

SUNDAY
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2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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75 CENTS

Varsity football players score big with youngsters - A4

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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AROUND TOWN

Appraisal clinic

Start checking the attic for those items whose value you've always wondered about. The Westland Historic Village Park and DuMouchelle Galleries are hosting an appraisal clinic beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. The cost is \$10 per item for a verbal appraisal.

Appointments will be taken with an estimated appraisal time slot. Items to be appraised must be able to be brought inside the recreation center. Walk-ins will be accepted at the end of the scheduled appraisals.

Call (734) 522-3918 for an appointment and the number of items to be appraised; the limit is three.

Band fest

The John Glenn Instrumental Music Program is hosting its annual MSBOA Marching Band Festival Monday, Oct. 12. The sounds of 12 marching bands will fill the air as they perform on the high school's football field beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call Darlene Robinson at (734) 595-1283.

Pink Week

Several events are taking place now through Sunday as part of the month-long Westland's Painting the Town Pink fund-raiser for the Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure.

• Today (Oct. 11): Encore Dance Academy will be picking up cans and bottles in neighborhoods around Westland. If they don't make it to your neighborhood, you can bring your cans and bottles to Alleycat Designs, 6647 Wayne Road, behind Buffalo Wild Wings.

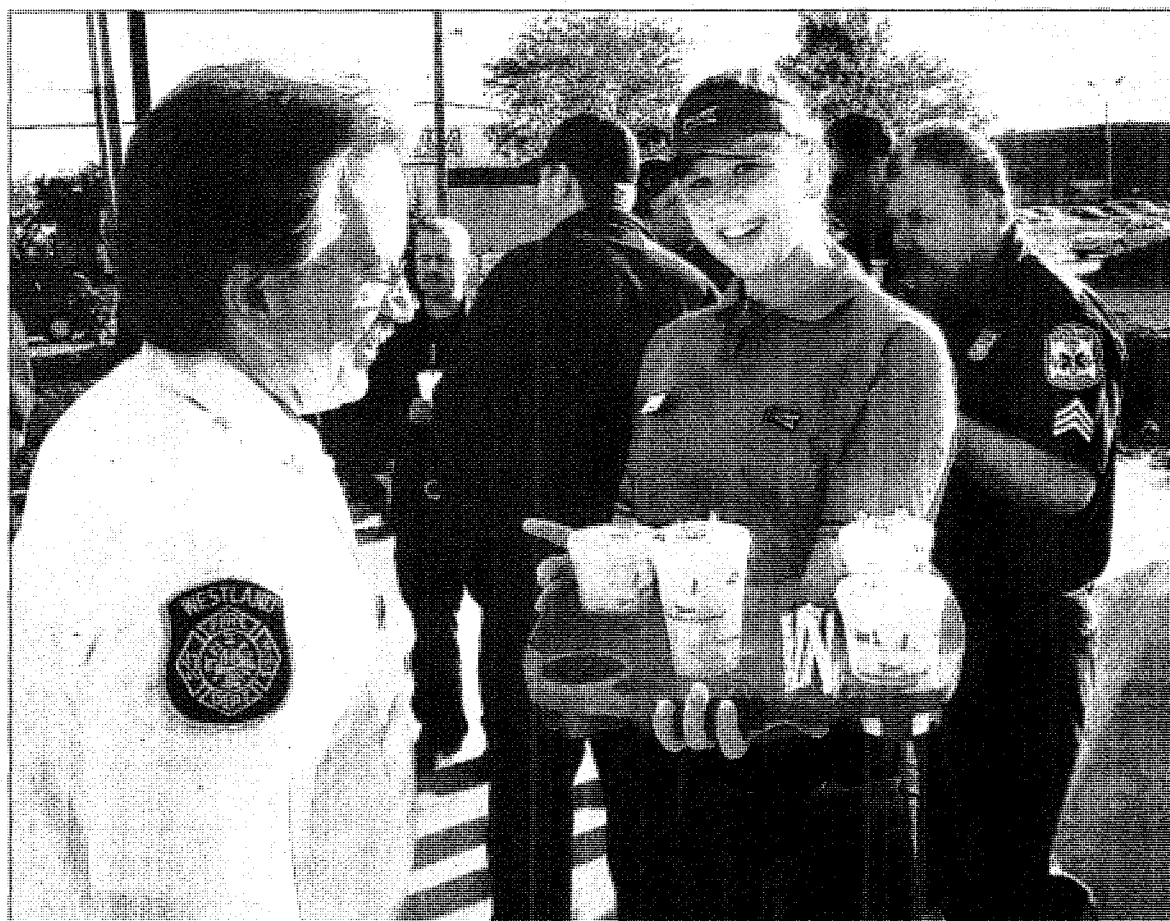
• Tuesday, Oct. 13: Eat at Applebee's and 15 percent will be donated. Get your pink pass online at www.paintingthetownpink.org.

• Friday, Oct. 16: Stop by Biggy Coffee between 6 a.m. and noon, tell them you're there for Painting the Town Pink and 10 percent will be donated.

• Throughout the month: Open a primary checking account at Flagstar Bank and it will deposit \$100 in your account and donate \$25 to Painting the Town Pink. Purchase Reista Soft Style Carpeting at Independent Carpet One and 1 percent will be donated.

For a complete calendar of events or for more information, visit the Web site at www.paintingthetownpink.org.

Super Sonic



Sonic carhop Megan McMann offers a beverage to Westland Fire Department Battalion Chief Ron Francis during the official grand opening of the restaurant on Wayne Road and Cowan.

City's newest restaurant revitalizes 'blighted corner'

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The new Westland Sonic didn't officially open to the public until Thursday morning, but several would-be customers wandered in during a pre-opening event with city officials and other guests.

Mayor William Wild and other officials joined owner John Matar for a ribbon-cutting at the new restaurant, which replaced a long-vacant former Denny's restaurant at Wayne Road and Central City Parkway.

"This is the second Sonic in Wayne County. It's incredible. It took over one of the most blighted corners in Westland and turned it into this," Wild said. "They've hired over 100 employees."

In charge of directing traffic at Sonic during the initial opening weeks, Canton resident Marc Miller is among the new employees.

"I'm training as a manager. I've been a meat cutter and I worked at Ford for 20 years. I was doing maintenance at a hotel when I got laid off," Miller said. "I came to the bank and saw the help wanted sign. The owner really liked me in the interview. I said I wanted a place where I could start at the bottom and work up to being manager."

Sonic, which has no indoor seating, offers drive-through service or old-style drive-in service complete



Carhops provide service to Sonic customers who prefer to eat in their vehicles. There is also a drive-through and a walk method for ordering. The restaurant has no indoor seating but does have some tables outside.

with roller skating car hops. The menu includes burgers, hot dogs, fries, onion rings, tater tots, slushes, ice cream and shakes, along with a breakfast menu.

"It's different — you're a waitress on wheels pretty much. There aren't many Sonics around, so it's different when you say you work at Sonic," said car hop Chelsi Paradowski, a Westland John Glenn High School senior. "I went to a Sonic once when we were coming back from Kentucky."

Paradowski didn't wait for a help wanted to sign to appear on

the Sonic site. She said she learned about the job on the municipal cable channel WLND.

"It's been going pretty good. I started training yesterday," said Paradowski, who joined co-workers in serving food samples to guests at the private ribbon-cutting festivities. "I plan to be a dental assistant. I'll stay here as long as I can just so I can hold a good job."

Along with cleaning up an eyesore on a business intersection,

Please see **SONIC, A3**

Lawmakers' hard work pays off for W-W

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The passage of a State School Aid Act is a bittersweet one for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The district had faced a potential loss of \$10 million, but that amount is now closer to \$2.2 million.

"It's not as bad as it could have been," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "The \$165 is still a cut and no school district in Michigan can afford that."

