

**THURSDAY**  
February 11,  
2010

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Newspapers

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Number 75

75 CENTS

Smokey's puts flavor in barbecue - Strictly Business, A5

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Tell your sweetie 'I love you' over dinner  
Food, B8

## AROUND TOWN

### Surplus food

The dates have been set for the monthly federal surplus food distribution for Westland residents.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. The phone number is (734) 729-1737.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents also must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of February, the distribution includes canned chicken, frozen beef, pears, spinach, great northern beans and possible additional items.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

### Break time

Westland Parks and Recreation is hosting some programs for youngsters during mid-winter break next week.

- On Monday, Feb. 15, kids can stop in at Westland Bowl from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The price is \$5 and that includes three games of bowling, a hot dog and a drink. There will be prizes and other special activities.

- Have soccer fun in the Bailey Recreation Center gym 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, with instructors from the Detroit Rockers Soccer program. The program is open to boys and girls in first-eighth-grades. It costs \$15 per child. Pre-register at the Bailey Center.

For more information about the Rockers Soccer programs, kick on to [www.detroitrockers.net](http://www.detroitrockers.net), or you can e-mail the Rockers at [rockerssoccer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockerssoccer@sbcglobal.net). Wear comfortable clothes, athletic shoes, and bring a water bottle with your name on it.

- On Thursday, Feb. 18, come to the Mike Modano Ice Arena for a 30-minute ice skating lesson as well as open skating 12:15-1:45 p.m. The price is \$5 per student.

- End the week of fun on Friday with a Detroit Pistons training camp at the Bailey Center. The camp will run from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per participant.

For registration or more details information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

## State clears way for remediation of park

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's official — Westland and Wayne County have received state approval for plans to begin remediation of Central City Park.

"It's really remarkable news. Everyone here has been working on this for a long time," said Mayor William Wild, who ordered the park fenced off due to contamination shortly after taking office in January

2006.

"It's good to show people there has been some real progress," said Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive, who credited the cooperative efforts of city and county officials in getting the project approved.

Wayne County is hoping the remediation project, which is expected to take a few months, can get under way this spring.

While the first phase of remediation plans was being developed and

working its way through the process of negotiation to reach approval by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the county was also developing a Request for Proposals for the project.

"It's completed on our end. We will need EPA (federal Environmental Protection Agency) approval because brownfield money will be used — that is part of what Wayne County is bringing to the table," Helmkamp said. "We are hoping for a quick turn-

around from the EPA."

The first-phase remediation would address environmental problems on the 12 acres at the east end of the park. The plan calls for installation of a geo-textile membrane, 12 inches of fresh soil and other landscaping to prevent park users from coming into contact with contaminated soil. Other areas would be covered by asphalt or concrete.

Please see **PARK, A2**



Aidan Beroff warms up for the hoedown by doing the Bunny Hop.

## Hoedown marks 30th year of family dancing

Adults and children did the Bunny Hop, the Virginia Reel and other square dances as part of the recent annual Family Hoedown at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Close to 30 dancers followed the commands of caller Mike Brennan during the 30th installment of dance.

"They even did the Chicken Dance as squares," recreation Supervisor Margaret Martin said. "Everyone who came had a good time."

Youngsters received a cowboy hat and "were deputized for the night," Martin said. There also were complimentary photographs by the Steve Allen Studio, cookies and punch, goodie bags and games in which adults had to catch the cowboy hat their date tossed through a lasso and youngsters had to retrieve a prize hidden in a cowboy hat under a parachute.

The hoedown is one of two adult-child dances the recreation department hosts as a prelude to Valentine's Day. Little girls dressed up in their finest for the Princess Ball, held the day after the hoedown.

"All the kids seemed to have a great time," Martin said.

- By Sue Mason



For more than two decades, to sounds of a hoedown has filled the Bailey Recreation Center. A favorite Valentine's activity, the Family Hoedown brings together as adults and children who try their hand at square dancing. Getting in the swing of things at this year's event is Joyce Brooks and her grandson Wesley Brooks.



Juliana Johnson shows off the cowboy hat and badge she received at the hoedown.

## W-W spending cuts trims 2009-10 losses

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools will hang on to more of its fund equity this year by spending less, but that won't be enough to offset anticipated funding cuts next year.

"The governor made it very clear, the state has a \$1.7 billion hole in its budget and schools are going to share in the loss," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "School funding is short and revenue losses are expected to continue. We expect a \$400 (per pupil) loss in part because of the increase in retirement costs."

Baracy's comments came as the school board approved a revised 2009-10 budget which has the district receiving \$579,000 less than anticipated in revenues and spending \$2.2 million less. The bottom line is a fund balance of \$5.3 million as opposed to the \$2.05 million budgeted last June.

According to Gary Martin, deputy superintendent of administrative and business services, the

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

## City digs out from first big snowfall of winter

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

City workers expected to have subdivision streets cleared by midnight Wednesday as Westland continued digging out from a winter storm that dumped more than eight inches of snow over the metro area.

The snow emergency, triggered by six inches of snowfall, was declared at 8 p.m. Tuesday night and initially slated to end at 8 p.m. Wednesday. Under city ordinance, no vehicles can be parked on city streets until the snow emergency is lifted.

Department of Public Services crews worked over night Tuesday into Wednesday clearing major thoroughfares in the city. Late Wednesday morning, the crews began working on subdivision streets.

"We'll work continuously until 11:30 p.m. or midnight and we'll get the majority of the city cleared tonight. We won't work through the night again," DPS Director Kevin Buford said. "We have every piece of equipment out there and all of our guys working, even a couple of building inspectors."

Although the Westland Faust Library closed early Tuesday due to the storm, all city facilities were open Wednesday.

Please see **SNOW, A2**

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## Police seek duo who took coaxial cable

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are looking for information about thieves who stole two spools of coaxial cable from a local business.

The cable, valued at \$6,660, was reported stolen Feb. 5, but had actually been taken more than two weeks earlier from T-Mobile at 400 Manufacturing Drive.

"The company didn't know the cable was missing. They found empty spools and checked their surveillance video," Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

The surveillance video showed a van or SUV driving along the north side of the building. The suspects, both wearing hoods, apparently jumped the fence to get to the cable, which was stored on

**'They were there 2 1/2 hours. They cut the cable into three-foot lengths and threw it over the fence, then loaded it into the vehicle.'**

STEVE BORISCH, Westland sergeant

large spools outside the building.

"They were there 2 1/2 hours. They cut the cable into three-foot lengths and threw it over the fence, then loaded it into the vehicle," Borisch said. He added the thieves could be seen using a hacksaw to cut the cable.


The thieves apparently visited the business Jan. 13 and Jan. 16 between 11:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. The company is no longer storing the cable outside.

Used at cellular communi-

cations towers, the 1.5-inch coaxial cable or coax is an electrical cable with two inner layers of copper. That makes it attractive to thieves who sell the stolen cable to scrap metal dealers, Borisch said.

The cable does carry a serial number which could make it identifiable, Borisch said, but due to the time lapse in the theft being reported, the cable had likely already been stripped and the copper melted down.

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**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Lovefest**

AMVETS Post 171 is hosting a Valentine's Lovefest with Elvis at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the post hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Palmer, Westland.

The event costs \$30 per person and includes dinner, a show by Elvis tribute artist Fred Wolfe and open bar. Tickets are available at the post hall. Call (734) 721-9440 for more information.

**Spring Craft Show**

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will hold a spring craft show noon-6 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the post hall, 1217 Merriman, between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

The show will feature holiday crafts, homemade goods and collectibles. Vendor tables

are available for \$20 each. For more information, contact John at (734) 729-8930.

**TOPS open house**

Time for a change, time to take off pounds sensibly. TOPS, a nonprofit low cost program, is holding an open house 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the Adams Community Center, 2011 Kaaley Ave. Westland. Everyone's welcome. Call Brenda at (734) 729-3833 for more information.

**Used book sale**

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale Friday through Sunday.

