should be applied once daily in the evening before bedtime to the base of the upper eyelash on a clean, dry area, starting from the inner corner of the eye to the outer corner. It is made for both men and women, and it can be used by those who have eyelash extensions and contact lenses.

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Notice is hereby given that on September 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184 (734) 728-8204.  
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A340 Felicia Skeen Big Screen TV, Audio Equipment, Entertainment Center  
B142 Jerisha Hawkins Bike, Couch, 20 Boxes  
C111 Taffani Sloan Mattress, Couch, 2 Chairs  
C142 Jake McDaniel Washer/Dryer Combo, Console TV, Dresser  
E155 Jon Green 3 Tool Chests, Floor Jack, Engine Stand  
E146 Rednon Russell Toys, 25 Boxes, Tote  
Publish: August 27 & September 6, 2009

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Mark your Calendar:  
PNA Debutante Ball January 16, 2010 St. Aidan in Livonia  
PNA Centennial Recital February 13, 2010 The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton

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## RELIGION

FROM PAGE B6

Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

■ St. James Presbyterian, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. For information call the church at (313) 534-7730

### Prayer

■ Music, singing, prayer at 7 p.m. Thursdays at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through entrance #2, at the back of the church. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

■ 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Call (248) 476-8860.

■ Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

■ 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month for prayer, spiritual healing and outreach at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

### Singles

■ Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics at 11:30 a.m., Sundays, in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and



## Taking the stage

The Paul Keller Orchestra, a 15-piece big band, plays a concert at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. This concert is part of the noteworthy - concerts with a cause - series of First United Methodist Church. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The church is located at 45201 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth Township, a mile east of Beck. For more information, call (734) 453-5280.

Hubbard, Livonia. Walking club meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday in the Single Point office. All fitness levels welcome.

■ Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.

singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

### Soup kitchen

Learn about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit by participating in its "Day of Service" program. Dine with guests at the soup kitchen, tour the Earth Works urban garden, and take a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality

center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is seventh grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapu-

chins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

### Support

■ A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available 10 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia. There are no requirements, this a service the

church wants the community to be aware of and utilize if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.

■ Are you or someone you know struggling with depression, divorce, grief, addiction, relationship difficulties, or job loss? Real Life Church through its volunteers and partnerships with area ministries and professionals provides classes, seminars, care, support & recovery groups, counseling, and prayer to help you get through life challenges. Visit the Web site for details on current classes and groups offered as well as location, days and times www.realifelymouth.com.

■ The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month, at 41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meets 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia, and 7 p.m. Sundays, in Classroom 1 at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia. (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org

■ St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care is provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

■ Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. for this weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

# Your Invitation to Worship

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### ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.  
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Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

### St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8  
28015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220  
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)  
MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a,  
Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church  
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616  
(between Meriman & Farmington Roads)  
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,  
Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a

## CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

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45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525  
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NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER  
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## LUTHERAN-ELCA

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10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES  
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### Timothy Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
8820 Wayne Rd.  
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Jill Heather, Pastor  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
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Traditional Service  
10:30 am  
Visit www.rosedalegardens.org  
For information about our many programs

## GREEK ORTHODOX

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Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
www.nativitygcochurch.org

## PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire  
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church  
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road  
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
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Sunday Bible Class  
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Early Childhood Center  
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Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ  
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Croston

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY  
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.  
Worship Service  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday School  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery Provided  
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

### Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor  
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 mile N. of Inkster)  
(734) 453-5252  
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am  
Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30  
Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are.  
www.risenchrist.info

## LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD,  
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 P.M.  
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.  
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

## CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church  
36520 12 Mile Rd.  
Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted)  
(248) 848-1750  
10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School  
Faith - Freedom-Fellowship  
Ministers  
Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron

### WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road  
"just west of I-275"  
Northville, MI  
248-374-7400  
Traditional Worship  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Contemporary Worship  
9:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours  
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.  
Service Broadcast  
11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560  
The WMOZ Word Station  
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

For Information regarding this Directory,

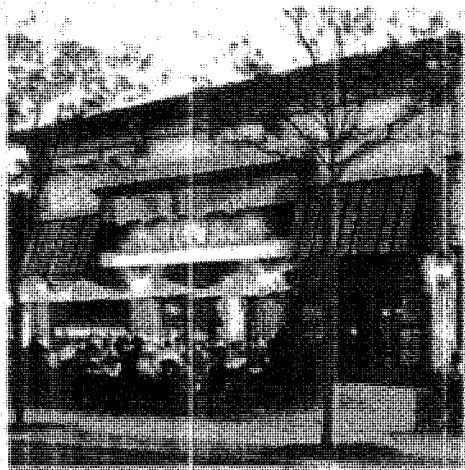
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*"Just wanted to let you know what a great job you did with my daughters Baby Shower. The service was excellent. The food was great. Thanks for your attention to every detail - it was greatly appreciated. I will strongly recommend your establishment for parties. A great time was had by all."*

Thank You again  
Paula  
Northville

*"The party Friday night was wonderful! Thank you very much for your own fine efforts in the coordination. The wait staff is to be commended for their outstanding service and patience."*

*But the food, Gayle, was from HEAVEN!!! We assembled a group of very discriminating palates (Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, Manhattan and Atlanta). I am still getting rave reviews.*

*KUDOS to the chef for his culinary expertise."*

Betsy Ross  
Cleveland, OH

*"It was a pleasure to have our shower for Liz and Justin at Fiamma Grille. Everyone involved was very Professional and Friendly. We also had many compliments concerning the wonderful food and beautiful banquet room."*

Thank You,  
Margaret, Dennis, Linda and Will  
Livonia & Plymouth

*"We wanted to tell you what a wonderful job you did for our rehearsal dinner on May 26. The Banquet room in Fiamma Grille was just perfect for the occasion."*

*The food was wonderful and the service was exceptional."*  
Joe And Jenny

*"Last evening my husband and I hosted our Corporate Christmas party at Fiamma Grille. From Start to finish it was a wonderful evening."*

*The food was excellent, the service smooth and knowledgeable, the wine selection perfect. I know that during this busy time of year things don't always run smoothly.*

*Not last night, it was truly a delightful experience. "At Fiamma Grille eating and drinking is always a pleasure" says it best."*

Thank You very much  
Karen and Ed

*"Thank You so much for all your help with our wedding reception at Fiamma Grille! You did an exceptional job-we couldn't have asked for a better coordinator! Thank you to everyone who helped out as well - everything from food/drinks to the service to the decor was superb. We still receive compliments on our reception today, weeks afterwards."*

Sincerely  
Kevin and Amy

*"I wanted to drop you a quick note to tell you what a wonderful job both John & Gayle did for my party. The food was beautifully executed and our server made sure everyone always had a full glass or cup. Everyone had a great time. Especially me since I did not have to worry about the meal or service."*

Thank You  
Betty Jean



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