State lawmakers Friday sent a school aid budget to Gov. Jennifer Granholm for her approval that will cut per-pupil funding by \$165, which is less than the \$218 that had been discussed, plus some \$65,000 in cuts for career technical and adult education. However, it includes \$6.3 million in foundation allowance enhancement to the school district. Granholm had inked out the language in her budget proposal earlier this year.

"The language was preserved in large part because of the hard work of state Sen. (Glenn) Anderson and state Rep. (Richard) LeBlanc," Baracy said. "They fought very hard to preserve the foundation adjustment and for that we are very

Please see **SCHOOLS, A3**

Judge delays Chatters Bar murder hearing

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A preliminary examination for a Livonia man charged with murdering his wife outside a Westland bar has been delayed until Oct. 22.

George Williams, 33, waived his right to a hearing within 14 days and it was rescheduled by Westland 18th District Court Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli.

Williams is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Sarah Williams, 28, a barmaid at Chatters Bar and Grill, 7640 N. Wayne Road. Shortly after finishing her shift in the early hours of Sept. 27, Sarah Williams was found in the bar parking lot suffering severe head, facial and internal injuries. She was unconscious and died later at an area hospital.

Autopsy results showed Sarah Williams had been strangled and suffered multiple blunt trauma, the latter after being struck by a vehicle.

George Williams had come to Chatters during his wife's shift, police said, and left with his wife as her shift ended. Police said the couple had been arguing reportedly about ending their marriage.

Please see **HEARING, A3**

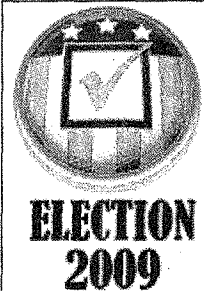
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This is the last in a series of interviews with eight candidates vying for four seats on the Westland City Council in the Nov. 3 general election. Three four-year terms and one two-year term will be filled. The candidates are incumbent Councilman Dewey Reeves and challengers Sam Durante, Adam Hammons, Meriem Kadi, Kenneth Mehl, Mark Rodriguez, Christine Cicirelli Bryant and Janet Frederick-Wilson.

Frederick-Wilson stresses her skills

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Deciding to run for a seat on the Westland council wasn't a snap decision for first-time candidate Janet Frederick-Wilson.

"I know the city has had a lot of public controversy and legal issues. I gave it serious thought before I filed," she said. "I've been part of the community for 16 years — I raised my kids here, I love my neighbors. My neighbors gave me a lot of encouragement. I felt I was best suited for the job."

An attorney in private practice, Frederick-Wilson cited her experience successfully running her law practice for 16 years, even when times are hard. "I have a lot of management and budgeting skills. I'm staunch when it



Wilson

comes to the budget. I run my home and my business like tight ship," she said. "I believe in living within your means. That's the kind of budget I'd put Westland on."

The city needs to be realistic about spending and that means looking for inefficiencies and areas that can be consolidated, Frederick-Wilson said.

"I don't want to lay off police officers — once you have less police presence, crime goes up. What is outdated or outmoded, we need to cut it out," she said. "We should put in policies for not wasting energy."

Among other goals, if elected, Frederick-Wilson said she would like to improve the community, noting the high number of closed businesses along Wayne and Ford roads.

"With all the empty houses, you feel like it is becoming a ghost town. Something needs to be done. I didn't know about the Turbo (tax incentive)

Please see **WILSON, A3**

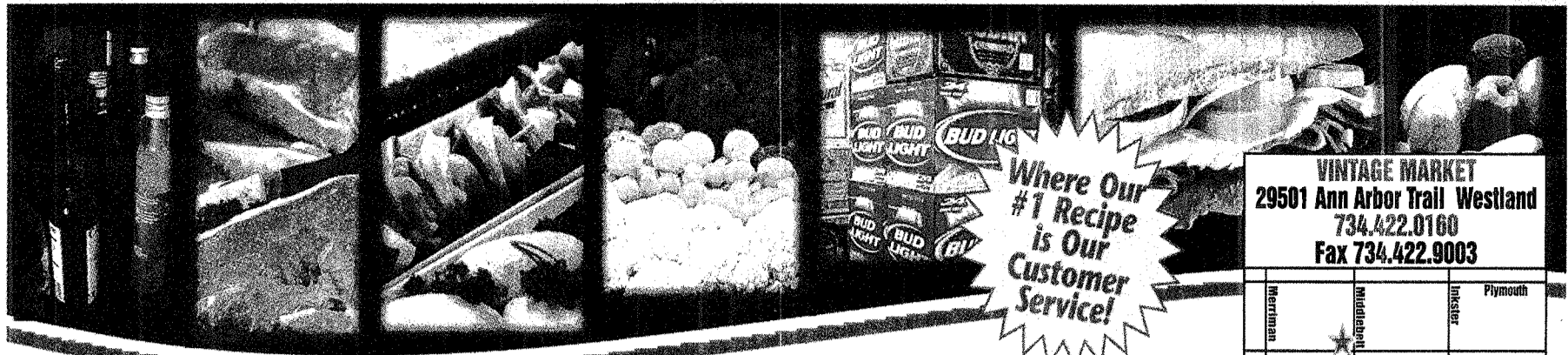
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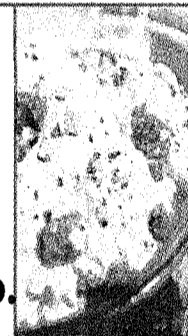




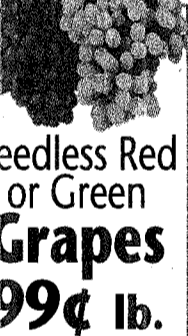
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Foundation goes German with Oktoberfest

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Instead of celebrating Christmas in July or hosting a golf outing, fund-raising for the Westland Community Foundation is going German this year.

The community foundation is hosting an Oktoberfest, along with a Tour of Westland's History, 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the Westland Historical Village Park.

"This is the first time we've done an Oktoberfest - it is taking the place of Christmas in July. We decided to try for something a little different," said Sharon Scott, a foundation

board member. "There is a bigger need but it has been harder to do our fund-raising."

Tickets are \$50 per person for the Oktoberfest which includes a dinner with German-style food such as bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, hamburgers, beer and wine. There will be music by a German band, The Rhinelanders, and tours will be offered by members of the Westland Historical Commission.

"We will have tents but hopefully the weather will cooperate," said Scott.

Since its inception about 15 years ago, Scott said the Westland Community Foundation has raised more

than \$500,000 that has been used for scholarships, donations to the Salvation Army and other charitable causes.

Like other area charities, Scott said the foundation has had an increasingly difficult time fund-raising due to the poor economy.

"We've been around a long time. Usually we have been very successful in fund-raising. The scholarships take a lot of our money," said Scott, a board member since the foundation was organized. "This year, all our money went to scholarships. Usually, we give \$15,000 to the Salvation Army but not this year."

Additionally, the foundation

held a Christmas party at John Glenn High School catered by the culinary arts program to which the admission price was a new toy to be donated to the Salvation Army.

"We got thousands of toys. We did a remarkable job for the Salvation Army with funds and toys," said Scott, who is hoping at least 100 people turn out for the Oktoberfest.

Tickets will be available at the door but advance tickets are requested. Call Scott for more information at (734) 722-4651. The Westland Historical Village Park is located at 857 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

grateful."

The district has worked hard to preserve the educational program, using its fund equity to offset declining revenue from the state. However, faced with declining revenue and enrollment, it now has a \$6 million line of credit to draw as needed. It also has organized a 21st Century Committee to look at all aspects of the district, from the number of buildings to enrollment and finances, to trim the budget by

some \$10 million by the next budget year.