The sale will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Go Green with the Saturday Bag Sale — for \$6, shoppers can fill their own brown

paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag with books.

From noon to 4 p.m. Sunday there will be a \$4 bag sale — bring your own bag.

The regular sale prices are: \$1 for hardcover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records, 10 cents for magazine; and \$2 for a green reusable Friends bag.

Money raised help fund programs at the library for all ages.

The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway. For information, call (734) 326-6123.

Open House Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool in Westland will be hosting an Open House 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16.

Parents will have an opportunity to meet the teachers, tour the school, learn about its educational programs, and have refreshments. Classes are available for parent-tots, young 3's, 3- and 4-year-olds and enrichment for 4-year olds. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

**Craft Show**

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will present a "Think Spring Craft Show" from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. The hall is south of Cherry Hill, north of Palmer.

Vendor tables are \$20. Contact John at (734) 729-8930. There will be holiday-

themed crafts, homemade collectibles and a bake sale. Hot dogs and Polish sausage will be served.

**Game time**

Seniors can stop by the Westland Friendship Center 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays to play on the Wii video game system, donated by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. The Wii will be set up each week in Hall B for various games.

The Friendship Center has put the Wii to good use with numerous bowling events. The Wii is a wonderful tool for social interaction and a great way to keep active. The Friendship Center is on Newburgh south of Ford.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

**Tax preparation**

AARP tax preparation is being offered free at the Friendship Center. The program is aimed at low to moderate income people who are filing simple returns although there are no age or income restrictions. This site is a e-file site only. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete.

Appointments are necessary. Taxes will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The preparers are only on site during the day the center offers the service so any tax question regarding a return must be taken by a staff person, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

Call (734) 722-7628 for an appointment.

**BUDGET**

FROM PAGE A1

biggest loss this budget year has been the \$165 per pupil cut in state school aid. The district had budgeted for \$88.7 million in state funding, but now expects to receive \$83.9 million.

However, a higher pupil count brought in an additional \$843,000. The district added 106 pupils to its enrollment, bringing this year's

count to 12,893 students. Martin told the school board that expenditures are up \$279,000 for salaries and benefits, due to the higher enrollment. The district's Workers Compensation Insurance also is up almost \$100,000. However, the district will spend \$280,000 less for utilities and \$168,000 for supplies, purchased services and capital outlays.

The revised budget leaves the district with a fund equity that's less than 5 percent of expenditures.

**PARK**

FROM PAGE A1

"It's the lowest it's been since 1995-96, it's enough for about two weeks — 17 days — of operations," Martin said. "And this is happening all over the state. We're receiving \$11 million less in funding than four years ago."

The governor's proposed budget is due out today, and Baracy said Wayne-Westland officials are prepared to work with lawmakers on solving the state's financial problems.

"There's an awful lot of work to be done in Lansing," he said. "We will do whatever we can and work with the Legislature so we can solve this structural problem once and for all."

"It seems like every message out of Lansing gets worse," school board Trustee William Gabriel said.

**SNOW**

FROM PAGE A1

"We got all of the parking lots cleared, so everything is open," Buford said. "I noticed last night some business, restaurants, closed early, too. No one was there."

As the crews moved into subdivisions, Buford said he and other staff would be knocking on doors to enforce the parking ban, if vehicles are found on the street.

"It makes it tough to clear the streets (with vehicles parked on the street). On some of our narrower streets, like in Norwayne, our trucks can't get through if there are two vehicles parked on the street," Buford said. "There are dead end streets and we have to back out. It's difficult driving those big trucks. It's for the safety of our guys, but also to let us do the best job we can."

Once a snow emergency is declared, police can begin ticketing vehicles left on the street. Local television and radio stations, along with WLND, are notified once a snow emer-

**SNOW**

FROM PAGE A1

gency goes into effect. It's also announced on the city Web site and through Nixle alerts.

"We put it out everywhere we can. When the kids are home on a snow day, people should realize there is a snow emergency," Buford said.

Tickets can also be issued to people who put snow in the street while clearing their driveways and sidewalks — it's a violation of city ordinance.

"They are not supposed to blow snow into the road — they need to blow to either side of their driveway," Buford said.

**SNOW**

FROM PAGE A1

Wayne County had used the park property to dispose of catch basin cleanings and street sweepings between the 1940s and 1970s. Westland (formerly Nankin Township) also used portions of the property for landfilling activities in the 1950s. These materials, along with additional fill material deposited in the area from an unidentified source, are contaminated primarily with lead. Photographs taken in 1971 documented extensive illegal landfilling practices and the presence of numerous 55-gallon drums.

When he announced the remediation plan approval was imminent, Wild noted the efforts of Council President James Godbout and Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski.

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**SNOW**

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### Wish You Were Here

During his visit to the Big Apple, Vince Cracchiolo of Westland stopped at Times Square to have his picture taken with his Observer. Cracchiolo was in New York City on Dec. 16. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Credit Card Fraud Alert

The Westland Police Department has received information that criminals are capable of modifying ATM machines to record account and PIN numbers. Visit [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) and select Police Department from the main menu to view a slide show on what to look for to help identify an altered ATM machine. Don't become a victim.

Anyone who suspects an ATM machine in Westland has been altered should contact Westland police at (734) 722-9600 or 9-1-1.

#### Westland Fire Academy

The Westland Fire Department will be posting applications for the 2010 Citizens Fire Academy on [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) starting Monday. The department will accept up to 12 applicants for the 2010 Citizens Fire Academy which will be held on May 14-16 and May 21-23.

These dates comprise approximately 32 hours of classroom and practical time for the participants. Anyone is welcome to apply for this free opportunity to learn about the fire service in your community.

If you have any questions about the application process or the academy itinerary, contact Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal at (734) 467-3182.

## It's Blizzard time: DQ opens for season

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bar Dekle is all about celebrating and she's not about to let a little bit of snow get in the way. The owner of the Dairy Queen of Garden City, Dekle is opening the soft serve hot spot for the season this afternoon.

"I'm shooting for 1 p.m. All the crew is coming back," Dekle said.

Dekle has been in the store on Ford east of Merriman over the last month, getting ready for the season that's sure to please fans of the Blizzard. The tasty treat is celebrating its 25th anniversary and throughout the season there will be special Blizzard offers on the 25th of every month.

Of course, there's a lot more than just that to celebrate this year. Dairy Queen itself turns 70 this year, and Dekle is marking her 35th year as owner of the Garden City store.

"It's fun, it keeps me young," she said.

The Blizzard celebration kicks off Feb. 25 with a buy one Blizzard get one for 25 cents. April 19-25, it will be buy a Blizzard for 25 cents. If your birthday is on the 25th of the month, you can buy a Blizzard for \$1.25.

In addition to the specials, Dairy Queen is bringing back the top 25 Blizzard flavors for the year. They include Oreo, cookie dough, Oreo cheesequake, Reese's peanut butter cup, Butterfinger, Snickers, Heath, banana cream pie, strawberry

cheesequake and banana split, chocolate cherry, Hawaiian, chocolate-covered strawberry, raspberry truffle, chocolate Xtreme, turtle pecan cluster and Georgia mud fudge.

"Banana split is the number five seller at our store," Dekle said. "My husband loves the raspberry truffle. Heath was his favorite until the raspberry truffle came out. I have so many I like, but of these, raspberry truffle is my favorite. It's refreshing, but still has the sweetness of a truffle."

Regulars will notice a few changes around the store. The exterior of the building is getting a makeover. It has a new blue color, LED lights around the building and up lights that highlight the blue trim. A new sign is due to arrive by the end of the month. Inside, the floor in the main part of the store has new tile.

Dekle's longevity as the owner is reflected in her crew. On average, she has 16 employees. Most started working for her when they were 14-15 and have stayed on.

"Sometimes I hire more so I have some for next year in case a few leave," Dekle said.

Both Jonathan Sobieski and Stephanie Hanson started working for Dekle when they were 14. Sobieski is starting his sixth season, Hanson has been there 10 years.

"It's an easy place to work. If wasn't for the people, I wouldn't be here," Sobieski said. "I've done

everything from making the ice cream, to cleaning and filling. The worst was pulling the weeds. I had to do that my first and second year."

"Like Jon said, it's pretty easy, the pay is good and nobody else is hiring," said Hanson, whom Dekle describes as her "premo cake decorator." "I like it most of the time, except when we get 40-50 cakes around Mother's Day."

Unable to add a drive-through window on the building, Dekle has a twist on quick service. Call in an order ahead and save 10 percent. Employees from Garden City Hospital, the police and fire departments take advantage of the quick service.

"We've had people park on Ford Road, park on the grass, even a bus driver stopped for ice cream," Hanson said.

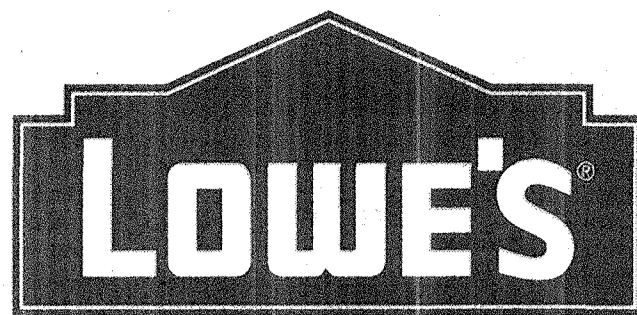
For the first week, the Dairy Queen will be open until 8 p.m. The hours will start expanding as the weather gets warmer. Closing will be 9:30 p.m. while school's in session and 10 p.m. on weekends.

The state's sour economy has had an impact, but business is still up. Last year, Dekle made 0.5 percent more than the previous year.

"It's a happy product that we sell," she said. "It's better than a burger and fries and is 95 percent fat free."

So if you're ready to kick the winter blahs, stop by the Dairy Queen or order ahead by calling (734) 427-7850.

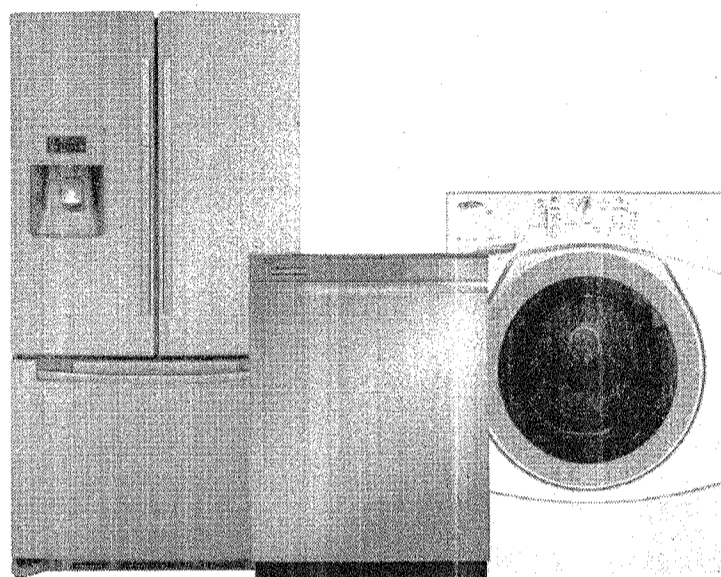
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# Report: Alarm scares off would-be thief

**Break-in**  
Police were called to the 28000 block of Powers Feb. 6 after a resident reported someone had broken into her garage. The resident said the detached garage had a security alarm which had been activated for the night. Hearing the alarm, the woman said she looked out the window and saw an unknown person wearing a dark green jacket with a fur-lined hood exit the garage.

The suspect ran north through the back yard, she said. Nothing was reported to be missing.

The officer found the garage door was open with damage to the jamb and interior trim.

A police dog tracked the suspect and stopped in the rear yard of a home in the 28000 block of Powers, police said. The officer talked with two teens who live at the home but didn't locate a suspect.

When the officer returned to update the homeowner, it was discovered that someone had pried open a lock on a neighbor's shed, police said. The resident told police he stored work tools in the shed but nothing appeared

## WESTLAND COP CALLS

to be missing.

### Larceny from a building

Police were called to Krusty's Pizza, 28985 Joy, Feb. 4 after an employee reported that a man had helped himself to money from a tip jar on the counter. After noticing the jar, which had several dollars in it earlier, was empty, the employee checked the business surveillance video which reportedly showed a man taking the money when no one was looking.

The employee reportedly identified the man as a resident of the Mohawk Trailer Park. The man had paid for his pizza with a credit card and his trailer number was located, police said. No one answered the door when the officer attempted to talk with the man. The officer left a citation on the trailer door after the trailer park manager indicated the man was inside but wouldn't open the door for police.

Several hours later, an officer spotted the man driving on Joy

near the trailer park, police said. After he was stopped, the man admitted taking \$2 from the tip jar, police said. He was alerted to the citation and told not to return to Krusty's Pizza.

### Larceny

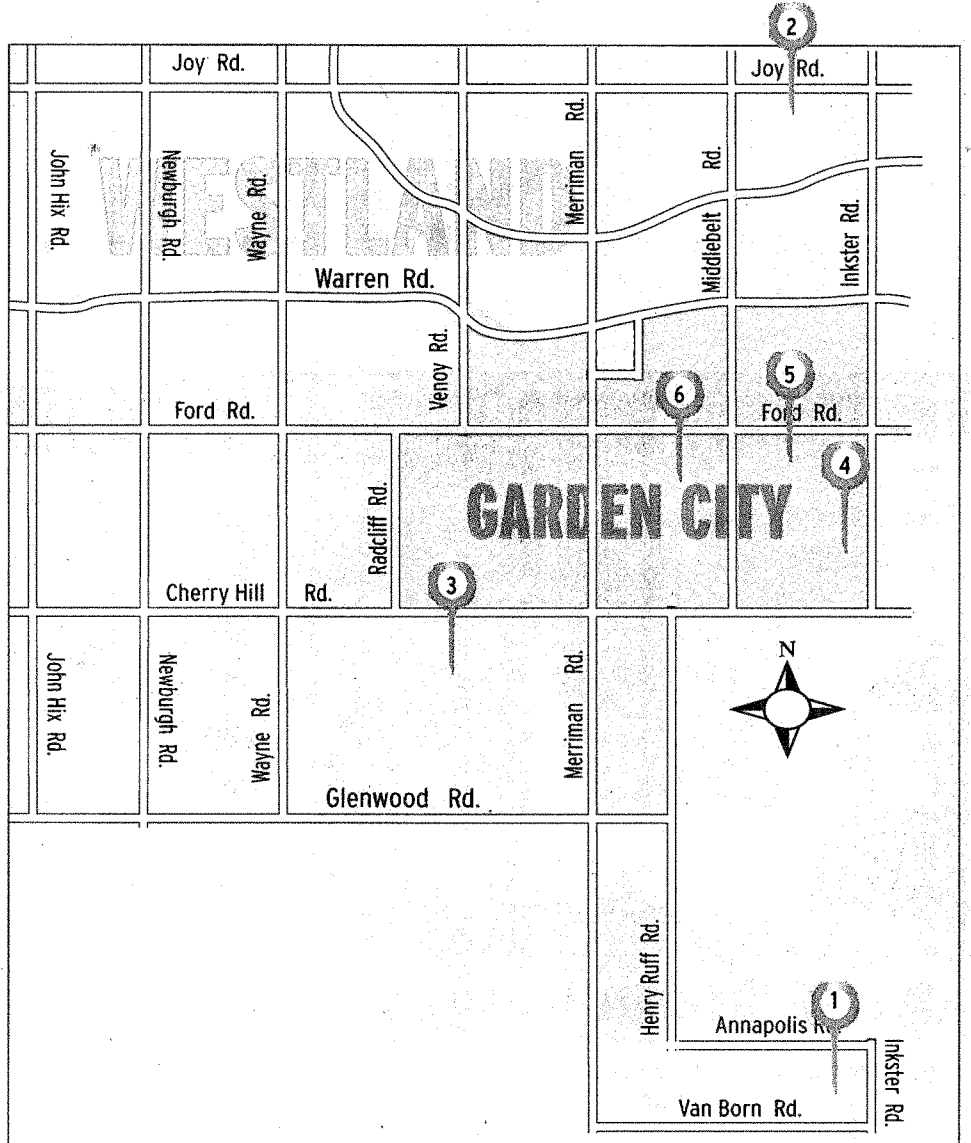
A Ypsilanti man told police Feb. 6 that someone had stolen a gas meter from a multi-family unit that is under construction in the 2000 block of Eastport. The meter was last seen Jan. 30. The gas was turned off and the units unoccupied before the meter, valued at \$350, was stolen.