Baracy, in a speech before the Westland Rotary this summer, indicated that several school buildings will have to be closed as part of the plan.

The budget deal came within a day of deadline for releasing federal fund to the school districts and 10 days in advance of when districts are scheduled to receive their October school aid payment.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed, but we anticipate the governor will sign the bill," Baracy said.

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WILSON

FROM PAGE A1

program. Westland is not doing a good job promoting it," she said. "I keep my office in Dearborn. Council members actually show up to talk to business owners."

Another goal would be getting families into vacant foreclosed homes.

"I've looked into it — you need a huge down payment and money for repairs and things," Frederick-Wilson said. "We're not doing anything to help with that. We need more people to occupy the homes — not absentee landlords, but families to stay long term."

Free speech is also an issue, Frederick-Wilson said, adding she was told people weren't being allowed to speak at council meetings.

JANET FREDERICK-WILSON

Age: 49
Family: Married with seven children and six grandchildren.
Education: Belleville High School and Big Bend Community College; Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of science degree in public law and government; Wayne State University Law School, juris doctorate, graduated 1994.
Employment: Self-employed attorney in trial and family law.
Community involvement: Former

volunteer at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School and Wayne Memorial High School; volunteer helping citizens with landlord-tenant issues; Parents for Children, clothing and household goods bank and free legal services to parents facing child protective services issues; worked for reform of the Indian Child Welfare Act and for strict adherence to ICWA in the courts and the Department of Human Services.

the same with the council. Let the people have their say and go on their way. You can't limit a public forum."

Westland needs to bring in more businesses, Frederick-Wilson said, adding that not doing so results in the loss of a lot of revenue.

"We need to do more. I see a lot of small spaces empty, too, not just the boxes," she said. "We need an incentive program and tax abatements to entice people here. We have a beautiful city."

In addition to her knowledge of the law, Frederick-Wilson said she has a lot of experience working with a nonprofit group headed by her husband and advocating for changes in legislation.

"I really look forward to running. I feel I can add a lot to the council and community," she said. "I'm a pretty smart cookie. I know we have a lot of problems — I'm not oblivious. I've got the tenacity to get the job done. I'm not a go-along person. I'll say something, if I see something missing."

Other employees were still inside the bar, but it was a relative of George Williams who called police after finding Sarah Williams injured in the parking lot.

The relative had been contacted by George Williams, who had fled and was later arrested in Toledo, police said. George Williams waived his extradition from Ohio and has been held without bond since his arraignment.

The couple had been married for one year and had no children. Sarah Williams had a daughter from a previous relationship and also had raised her younger sister after their mother died five years ago.

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SONIC

FROM PAGE A1

Wild noted that the Sonic was also Westland's first completed project through the Wayne County Land Bank TURBO program — the acronym stands for Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities.

TURBO provides incentives, including one-year tax exemp-

tion during the year of construction and 50-percent reimbursement of an amount equal to the real property taxes for five years, for example, partial reimbursement for improvements made to the property.

"We tried to do a couple of other TURBO projects, but the economy killed them," said Wild, who credited Economic Development Director Lori Fodale's efforts for the Sonic project reaching fruition. "Sonic will like the action at

this corner — the owner called it one of the hottest corners in Wayne County. We were under some serious heat from another community to the west (Canton) to get this development. I give all the credit to Lori."

Sonic is open from 6 a.m. until midnight daily except Friday and Saturday, when the drive-through window is open 24 hours.

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HEARING

FROM PAGE A1

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CITIZENS BANK

Varsity football players score big with youngsters

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For fifth-grade teacher Amanda Duvall, having two Wayne Memorial High School varsity football players read Dr. Seuss books to students at Lincoln Elementary School was akin to the MasterCard commercial — priceless.

"They do get a lot out of seeing kids who do well at Wayne Memorial, they get excited about going there," Duvall said. "There's not always that positive connection, but with this, there is."

Nine players, all seniors at Wayne Memorial, and their coach, Kevin Weber, visited the school Thursday afternoon, visiting upper elementary classrooms to read Dr. Seuss stories and talk about academics and football.

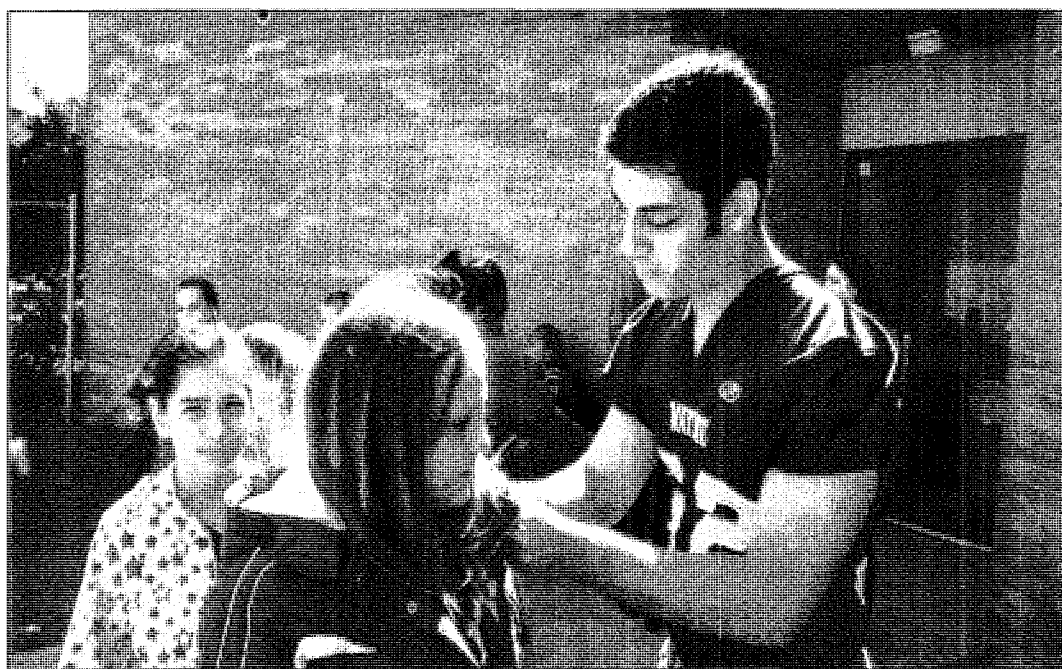
They also joined the youngsters on the playground, where they played and obliged requests for autographs.

"This was just awesome. They make me feel like a superstar," said Jimmy Kassis, lineman and defensive linebacker.

This is the second year Weber has brought his seniors to the school. Last year, he selected the books they read; this year, they made their own selections.

Chris Bowie, an offensive and defensive lineman, and Brandon Whittenberg, a running back, were in Duvall's class where they read David A. Carter's *Bugs in Space* and Dr. Seuss's *I Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. Bowie easily fielded questions from the youngsters that covered everything from football to academics and the players' favorite subject in school.

"You have to go to school and



Jimmy Kassis said students who requested his autographs made him feel like a "superstar."

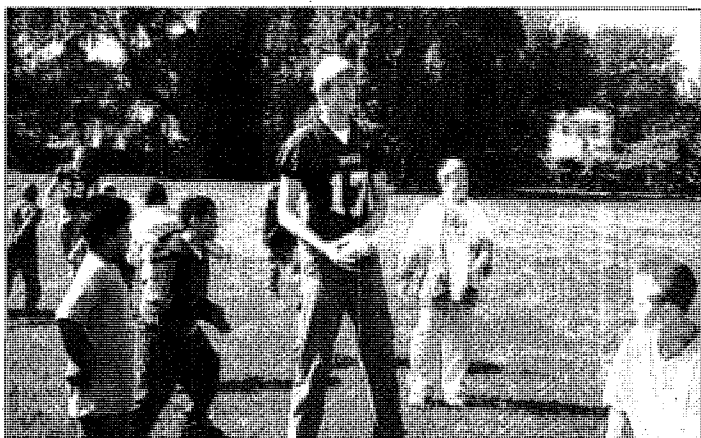
do your work," he told the students. "High school is fun, but the first year is tough. You're scared and nervous. You have to take the time to get used to a lot more people."