The owner told police that someone had stolen tools from the location a week earlier.

### Flag missing

A resident in the 1500 block of John Hix told police Feb. 8 that she heard a loud noise about 4 a.m. and looked outside but didn't see anything amiss. The next morning, she reported that someone had broken her 12-foot flag pole and stolen her U.S. flag. The loss was estimated at \$150.

- By LeAnne Rogers



# Police investigate reported robberies at Wendy's and Sprint

## Armed robberies

A reported robbery at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Sprint store at 173 N. Inkster marked the second reported robbery in that area in less than a week. The Wendy's restaurant at 123 N. Inkster was reportedly robbed at about 9:14 p.m. Jan. 29.

At the Sprint store, when an employee left to get change from the gas station across the street, a thief reportedly entered and held up another store employee.

"What up, homeboy?" asked the man as he reportedly pulled out a black semi-automatic pistol.

The employee put his hands up and stepped away from the counter, allowing the man to walk around the counter and steal money from the cash reg-

## GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

ister, police said.

There were no customers in the Sprint store.

Garden City Police reportedly found a "live" bullet near the counter which they confiscated. Police believe it fell out of the suspect's gun.

The suspect was described as a 30-year-old man who had a black mask covering his face. He wore white gloves and light brown boots. The hood of his blue hoodie was pulled over his head.

In the Wendy's robbery, the suspect reportedly jumped over the counter of the restaurant and demanded money. He also reportedly drew a black, semi-automatic gun from his coat,

stole currency from the register and ran out of the store.

A police officer along with K9 Deuce set up a track which ended in the 170 block of Arcola, police said.

The Wendy's suspect is described as a black man, in his mid-30s, almost 6 feet tall and about 190 pounds. The hood of his coat was pulled over his head, with a scarf wrapped around his face. He was dressed in black with a thigh-length coat.

### Retail fraud

Alert employees at Orin Jewelers at Ford Road and Middlebelt helped police capture an alleged shoplifter about 11:30 a.m. Jan. 26.

The suspect was described as a short, elderly woman, 60-70

years old, who was cool and collected at the store when she asked to see a pair of \$3,500 earrings, police said. The employee who was waiting on her reportedly said that she turned to get a calculator and when she turned back around the earrings, which were on the counter, were gone.

The customer said that she didn't take the earrings. The employees noted later that she kept her purse on the floor and not on the counter, police said.

The woman reportedly left shortly after in a blue SUV. Police used license plate information provided by store employees to locate the woman in Dearborn Heights.

### Identity theft

A man who lives in the

31200 block of Hennepin reported Feb. 3 that someone stole his identity and opened and maxed out — at \$3,000 each — credit card accounts in his name. The accounts were all opened Jan. 25. A Target account was opened in Southfield, a Walmart account in Dearborn, a JCPenny account in Troy. A Lowe's account was denied.

The thief reportedly used phone numbers from four years ago.

### Drunken driving

Police arrested a 21-year-old Westland woman for drunken driving after they reportedly stopped her when she tried to turn from the wrong lane.

She had just left Albert's on

the Alley on Middlebelt about 2:30 a.m. Feb. 3 and was in the wrong lane eastbound on Ford Road, trying to get to the McDonald's Restaurant, south of Ford Road, police said.

The woman said that she drank two Long Island iced teas during a 90-minute period and subsequently registered a .17 blood alcohol level which is twice the legal limit, police said.

She told the police that the reason she couldn't balance herself well during the sobriety tests was because she was wearing high heels, police said. The officer asked if she had flat shoes she could change into and she said she only had heels in the car.

- By Sue Buck

Macy's Optical

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\*Trust in Advertising — a global consumer report conducted by the Nielsen Company. Online survey of 26,486 Internet users in 47 markets from Europe, Asia Pacific, the Americans and the Middle East performed April 16 — May 1, 2007.

# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business



Smokey's Rib and Fish House co-owner Frank Muger poses in the restaurant.

## Smokey's puts flavor in barbecue

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A restaurant focusing on barbecue has opened on Ford and the name says it all — Smokey's Rib and Fish House.

"The menu mostly focuses on ribs, pulled pork and prime rib, chicken and fish," said Frank Muger, who co-owns the restaurant with Chris and Dario Tomei.

Unlike Knockouts, the establishment it replaced, Smokey's focus is on food, Muger said.

"The ribs are the best items on the menu. The response has been very good since we opened. We really focus on dining," said Muger, adding there was quite a bit of remodeling at the restaurant before it opened in late November.

While this is the first time Muger has owned a restaurant,



Music memorabilia decorates the walls at Smokey's Rib and Fish House.

he has previous experience in the food industry having worked at Papa Joe's and Montana's Restaurant.

Smokey's does have a liquor license, so drinks can be ordered with meals. The restaurant also features two big screen televisions for patrons

who like to watch television while enjoying a meal.

Located at 36980 Ford, nearly opposite the Westland police station, Smokey's is open daily at 4 p.m. The restaurant closes at 10 p.m. weekdays and is open until 11 p.m. on the weekend.

### BUSINESS MILESTONES

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

##### Membership meeting

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 20  
**Location:** Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** The credit union will hold its 56th annual membership meeting in the board room. On the agenda is the election of board members: The nominating committee has nominated the following incumbents who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term: Andy Spisak who has served on the board since 1991; Mike Donovan who has served on the board since 1999, and Wayne Bennett who has served on the board since 1991. There will be no nominations from the floor.

**Contact:** (734) 721-5700 or www.wfuc.org

##### Product Launch

**Time/Date:** 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28  
**Location:** Marvaso's Italian Grille, 6569 N. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** Join Face Flair for its 2010 "Where's Your Flair" kickoff party. The cost is \$10, if paid by Feb. 21 online at

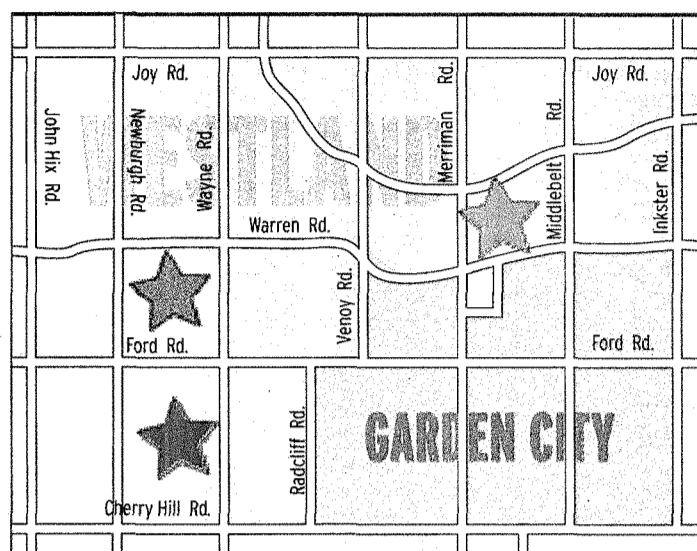
www.faceflair.com or send check or money order to P.O. box 85717, Westland, MI 48185. Cost is \$12 after Feb. 21 or at the door. It includes a "Face Flair" of your choice, premium hors d'oeuvres, games, prizes and fun.

This is a fun, family friendly, casual dress event. Drink specials will be announced at event.  
**Contact:** (734) 844-7672

##### Romantic time

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Saturday Feb. 13th  
**Location:** Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, Westland

**Details:** Join Salute to the Superstars at Hawthorne Valley's Romance With



#### SEND IT

Are you having a special event, a sale or just want to let people know where you are? Interested in being featured in our Business Q&A? It's as easy as sending your information to or requesting a Q&A form from Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com. You can also mail it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

#### Say it with flowers

**Location:** My Lady's Florist, 930 S. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Sunday is Valentine's Day and My Lady's Florist has the perfect way to ask the certain someone to be yours - a dozen long stem roses with a heart box of chocolates for \$24.99 (metro Detroit deliveries only) with free local delivery in Westland, Wayne and Garden City.  
**Contact:** (734) 326-6344

#### ONGOING

##### Mask fitting Clinic

**Time/date:** 5 p.m. Wednesday  
**Location:** Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland  
**Details:** Attention CPAP and BiPAP users, did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Garden City Hospital's Sleep Disorders Center can help. Visit the center any Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed.  
**Contact:** (734) 458-3330

a Vegas Flair. Bring your sweetie and enjoy a fabulous Steak and Lobster Valentine's dinner at 6 p.m., followed up by a night of romance, dancing and love at 7:30 p.m. with live tributes performed by Stevie Nicks, Buddy Holly, and the Diva, Barbra Streisand and the night would not be complete without the Solitary man, Neil Diamond all backed by the Radio City Band under the direction of Tom Mulawka. Your Master of Ceremony for the evening, The one and only "Bernie Mac."  
**Contact:** (734) 422-1970 or www.hawthorne@hawthornevalley.com

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

#### On Botsford staff

Dr. John Coppola has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital.

Coppola practices at the Skin & Vein Center at 305 N. Leroy in Fenton, 32669 W. Warren Road, Suite 9, in Garden City and 44056 Mound Road, Suite 101, in Sterling Heights.

Coppola is a member of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology, the American Academy of Dermatology, the Michigan Dermatologic Society and the American Osteopathic Association. He received his medical education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He completed his internship at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Fla., and his dermatology residency at Botsford Hospital.

Botsford Hospital is an independent 330-bed community teaching hospital in Farmington Hills. It was founded in 1965.

#### For small businesses

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), operator of Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP), hopes to

#### engage the talent and resources of more local, small businesses through a Small Business Opportunity Forum 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the L.C. Smith Building (former check-in lobby area) at DTW.

The Forum will focus on becoming a WCAA certified Small Business Enterprise as well as upcoming contract opportunities and proposal development techniques for SBEs.

"The Airport Authority's mission includes creating economic vitality in the region we serve; and our commitment to Small Business Enterprises is a high priority for our organization," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "We are passionate about certifying more small businesses and having them participate in Airport Authority business opportunities."

The Small Business Opportunity Forum will kick off with a continental breakfast followed by testimonials from small businesses that have experienced success in providing goods and services to WCAA. Several WCAA division representatives will also share information about anticipated contract opportunities with the

#### Airport Authority.

From 10 a.m. to noon, participants will have a chance to network with key WCAA staff members. Additionally, outside organizations that offer business support services such as insurance, bonding and financing/lending will also be in attendance. The forum will conclude with a workshop that includes tips on preparing quality proposals.

This Small Business Opportunity Forum builds on the Airport Authority's established Small Business Enterprise Program launched in 2008. Small businesses with headquarters in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw or Wayne counties are eligible to become WCAA SBE certified. Details regarding this program can be found online at www.metroairport.com/business/SBEProgram.asp.

Space is limited, so reservations are encouraged by Feb. 12. Complimentary parking will be provided to participants who reserve a spot in advance.

For more details about the forum and to reserve your spot, contact the WCAA Procurement Division at (734) 247-7900.

### CHAMBER CHAT

Here are a few reasons why joining the Chamber of Commerce matters:

- The Garden City Chamber's program with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan offers the most options, best available prices and money saving services to complement their coverage. Now members can save even more with Advantage Pricing which rewards them for having a complete health plan. Whether you are an individual looking for insurance or a small business looking for insurance, the chamber has the right plan package for you.
- Chamber members only receive a free business listing in the Chamber's Membership and Community Directory. This directory keeps members in touch with more than

15,000 residents and businesses via direct mail.

- Numerous telephone calls come into the Chamber office daily requesting referrals to area businesses offering specific services. Chamber membership automatically places your company's name in our referral bank.
- Chamber members have the option to choose from their current promotion or take 5 percent off rate plans of \$35 or higher through an exclusive program with Verizon Wireless. Members also receive 25 percent off accessories for equipment and larger discounts for multiple phone plans.
- Members can receive substantial discounts and savings on office supplies and furniture through our joint benefit program with Office

Depot. The program features discounts on office supplies and furniture, timely next day delivery, availability to order via e-commerce, as well as in-store purchases.

- Chamber membership provides you with an automatic listing on the Chamber Web site in the membership directory section.
- The new Resident Welcome Packet offers business the opportunity to reach all new and relocating families entering Garden City.
- Space is available at the Chamber office for your business to display promotional materials.

For more information, call the chamber office at (734) 422-4448.

Amelia Oliverio  
Executive Director

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February 10-14, 2010

**Select your discount!**

\$1 off adult admission any day

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Senior (55 and over) admission for \$5 on Wednesday or Thursday

OR

2-for-1 adult admission on Friday

Limited to one coupon per person, and one discount per coupon. Coupons may not be combined with any other offers. Coupon valid through February 14, 2010.

**marvac.org**

# LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## OUR VIEWS



The Westland Observer was there when sisters Joyce Bornholdt and Donna Prieskorn, both breast cancer survivors, helped kick off Westland's Painting the Town Pink.

## Newspaper investment enhances local lives

For the last couple of years, as Michigan's economy continues to tank and businesses everywhere have struggled, we have covered the efforts of local retailers to get people to "shop local" in an attempt to get our readers to spend their dollars to help local businesses get through and hopefully thrive in tough economic times.

It's not only our sincerest desire to help those most invested in our local communities, it's at the heart of our credo to help our readers and our advertisers — our businesses — to prosper in the communities in which they work and live.

For more than three decades, the *Westland Observer* has been proud and honored to develop a relationship with the community we serve. We are the hometown newspaper of record for your successes, your good news and bad.

It's our role to be the community watchdog, to keep an eye on the city council and board of education you elect, to watch them as they protect you, serve you and spend your money. We've been there to chronicle state championships, academic achievements, business successes. We're at festivals and community events like the Westland Summer Festival, Relay for Life and Painting the Town Pink, meetings and games.

If you doubt we're your hometown newspaper, look around and count the other media bringing your good news to the community. We publish births, weddings and anniversaries. We cover the ups and downs of our towns.

We're at football games Fridays in the fall, baseball games in the spring. We're at school board meetings and town hall gatherings. We're at band concerts and school plays. We provide the stories and photographs that end up on your refrigerators, hung there with a magnet for all to see. Our stories and photos end up in scrapbooks, preserved for posterity.

We use our editorial voice to shape the debate in our communities and, through our Letters to the Editor, provide readers with a voice of their own. In recent years, we've added a Web component ([www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)), which not only updates your communities on a daily basis, but provides yet another forum for discussion.

We've been privileged and proud to play this role in our communities for years. It's always been a mutually beneficial relationship — our stories and photos supply our readers with memories, and our pages are a proven advertising vehicle that drives customers into local businesses.

But here's a message that sometimes gets forgotten: We're a local business, too.

We depend on the support not only of our advertisers, but of our readers. The *Westland Observer* has been successful at carrying your advertising message, but the only way we can continue that success is if you continue to advertise with us. Likewise, we're happy and proud to provide the refrigerator- and scrapbook-worthy stories of which memories are made. But we can't do that without a subscription base that keeps the engine running.

We understand times are tough. But times are tough in our industry, as well, and there's only one way to make sure the *Westland Observer* is still around in another 30 years, and that's to invest in it, through your advertisements and your subscriptions.