When the reading was done, they selected Samantha Tillman as the student who "paid the most attention" to them, and Whittenberg presented her with a Wayne Memorial football T-shirt.

"Now you're an unofficial Wayne Memorial football member," he told her.

Weber decided to make the visit to Lincoln Elementary an annual event. As a new head coach, he wanted his players to do something that would connect the high school with the elementary and have a "positive impact on the city."

"It's something I wanted to do," Weber said. "In high school, the expectation is that they should be good people. In



Nick Mills gets ready to throw the football to students during recess.

addition to being good football players, they have to be good in the classroom and the community."

Third/fourth-grade teacher Alison Remer was the point person for the visit. Approached by Weber about doing the visit, Remer was more than willing to have them

come to Lincoln.

"I told Kevin it would be good to have them come in, read a book and talk to them about what it takes to be on the football team and the academics," she said. "These kids need role models, especially male role models."

Remer is pleased with how



Wayne Memorial football players Dylan Korzetki (left) and Chris Bowie head out to the playground for recess after reading to students at Lincoln Elementary School.



Wayne Memorial football players Hayden Derr (from left), Dylan Korzetki and Doug Ross read "Ten Little Dinosaurs" to students.

the hour-long visit went. Like Kassis, she uses the word awesome to talk about the effect it has had on her students.

"My kids have been so looking forward to this. This is all I've heard them talking about since yesterday, when I told them they were coming," she said. "My goal is one day to have one of my students to be one of the football players who reads a story."

Kassis, who plans to study

law enforcement at Ferris State University "and coach on the side," gladly signed autographs for the students. He and his fellow athletes broke into wide grins when Remer's students thanked them for coming and offered a "We love you."

"I had one little girl ask how many autographs I sign in a day. I said 100," he said. "They treat me like I'm in the NFL."

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Unique Glasses Relieve Hardship Of Vision Loss

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we can make durable eyeglasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. They can be used anywhere, unlike electronic tabletop magnifiers. And unlike awkward, clumsy hand magnifiers, spectacles are hands free.

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity of use and make your eyes see the best possible. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

David Welch with driving glasses

Whether helping some one see faces and television, read, drive, work a computer, knit, play cards or sight see, one thing remains constant. Urgency is critical to success.

Treating vision loss promptly always gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in doing nothing, living with flawed vision, waiting to get worse. Sight may change slowly or not at all. Waiting just puts off seeing better and frustrates people.

When reading resumes, visual and language skills stop regressing and start improving. When starting early, milder devices are usually effective. If necessary, evolving to stronger devices is easier after mastering mild ones.

Also with driving, the best time to start is early on, with milder devices, while the patient is younger. Telescopic driving aids greatly enhance seeing the road ahead. Safe confident driving helps maintain independence and overall wellness.

Help is available. We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes cost from \$1800. Sun filters and nutritional supplements improve vision and prevent damage.

Patients are welcome to call and discuss their case with us and schedule an appointment. Referring physicians are also invited to call or fax for patients needing care.

We can help. If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

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Disinheriting children can be a touchy affair

Q: Dear Rick: After nearly 30 years of marriage, my wife and I divorced. It was a very messy divorce and, to my disappointment, my two adult children took the side of my ex-wife. After much deliberation, I've decided to disinherit them from my will. How do I go about doing it? I have an existing will and at the same time I have a software program that does wills that I would like to use. Can you help?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I have an existing will and at the same time I have a software program that does wills that I would like to use. Can you help?

A: I'm sorry to hear about your divorce and even sorer to hear that it was messy. Unfortunately, even with good people, things happen in the judicial system.

In regards to your question: Yes, you can disinherit a child. The key to doing so is not to leave them out of the will, but rather, clearly state that you are disinheriting your child and you wish them to receive nothing from your estate.

You do not have to explain why you're disinheriting them, but you must clearly state their name and that you are disinheriting them. There is no legal requirement that you leave money to a child, however, there is a presumption that if you did not name a child, you forgot that child and, thus, he/she would have rights in your estate.

On the question of using a software package to draft your will: Many legal software programs are acceptable and there are no problems. However, when it comes to disinheriting a child, you want to make sure that you dot your I's and cross your T's.

After you draft the will using your software program, have an estate planning attorney review it. The review of the will should only cost you a nominal amount of money.

I recommend that anyone who goes through a divorce draft a new will or trust. If you have an addition or a subtraction to your family, that may also be a sign that, at a minimum, you should have your estate planning documents reviewed.

One problem many people run into is they diligently complete an estate plan and then fail to update it when personal changes occur. Not only can family situations change, which would necessitate a change in your documents, but laws change.

I recommend an estate plan review every two to three years — at a minimum. There may be no changes needed, but it's still a good idea to have the documents reviewed.

One area of the law that has changed significantly over the last decade deals with rules regarding medical durable powers of attorney. It is important that those documents are always kept up to date. I have made available a

free medical durable power of attorney at www.bloomassetmanagement.com (click on Legal Forms under the Bloom University tab).

Also available on the Web site is a free Michigan Statutory Will — a fill-in-the-blank will that has been authorized by the state of Michigan. I recommend this will for relatively straightforward estate planning needs such as leaving everything to a

spouse or children.

This is also a great will for young couples with limited means who need to name guardians for their children.

I always tell people there is only one reason to execute an estate plan. It's not to avoid taxes or probate (although those are very good goals and something that we should all strive for), it is because you love your family.

By the time your estate plan

is read, you're six feet under.

However, your love for your family is eternal. Therefore, it is important for every adult to execute some sort of estate plan. Not everyone needs a living trust. Although living trusts are great estate planning vehicles in order to avoid probate, save on taxes and keep your family affairs private, they are not for everyone.

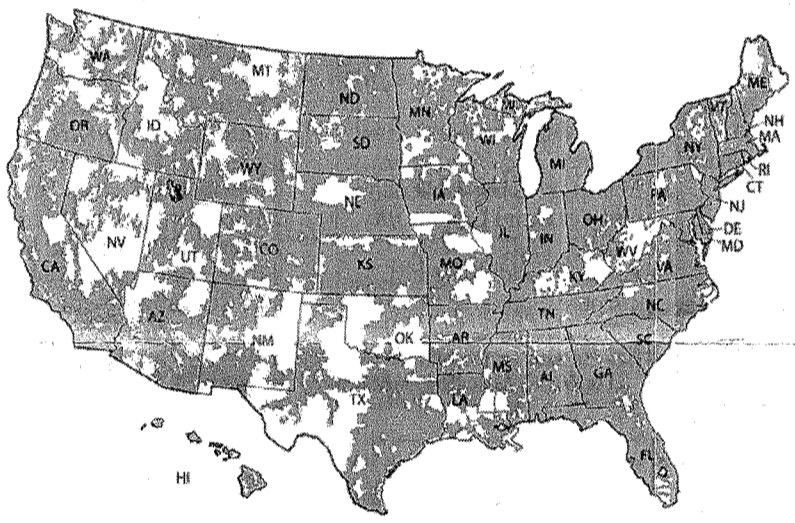
If you have an estate plan and you have not reviewed it

over the last few years, now is a great time to pull it out. If you've never executed an estate plan, now is the time to get it done.