An investment in the *Observer* is an investment in your memories, good government, good schools, local business and your lives.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What grade would you give Gov. Jennifer Granholm and why?

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



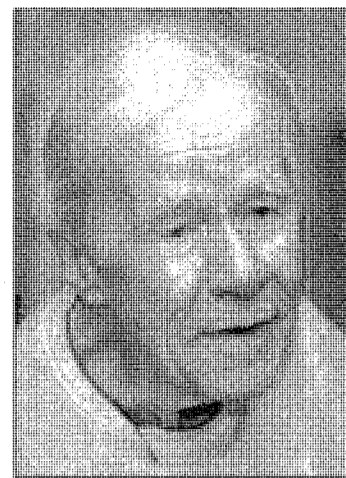
"I'd have to say E, I don't like how she does or doesn't handle things."

Melinda Powell  
Westland



"I haven't been in Michigan long enough to form an opinion."

Anna Fowlkes  
Westland



"I'm a Granholm fan, I'd give her a B for her effort."

Norm Feliks  
Garden City



"I would give her a C. She really couldn't help the economy. What could she do?"

Mable Feliks  
Garden City

## LETTERS

### A valuable resource

I do not know how many people are aware of a valuable resource right here in the city of Westland. The Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club is here to assist people to overcome the fear of public speaking, hone their skills and provide leadership training.

Toastmasters International is an international organization with a mission to help people who wish to improve their career opportunities. The membership of Toastmasters is a diverse group of people from different walks of life, occupations and backgrounds.

The Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets at 6:45 p.m. every Thursday at the Bailey Center, located behind Westland City Hall. The club is not limited to Westland residents. Anyone is welcome. For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

Curt Gottlieb  
Westland

### Fiscal responsibility

Welcome to the new members of Westland City Council. Your mission as newly voted in council members is to show the people that voted you in that city council will function better with fiscal responsibility. If we the people have to stretch pennies during these hard times, city council should learn to do the same.

The Jan. 4 City Council Motion 1010-01-05 includes spending \$50,441 on a new GMC Hybrid Yukon to replace a 2000 Yukon. This does not sound fiscally responsible. I'm sure city council could find a better less expensive model that will fit the bill than a Hybrid Yukon.

Why is city council approving a purchase of Hybrid Yukon when during these tough economic times citizens have to make due with bare minimums at our dinner table? Why are we still offering car allowances for city officials during these tough economic times? Why not just offer paying mileage for use with their private car like most competitive American companies do? Is this why many Westland citizens are having our property taxes raised to pay for this?

I have a 10-year-old Ford Sable with more than 108,000 miles that I drive for business and with proper maintenance practices, I'm sure I will be able to get another 100,000 miles out of this good old American-made product.

Carlos Manzo  
Westland

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

E-mail: [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com)

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Look, during these tough economic times the city council should act with more fiscal responsibility. More companies are cutting corners by cutting wages, company cars, cutting operating costs and even layoffs. You the city council asked to be voted in. Now here is your chance to show the voters you will act responsibly with our tax dollars.

At the company I work for, I have found ways to cut 50 percent to 70 percent cost from vendor purchases just by doing simple cost comparing research and analyzing product efficiencies. Fifty percent to 70 percent cost savings from just looking online and having vendors line up and compete for by business. Businesses are hurting right now and they are willing to reduce their prices to stay in business. In our present business climate, if you're not getting the best deal for your dollar, you're not doing your job.

May I remind you there are many qualified educated people out of work that would gladly work for less than what we pay some of our city officials. The San Antonio, Texas, city council members are a great example of fiscally responsible government. The city council members only get paid \$20 per week.

I agree with Mayor Dave Bing, who says, "Folks in government ... had this entitlement attitude that says, 'It's always been this way. It's always going to be this way.'" I challenge our new city council members to change this attitude. Do your homework, stop unnecessary spending, reduce high salaries and departmental waste. Let's keep Westland fiscally sound. Westland citizens will be watching.

Mitch Smith  
Canton

### Corporatist states

All doubt, as if any really existed, about whose corner the Republican Party stands in has now been removed. Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority leader from Kentucky and long an opponent of the people, was unabashedly giddy, almost unable to contain his joy.

Now the downtrodden, beleaguered corporations would finally, after all these years, be able to emerge from the darkness and fully claim the final most important blessing of full citizenship in this democracy; one that they so richly deserve and have been denied: freedom of speech. John Boehner, Republican from Ohio and House Minority leader, similarly elated and obviously moved, in a cracking voice stated as tears seemingly welled up in his eyes, "It's high time, this a victory for the First Amendment."

They were acting as if some grand initiative that would really help humankind like "peace in our time" or "an end to disease and poverty" had been achieved instead of what really had happened. The Republican leadership and most of their brethren were celebrating something really monumental: the facilitating of the entire hijacking of the electoral process by big money, the corporations of America and yes, the rest of the world; so much for "We the People" and "one man, one vote." Welcome to the Corporatist States of America!

According to Republicans, some solace for Dems should be that organized labor will also benefit from this new degree of enfranchisement, knowing full well that this will more likely be the death-knell for unions. The expansion of the so-called "right to work," the subsequent insourcing of foreign-based auto companies and suppliers without requiring that they pay the going rate in wages and benefits and the outsourcing of American jobs is already killing one of the few advocates for the people's interests and the interests of the middle class that still exists, big labor.

Today unions represent only 10 percent of American workers and miss the clout they once enjoyed that enabled them to boost wages, benefits and working conditions for all Americans, not just those in unions. Thanks to Republican-based facilitation, labor now lacks the resources needed to defend itself against the corporatist-funded electoral onslaught.

This is a conservative Republican gift that will keep on giving, courtesy of Reagan and the Bushes and the justices they appointed.

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices, on the Web at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

### • On limiting comments

I think the citizens are tired of the Council Watchers. I would love to be able to understand how they justify wasting the time of everyone at the council meetings.

Judy McKinny definitely can not stand President Godbout. She is so arrogant when she

gets in front of the microphone. She says nothing and complains constantly. She is always telling people to join her, it's their right. Did it ever dawn on her, that people only get up in front of council when they have something to say? Dewitt is like a broken record. What part of the word "estimate" does she not understand? Lastly, Swistek and Davis have issues. Lots of them.

I am sure that if someone has problems with the city, the council will listen to them longer than 3 minutes. People can

still write, call and e-mail all these council people.

Westlander

Finally! Now I only have to suffer through approximately 21 minutes of inane babble by the local self appointed "council meeting celebrities." Getting 1,000 votes in an election of a city that's more than 80,000 or so, does not make a speaker for "the people of Westland." I would have suggested the suspending the televised meeting altogether. Just my 2 cents worth

Azgoodazitgetz

I agree! If you watched the last meeting where they were protesting the reduction of time, they made the best case for why it should be reduced. They stood up there and made a mockery of the allotted time. They were all done well before 3 minutes were up but just rambled on to fill up the remaining time (something they do on a regular basis). One even went into a countdown of the seconds left to use up all of her time

sickofu2

WESTLAND  
OBSERVER



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SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

SECTION B  
(WL)

# HOMETOWN LIFE

Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6951  
demons@hometownlife.com



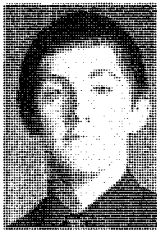
## Naubert catalyst as Stevenson cages Wildcats

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the KLAA Central Division boys basketball title at stake Tuesday night, Livonia Stevenson would not be denied.

The host Spartans got a sterling effort from the backcourt duo of Bobby Naubert and CJ Mwila, who combined for 41 points in a 56-49 victory over Novi.

Stevenson, now 11-3 overall and 8-1 in the Central, is one victory away from clinching the title outright. The Spartans can do it with victory Friday at home over South Lyon.



Naubert

"I'm proud of these kids winning a division title - any league title is never easy," said Stevenson coach Mike Allie, whose team avenged a 71-54 setback to the Wildcats on Jan. 19. "Right now we're division champs, no matter what. But we could tie with Novi with a loss to South Lyon."