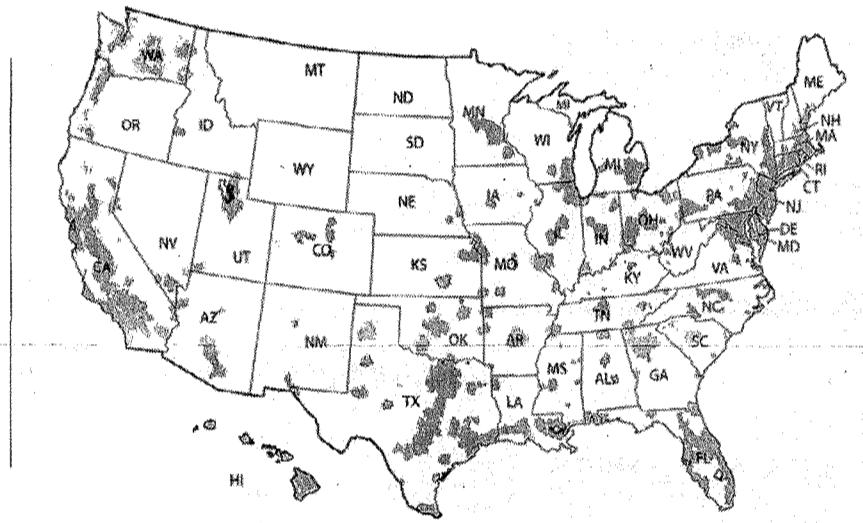
Good luck!

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

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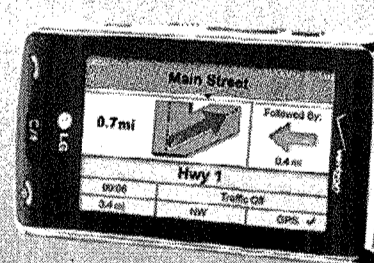
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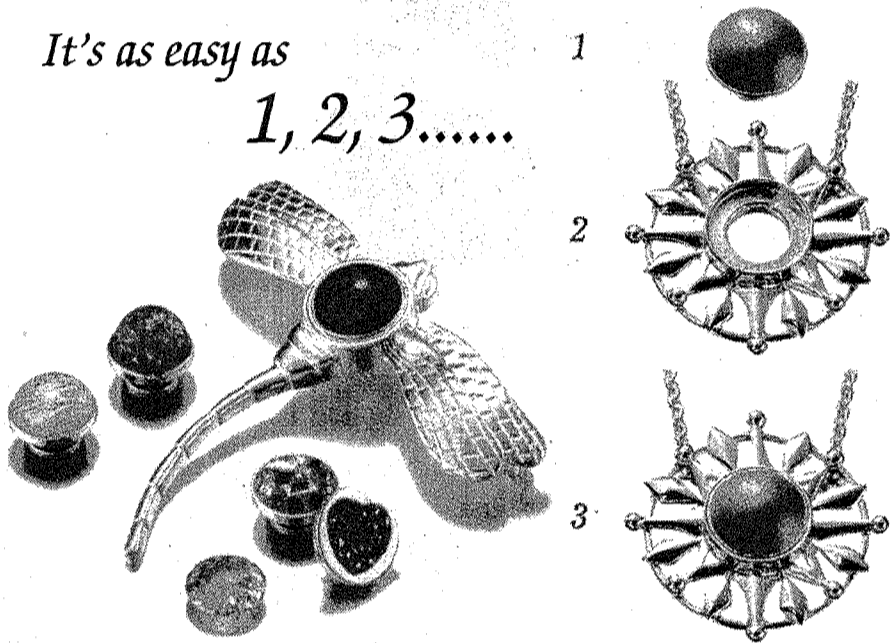
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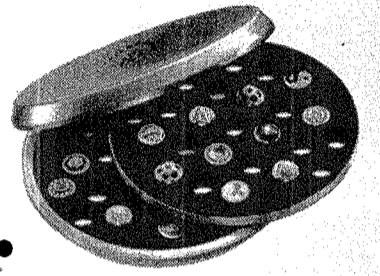
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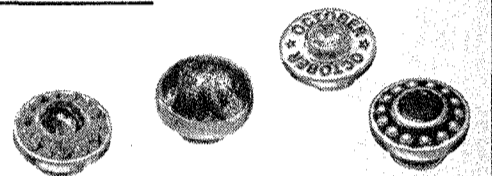


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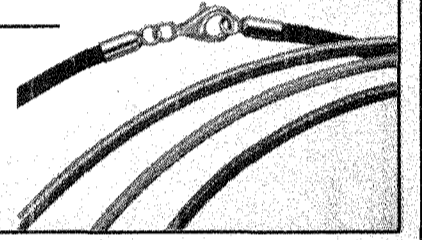
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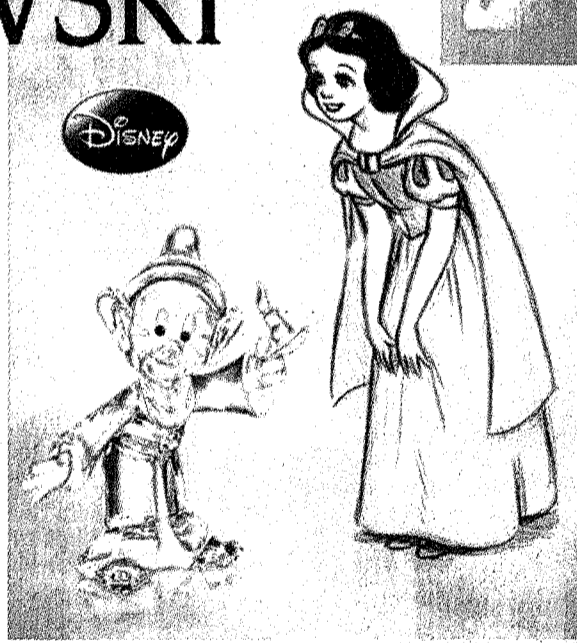
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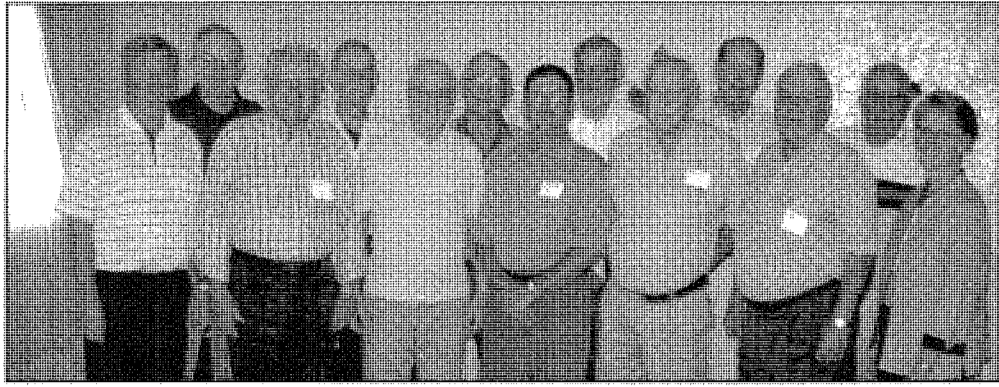
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Senior golf honorees

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf League, with 148 members ages 62-and-up at Livonia's three city courses, held its awards banquet last month...

Churchill clinches title outright in KLAASouth

Max Washko became Livonia Churchill's all-time leading goal scorer as the Chargers captured the KLAASouth Division crown outright with a 4-0 triumph Thursday...

KLAASOCCER

Glenn, which trailed 1-0 at intermission, falls to 5-9 and 4-6. NOVICC8, FRANKLIN 0: Mike Tolkarcz notched a hat trick...

(unassisted free kick); Charlie Kokenakes (from Alex Vrsovski); and Scott Brewer (from Nick Degillio).

THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP FOOTBALL Friday, Oct. 16: Clarenceville at Hamtramck, 7 p.m. S.L. East at Churchill, 7 p.m. Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Salem at Franklin, 7 p.m. South Lyon at Wayne, 7 p.m. (Kensington Conference Championship)

Krzyske's hat trick lifts Warriors

Junior Kent Krzyske scored three goals and senior Austin Baglow netted one Friday evening as Lutheran High Westland doubled up host Birmingham Roeper, 4-2, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division boys soccer match-up.

stand up with stellar play between the pipes. The victory improved the Warriors' overall record to 8-5-3 overall and 5-5-2 in the MIAC Blue.

torious Trojans. Mark St. John scored for the Hawks. LUTHERAN WESTLAND 6, SHRINE 2: A four-goal outburst during a 12-minute span of the second half propelled Lutheran High Westland (7-5-3) to a non-conference victory Thursday...

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NEIGHBORS

Foundation chair values community service, family

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Joyce Pappas knows a gem when she sees one.

"I get to look at diamonds all the time," said Pappas, sales manager of Orin Jewelers in Garden City, a family business founded by her father.

"This diamond I'm wearing was my mother's," she added, fingering the sparkling stone on her necklace. "They were raising four children and didn't have a lot of money, but I can remember her paying a little bit whenever she had the money."

Her eye for detecting rare finds goes beyond the gemologist loop. She also discovers gems in the people she meets and the institutions she supports. Garden City Hospital is among her favorites.

"I've been at the hospital as a volunteer 16 years," said Pappas, who has chaired its foundation for the past six years. "I've been on the hospital board nine years. I'm involved in the hospital because I just really believe in it."

"I think it provides a great service to the community. We've had family members that used the hospital and they always got excellent service. The people who work there are very caring and they do an excellent job."

She'll be on hand at the foundation's 18th annual fall fund-raiser, "Out of this World," an intergalactic theme gala, 6:30-11 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Money raised from the \$75 per ticket event, which includes music, silent auction and a strolling buffet, will refurbish the hospital's old surgery center into endoscopy



Joyce Pappas chairs the Garden City Hospital Foundation.

still a teen-ager. She, her three siblings and their parents lived above the family jewelry store on Ford Road and Middlebelt. The family worked the store together, and Orin Sr. taught his children important lessons about giving back to community.

"Much was expected of us," Pappas recalled. "We were always involved in something, whether it was a function of the Chamber of Commerce...or we always had floats in the parade. It was a great town to grow up in. Everybody knew each other and there was a lot of community activity here."

She was secretary of her senior class at Garden City High, involved in plays and active at the store.

LEARNING FROM FAMILY

Pappas said family life was important and that she feels privileged to have grown up in a household with "great parents and great role models."

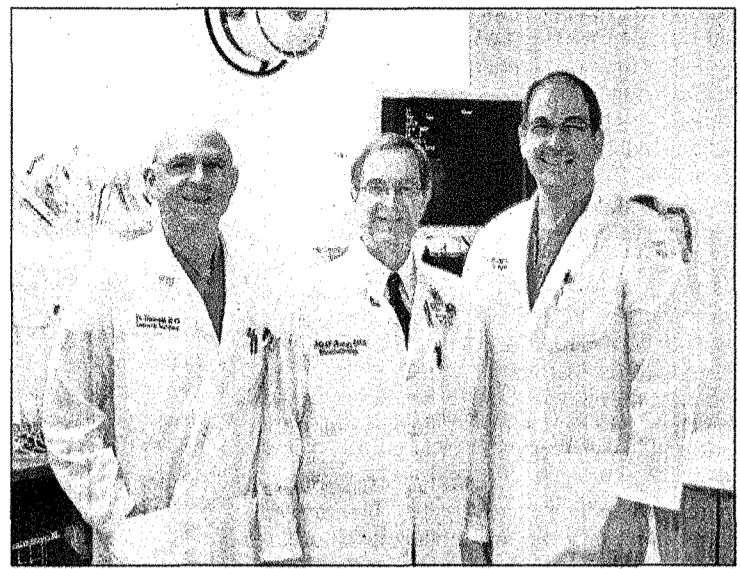
After high school graduation she worked for the city and then took classes to become a bridal consultant, followed by a course through the Gemological Institute of America, where she earned certification as a registered jeweler.

Now she balances both her foundation work and family business.

"I enjoy what I do. I enjoy being productive and being with people."

She hopes the upcoming fund-raiser will draw people from Garden City and surrounding communities to support the hospital while having "a marvelous time."

"We want to make it affordable for everyone. It's an enjoyable evening. The decorations are phenomenal. When you walk in there, it's pretty amazing."



Richard C. Spinale, (left) D.O., surgery; Joseph G. D'Avanzo, D.O., gastroenterology; Louis C. Tegtmeyer, D.O., surgery, are looking forward to new endoscopy suites at Garden City Hospital.

Aliens, astronauts will send gala 'Out of this World'

With \$65,000 in sponsorships for its upcoming fall fund-raiser, Garden City Hospital Foundation is well on its way to generating the money needed for new endoscopy suites.

"We've been doing very well. I've been very happy with it," said Judy Wernette, Resource Development Associate, Garden City Hospital Foundation.

Last year's fall fund-raiser took in \$139,000 before expenses. Organizers of this year's gala, called "Out of this World," because of its intergalactic theme, hope to make a big dent in the \$130,366 the hospital needs to pay for new endoscopy suites.

"The third floor was where surgery was, so what we're doing is moving endoscopy suites into some of the old surgery rooms," Wernette said.

"There will be six of them. Part of it is installing a new patient restroom. They'll install new scope washing equipment inside the rooms."

The suites will gain more room and more privacy in their new location. Outpatient infusion services will move to the former endoscopy department after the new suites are built.

The fund-raiser for the endoscopy suites will run 6:30-11 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

"It's a spectacular event," Wernette said. "We have a great band, fabulous decorations, a silent auction."

Guests will be able to bid on 75 items and buy raffle tickets for extensive gift baskets. Costumes in keeping with the theme are encouraged, but not required. T-shirts with the Out of this World theme also will be available.

Wernette said the gala is known for its decorations.

"One year they did 'Under the Sea,' so you walked in and were on land, and it progressed to the beach and then the main room was like walking under water. Last year we had a M.A.S.H. theme," she said. "I'm looking forward to seeing it this year."

Tickets are \$75 per person. Reserve by Friday, Oct. 16, by sending payment — payable to Garden City Hospital Foundation — name, address, and phone number to Garden City Hospital Foundation, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City, MI 48135

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"They increased my rate!"

Italian flag flies at Livonia City Hall

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mary Galasso's not Italian, but she stood under the flagpole at Livonia City Hall last week and proudly sang out *Inno di Mameli*, also known as *Fratelli d'Italia* — the Italian National Anthem — while the red, green and white was hoisted overhead.

"We're very proud to have that fly," said Galasso, the first woman and non-Italian to head the Italian American Club of Livonia.

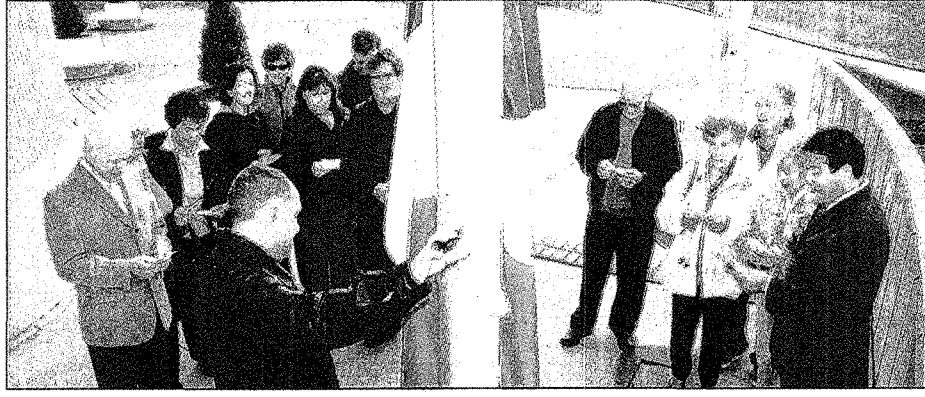
The flag raising is an annual event for the club, which also celebrates its 32nd birthday today, Sunday, Oct. 11 with dinner at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Although Columbus Day is Monday, the club held the flag ceremony on Oct 5, giving it a full week to fly. It will come down after the holiday.

The group also gives scholarships to college-bound students on Columbus Day and will honor its outstanding man of the year, Joseph Bernardini of Livonia Travel.

"I love the Italian culture. They are so family-oriented," Galasso said, explaining that her husband is from Italy. "My heart is Italian."

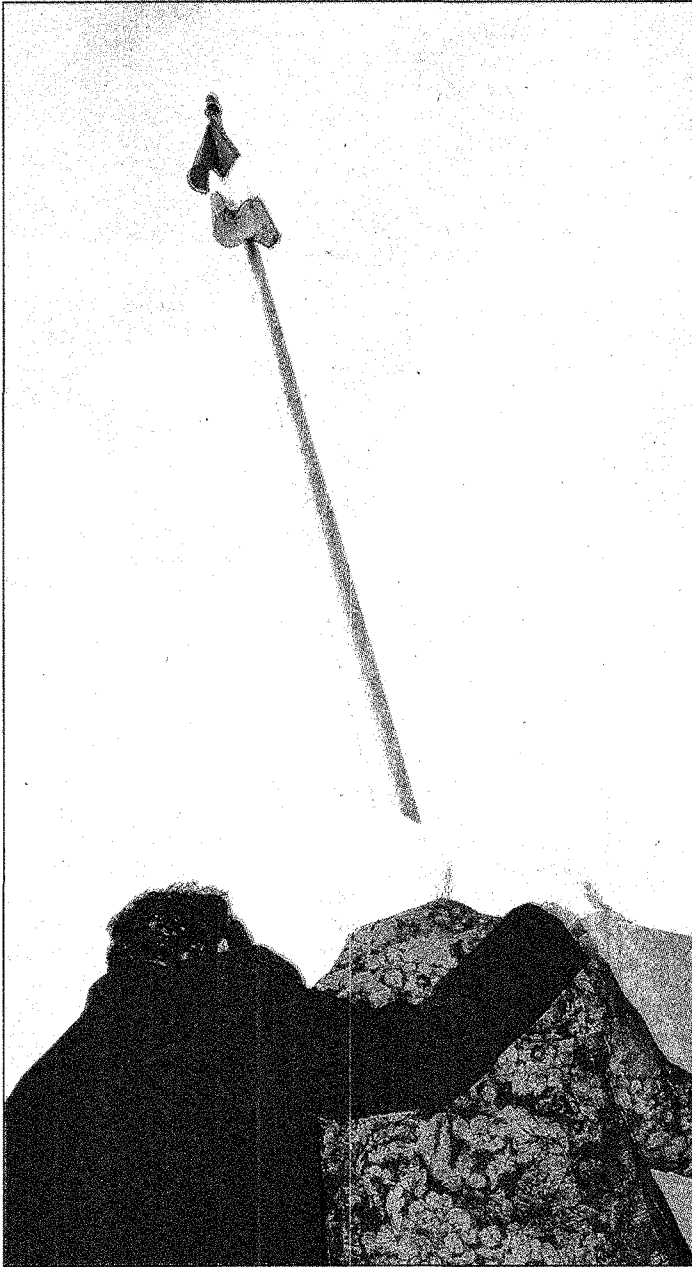
Prospective new club members must have "Italian blood" or a spouse with Italian heritage, according to Galasso. Members may socialize in the clubhouse, play cards, bocce, attend Thursday night pasta dinners, and more. The banquet hall at the facility, the Italian language classes and other events, such as the birthday celebration are open to the public.

"We're up to 889 families," Galasso said. For more information about the club call (734) 953-1137.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Livonia Italian-American Club gather at Livonia City Hall to raise the flag of Italy. The flag is flying through Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 12. Club members present for the flag raising and singing of the national anthem of Italy are: club President Mary Galasso, Mario Galasso, Vito Guarano, Diane and Carl Catallo, Carmela Sgroi, Tony Stanta, Fran and Hurley Fields, Bea King, Angela Centi, Mary Panackia, and Joseph Bernardini. They are joined by Livonia City Council President Laura Toy and Mayor Jack Kirksey.



The flag is raised early Monday morning.

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I recently met with a father and two sons who started a new business and demonstrated a lot of courage in doing so. Ron Reiher with sons Tim and Jonathan are going



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

to clean the vent lines on clothes dryers in American homes. I spent an hour in conversation with these three guys and I could feel the compassion they have for homeowners who don't seem to know any better. They told me stories and showed me pictures of plugged up vent lines they have already cleaned and it is absolutely amazing how these homes didn't burst into flames. They not only clean the vent lines but will straighten out improper hook-ups to make living in the home safe again. The story and picture that really caught my attention was the closet in a little girl's bedroom that contained the washer, dryer and the gas hot water heater. Not only was there gas lines all over the place, the dryer vent line was installed into the vent line for the hot water heater. This scenario could easily have introduced carbon monoxide into that kid's room and taken her life. There is no doubt in my mind that these three entrepreneurs will do more than just clean dryer vent lines. They will save several lives in the months ahead.

Any service technician in this country who repairs clothes dryers can tell you hundreds of stories about dryer vent lines being plugged up and the consequences. My wife's friend Patti recently had my son Mark over to fix her dryer which was taking too long to dry the clothes. He removed the lint that filled the vent line and then showed her the pile of lint inside the dryer which was all charred because it had caught fire in recent days. Patti was very fortunate

that the fire went out by itself or today she might have been a memory to our family.

PREVENTABLE TRAGEDIES

I have spent the past 30 years writing, talking, and preaching about the importance of keeping the dryer vent line clean and yet the service industry reports that over 85 percent of service calls are caused by plugged vent lines. It's important to me that you don't have to spend money for a service call but much more important that you don't burn the house down and have someone perish in a house fire that was so preventable. October is fire prevention month in this country and fire departments will do their share of educating. They are the front line heroes who can really tell you the tragedy of what happens when a dryer vent line is plugged up.

The recent house explosion in St. Clair Shores is still being investigated for cause. The senior citizen who lived there has passed away and the statement she made before she died from the burns suffered has a profound message. "The last thing I remember is turning the dryer on."

DANGEROUS FUMES

Ron Reiher was telling me of the lady whose vent line came apart and kept blowing back into the house the carbon monoxide that's supposed to go outside. She couldn't understand why she was always suffering headaches and nausea until the problem was fixed.

Cleaning the vent line is critical not only to your health but also to the proper operation of your clothes dryer. It's not hard to do.

Look at it and common sense will take over but if it's something you don't want to tackle, you know that there is someone out there who will do it for you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

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PATIENCE AND TIME IN THE TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS

It may seem ironic, but in the treatment of arthritis the older a person is, the more important time and patience becomes. The problem for the elderly individual is that many of the medicines used in treating arthritis create risks that a younger patient does not face.

The liver and kidneys normally lose a portion of their reserve as we grow older. Individuals born before 1950 had a greater exposure to lung conditions such as tuberculosis or histoplasmosis. Arthritis drugs such as Enbrel, Humera, or Remicad carry a risk of activating past tuberculosis that may be residing in the lungs for years in a latent manner. Physicians have insufficient experience with new arthritis drugs such as Orencia or Rituxan to use these medication with confidence in patients older than age 65.