Naubert, a 5-foot-11 senior, finished with a game-high 26 points.

The shifty left-hander, whose style reminds some of former UCLA All-America and Lakers guard Gail

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Goodrich (better known as "Stumpy"), scored eight fourth-quarter points as the Spartans held off a late Novi rally.

The Wildcats, who trailed by as many as 14 in the third quarter, pulled to within one, 42-41, on a pair of free throws from Antwan Batwo, with only 4:14 remaining.

Allie then signaled for a timeout and the Spartans responded with a 7-0 run as Naubert made a pair of free throws, coupled with a driving layup and 3-pointer from Mwila, a 5-10 junior who finished with 15 points.

"I thought we did a good job of keep-

ing our composure," Allie said. "We knew Novi would make a run, but we were able to hold them off in the last minute of the game."

"At one point we had four seniors on the floor. We told them they had to keep their composure. We're at home, in front of our home crowd. We had to settle down and play basketball. I thought we did that down the stretch."

Stevenson made four 3-pointers in the opening quarter to take a 18-12 lead. The Spartans then led 29-20 at intermission on Naubert's conventional three-point play with 5.62 seconds left.

Please see **STEVENSON, B3**

## SIDELINES

### Jiga top shooter

Livonia's Robert Jiga, a student at Emerson Middle School, has advanced to the Great Lakes Regional after capturing the Michigan Elks Hoop Shoot state contest, Jan. 30, in Midland.

Jiga, representing Livonia Elks Lodge No. 2246, captured the Boys 12-13 age division by sinking 20-of-25 free throws.

He will travel with his parents, Silvestru and Angela Jiga, to the Great Lakes Regional, March 20, in Angola, Ind. where he will compete in a field 18 with the winner earning a spot among the top 72 in the National Finals, April 22-25, in Springfield, Mass.

### Kimble signs

Livonia Stevenson senior Kayla Kimble recently signed a letter-of-intent to play soccer at Grand Valley State University, the 2009 NCAA Division II champions.

Kimble, a first-team All-Observer pick as a midfielder, also earned All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association and Division 1 All-District honors. She was the Spartans' captain as a junior and scored five goals and added two assists.

### Marlow a Saint

Siena Heights University women's soccer coach Scott Oliver announced the signing recently of Livonia Churchill senior center midfielder Nicole Marlow to an NAIA letter-of-intent.

"I am very excited to come to Siena Heights because I get to live my dream of playing soccer in college," said Marlow, an all-A student who was a starter for the 17-3-3 Division 1 regional finalists last spring. "I also love the small community and plan on becoming a teacher."

"Nicole is really one of those late bloomers from high school," Oliver said of the All-District pick. "She has really developed into a good soccer player and we see a lot more potential for her in the immediate future."

### Soaring club class

The Sandhill Soaring Club invites anyone interested in preparing to take the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test - for any rating - to join a 13-week class, which meets 7-10 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 15, at the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Terminal Building, 801 Airport, Drive, Ann Arbor.

A fee of \$125 covers all sessions.

The class will cover all the steps required to become a pilot and provide the opportunity to log the necessary ground training and endorsement to take any of the FAA written exams. The class is conducted by certified flight and ground instructors.

For more information, call John Harte at (248) 755-7574.

## Upstart MU trips No. 13 Davenport

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A downtrodden Madonna University men's basketball team turned the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference upside down Saturday afternoon at home by upsetting

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

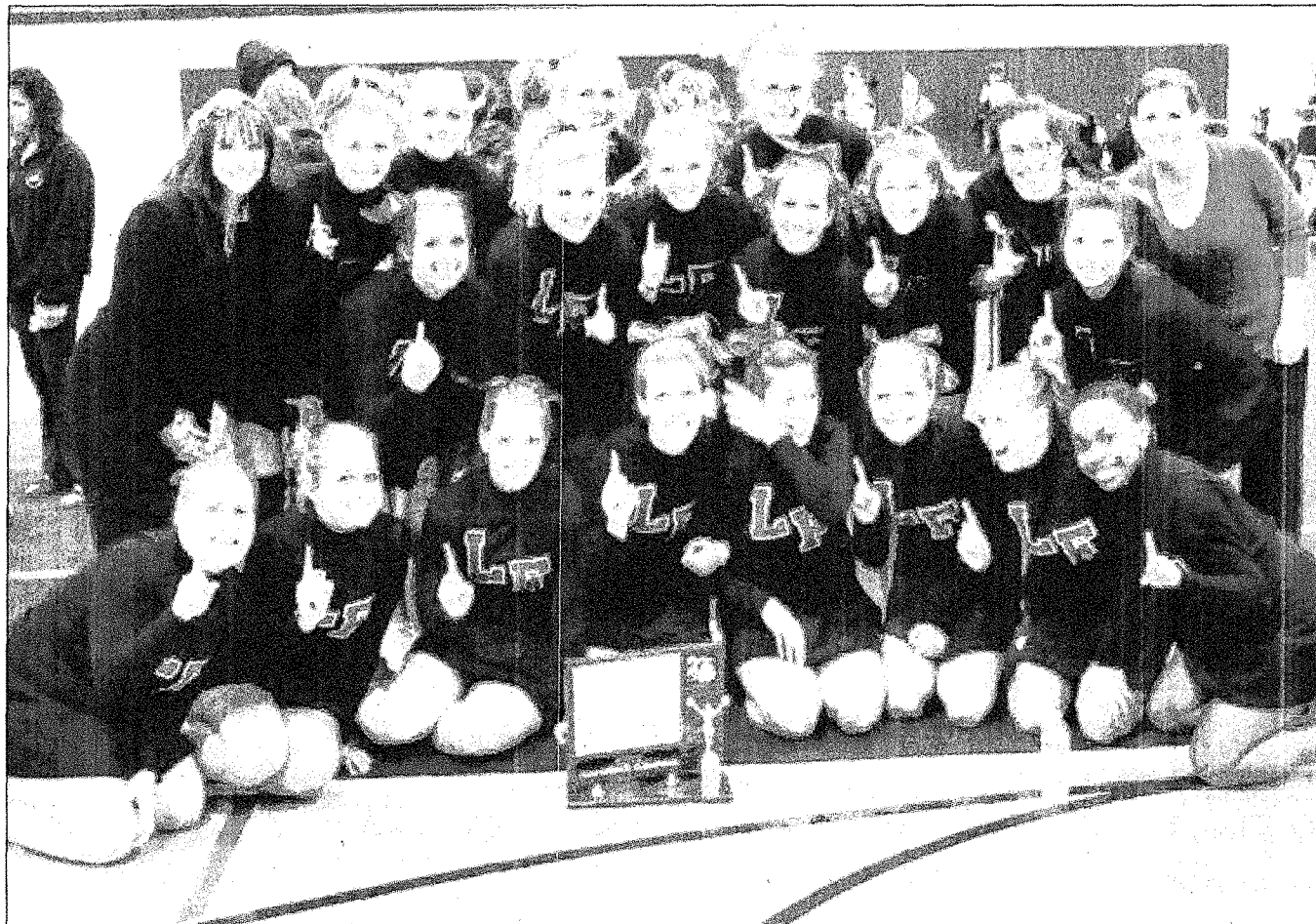
first-place Davenport University, 51-44.

The Crusaders did it with a suffocating 1-3-1 zone defense as the Panthers, ranked 13th in the latest NAIA Division II poll, shot only 22.7 percent from the floor (15-of-66).

Davenport didn't help its cause either by connecting just 44 percent from the free-throw line (11-of-25) in falling to 20-6 overall and 9-1 in the WHAC.