Also, a number of muscle and bone pains in the elderly are difficult for physicians to explain. The doctor needs time to observe how the pain evolves and from the pattern of pain eventually make a diagnosis that permits reasonable treatment.

In many cases what the physician does is to provide the patient with pain relief. These decisions can be difficult, as too little relief continues the patient's distress and too much pain medication leads to the danger of falls, urinary retention or loss of appetite.

Often the best medical advice is to direct the patient to exercise patience, continue activity as much as possible, use analgesia sparingly, and let time and nature heal the hurt or bring out the cause.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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.

At English Gardens

- Attract birds to the garden. The store will provide tips and a list of plants at 7 p.m., Oct. 14.
- Decorate your porch or patio with a container of seasonal, cold-tolerant flowers. The store will provide materials and instructions at 7 p.m., Oct. 15. The fee is \$24.99. Register online or in the store.
- Find out what it takes to prepare your garden for winter at 7 p.m., Oct. 21.
- Bring fall indoors with a collection of flowering and tropical plants. The store will provide everything needed to make and take home a "fall European garden" at 7 p.m., Oct. 22. Fee is \$24.99. Register online or at the store.

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Hospitals rely on loyal donors in tough economy

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fund-raisers for health care organizations feel the pinch in these bad economic times, but creativity and perseverance helps maintain their vital signs.

Loyal donors are key. "There are core people who can't donate as much as they used to, but they still haven't dropped us off and we are grateful for that," explains Angela Hospice Business Development Manager Bob Alexander.

In the past year there has been a 30 percent decline in fund-raising for the Livonia facility. He points to many reasons for the drop.

"We're seeing smaller donations from the same people and in some cases, and we're seeing folks who just aren't donating," he says.

The weak economy couldn't have come at a worse time, because a capital campaign is underway to pay for an addition at Angela Hospice, which has a waiting list of more than double the capacity.

"We had to wait nine years for permission, which came all the way from Rome," Alexander says. "We are doing whatever we can and we're confident the support will come. It may delay the process somewhat, but everything will go forward."

Hospice managers are trying to react to lower donations in smart ways, like using volunteers as much as they can.

"We are doing what we can not to have services affected, because we still provide robust services to patients and their families," Alexander says adding that the facility is operated by the Felician Sisters and there is an element that "somehow or another we will get donations. It's as God desires. I feel like there is a very faithful forward motion regardless of the economy."

LOYAL DONORS

Sara Stauffer, director of major gifts and special events at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia says corporate gifts are down, but the news isn't all bad.

"St. Mary Mercy is very fortunate to have donors who are committed and are loyal to our programs," Stauffer says. "They are the reason that we have continued to be successful here at St. Mary Mercy."

The hospital recently finished its first capital campaign, Caring for the Future, to advance cancer care and cardiac services. And a 50th anniversary fund-raiser held Friday, Oct. 9, was on track to exceed a \$150,000 fund-raising goal.

"I think it's important to communicate well with your donors and to help them understand the impact of their philanthropy," Stauffer says. "They have so many choices of where they can give."

Joyce Pappas, Chairperson of Garden City Hospital Foundation, the fund-raiser arm of the hospital, says the facility has also been "very



fortunate."

The hospital's three annual major fund-raising events have met or exceeded goals. This month's event is drawing a lot of attention with an intergalactic theme that asks guests to dress the part.

"There are some very dedicated people to the hospital," Pappas says pointing to employees, patients and the community. "Everybody is realizing that health care today is hit hard. Garden City Hospital doesn't turn anyone away and I think that's realized in the community. There are caring doctors and we're all appreciative if we have a good physician. We like to support things that they support."

MORE DONATIONS

The economy presents challenges for fund-raising at Botsford Healthcare, but they aren't insurmountable, explains Margo Gorchow, Botsford Foundation executive director. The foundation is the fund-raising arm for the hospital.

"Interestingly enough we have received a greater number of donations this year than we have in past years, but they've been smaller amounts," she says.

Botsford Foundation, at eight years old, is relatively new in the fund-raising arena and

employees are working to build a donor base, staff, software to manage the data base, research capabilities and other infrastructure, she says.

"An advantage, I think to this time, is that it allows us as fund-raisers, whose real work is to build relationships, to continue to evolve and develop those relationships," Gorchow says. "It's really about friend raising, not just about funds."

Wealthy donors continue to pledge, she says, however, their donations are often extended over a longer period of time than in the past.

"People who want to support an organization continue to want to support it and it's our job to figure out the best way for them to do that," Gorchow says.

Christina Johnson, manager of special events for the American Diabetes Association in southeast Michigan says the economic slump makes some people afraid to ask for support.

Johnson, who is walking in a diabetes fund-raiser, says even she is sometimes reluctant to ask people to make a pledge.

"Once you do make the ask, people are so willing to donate," she says. "Their donations might not be as much as in the past, but people are still more than willing to donate to a great cause. They know that these causes don't decline and they don't stop affecting people's lives, because the economy is declining."

Benefits support healthcare

ANGELA HOSPICE

Light Up a Life: Harvest Happenings for Angela Hospice in Livonia, Saturday, Oct. 17 in the Novi Sheraton. Tickets for the 22nd annual event are \$100 and include dinner, dancing, a silent auction and raffles. Call (866) 464-7810 for more information.

Donations accepted at the "Tree of Life" Christmas trees, on display starting next month at Laurel Park, also benefit Angela Hospice. The trees will be decorated with angels that have the names of loved ones.

JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK FOR ARTHRITIS

Start a team and organize your very own holiday-themed costumes. Then tie jingle bells to your shoelaces, and complete a 5 kilometer route. Go to www.arthritis.org/jingle-bell-run.php. Saturday, Dec 5 at Northville Downs Race Track, 301 S. Center Street. Race begins at 9 a.m. or Saturday, Dec. 12 at Covington School, 1525 Covington, Bloomfield.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, Saturday, Oct. 17 at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor. For more information go www.cancer.org/stridesonline or call (248) 663-3400 or (734) 971-4300.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

"Out of This World: An Intergalactic Gala" Friday, Oct. 23 in Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. The proceeds from this year's event will go towards renovating the endoscopy suites at the hospital. Tickets are \$75 per person (open seating). Call the foundation the Garden City Hospital Foundation at (734) 458-4331 or visit gchosp.org. The 18th annual event will feature food, entertainment, raffles and a silent auction.

ST. JOHN PEDIATRIC HOSPICE

The seventh annual Oktoberfest Friday, Oct. 23, at Franklin Hills Country Club, Franklin, will raise funds for pediatric and palliative care. The programs provide comfort care to children of all ages, including the unborn and young adults. The St. John Hospice Walk With Me program serves families in five counties in the Detroit metropolitan area. Tickets are \$100 per person. Event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception; followed by a strolling buffet, a 50/50 raffle and the highlight of the evening, a silent auction. Contact Lorraine Owczarek at (586) 582-7509.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

Bone Bash benefit for Arthritis Foundation with That 80's Band and DJ Julio, 9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Fourth between Lafayette and Washington in downtown Royal Oak; 21+ only, tickets \$25, \$30 and \$100; (800) 919-6272; www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

BOTSFORD AUTUMN GALA

The Botsford Autumn Gala, Saturday, Nov. 14. This year's event raises money for breast cancer care at Botsford's Breast Center, the second phase of the Botsford Cancer Center. For more information call The Botsford Foundation at (248) 442-5065.

CS. MOTT CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

University of Michigan Football program is selling all spirit towels that say, "All In for Michigan" with money going to C.S. Mott Children's and Women's Hospital. They are available at the MDen and M Go Blue Shops, Dunham's Sports, Dick's Sporting Goods and select metro Detroit Meijer stores.

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