MU, now 5-20 overall and 2-8 in the WHAC, won despite going without a point from the

Please see **MADONNA, B3**



### Pats cheer champions

Livonia Franklin delighted its home crowd Saturday by capturing the 11-school KLAA Kensington Conference championship. The Patriots scored a total of 709.0604 points in three rounds to best runner-up Northville and third-place Novi with 705.7344 and 704.1724, respectively. Members of the Patriots, coached by Tabetha Waddle and Amy Fuller, include seniors Alecia Geraghty, Emma Robertson, Kelly Plocharczyk, Jenna Ruokolainen, Katie Panyan, Sam Oudeh, Marissa Kreutzfeld, Shannon Niznik, Kim Wonch; juniors Mady Byrd, Catie Hatfield, Breana Ward, Audrey Geraghty; sophomores Abby Killen, Laresa Smith, Allyson Dominguez, Laura Mitoraj; freshmen Megan Vallmont and Missy Henderson. The Patriots, 4-1 in dual matches this season, return action at 10 a.m. Saturday in Novi for the Association-wide championship.

## First KLAA wrestling tourney deemed a success

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a notable no-show, the first-ever Kensington Lakes Activities Association wrestling tournament drew rave reviews Saturday at Westland John Glenn.

Hartland, ranked No. 3 in the latest Division 1 poll by the Michigan Grappler, led the 24-school field with 248.5 points. The Eagles earned points in 13 of 14 weight classes and came away with two individual titles.

Host Glenn, also ranked in the top 10 in Division 1 at No. 7, was runner-up with 202.5 points, while Brighton was a distant third with 144.

Canton, ranked No. 8 in Division 1, elected to send its 'B' squad and finished well back in the pack in 22nd with 17.5.

"It was a very exciting day for the sport of wrestling. I am honored to have been the first team to host arguably the toughest league tournament in the state of Michigan," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "The competition had a 'state

Complete tournament results, B2.

finals'-type atmosphere in the final couple rounds. We accepted a runner-up finish to a great program (Hartland), but we are never satisfied with second place."

Glenn individual winners included Anthony Pavlich (130 pounds), Travis Mann (140) and Dustin Gajowiak (285).

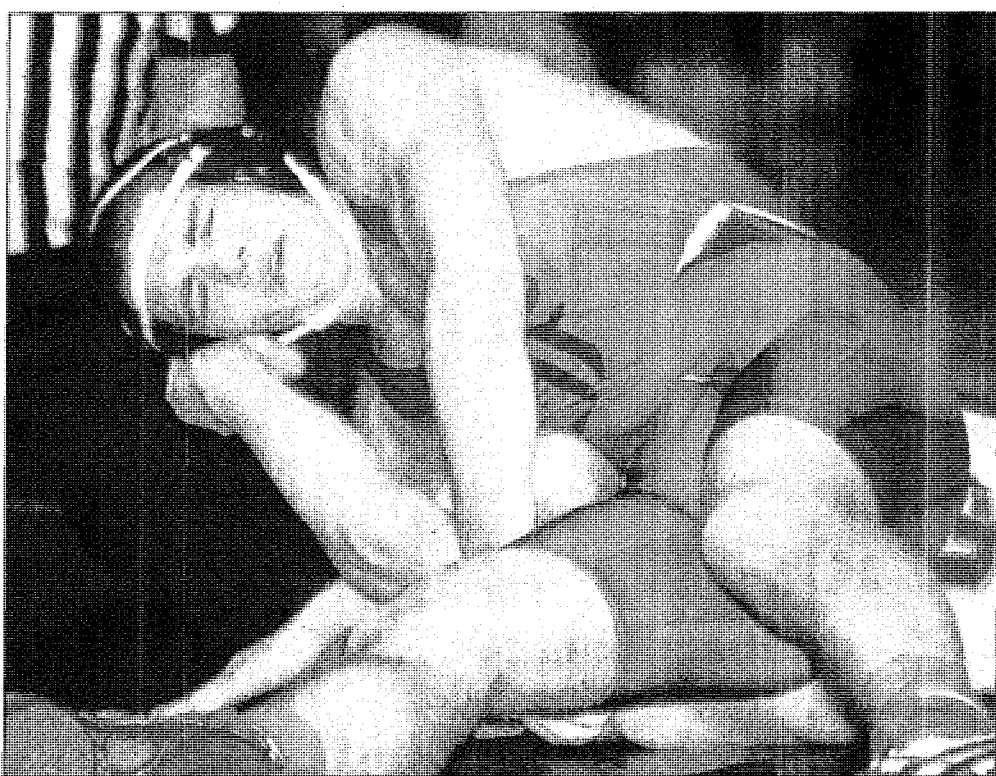
Pavlich notched his 100th career pin during the tourney to eclipse the school record held by Jim Wood.

Steve Wakeford, meanwhile, added a second at 112 and the Rockets added four thirds, including Kyle Gillies (103), Josh Austin (119), Mark Thompson (135) and Mike Johnson (145).

"Looking back, if a few other close matches went our way, we had a shot at the title," Polk said. "Most of our wrestlers performed better than what they were seeded, so as a coach I can't complain. All in all, it was a good day."

Livonia Franklin earned a top 10 finish in eighth with 101 points.

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**



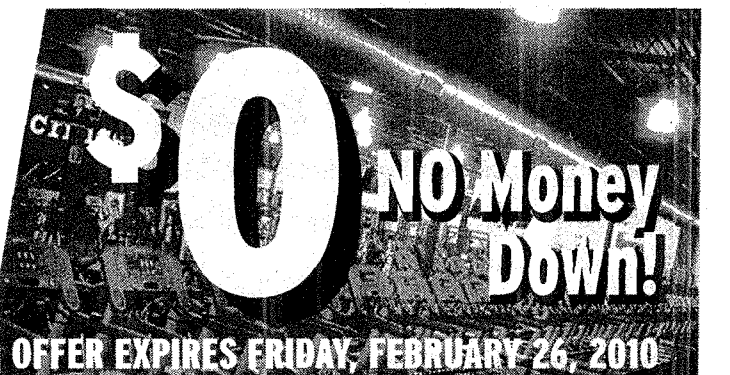
Franklin's Matt Roos (top), who won the 152-pound division at the Observerland Invitational, contributed a second Saturday in the same weight class at the first-ever Kensington Lakes Activities Association tourney hosted by John Glenn.



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**ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-65**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND WESTLAND ZONING ORDINANCE 248, BY ADDING ARTICLE IX, SECTIONS 9:8.1 THROUGH 9:8.10 TO ESTABLISH A FORD ROAD OVERLAY DISTRICT**

**THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:**

**Section 1.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.1 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance 248 is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Overlay District Established**

The FROD District is a mapped overlay zoning district with boundaries as shown on the Zoning Map. Parcels that are located within the FROD District will have two zoning designations – the underlying zoning designation and the FROD zoning designation.

The FROD District's legal description shall be as follows:

A parcel of land being a part of the northeast 1/4 of section 17 and part of the southeast 1/4 of section 8 of town 2 south, range 8 east, Nankin Township, City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan and being more particularly described as: Beginning at the northeast corner of said section 17 and proceeding thence S.00 09'58"E., 1127.97 feet; thence N.89 57'20"W., 343.00 Feet; thence due north 77.69 feet; thence due west 966.96 feet; thence N.00 11'02"W., 741.03 feet; thence due west 990.00 feet; thence S.00 11'02"E., 60.00 feet; thence due west 330.00 feet; thence N.00 11'02"W., 369.00 feet to the north 1/4 corner of said section 17 being also the south 1/4 corner of said section 8 and proceeding thence N.32 17'25"W., 69.99 feet; thence N.01 20'06"W., 380.84 feet; thence due east 189.02 feet; thence N.01 20'06"W., 60.00 feet; thence due east 183.00 feet; thence S.01 20'06"E., 240.00 feet; thence due east 983.78 feet; thence N.01 20'06"W., 120.07 feet; thence due east 658.21 feet; thence N.00 07'07"W., 40.00 feet; thence due east 330.00 feet; thence N.00 07'07"W., 252.82 feet; thence due east 484.91 feet; thence S.12 50'32"W., 690.10 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel containing 67.044 acres more or less.

The intent of this overlay district is to create a pedestrian friendly, viable, and attractive mixed-use corridor along Ford Road by utilizing higher design standards and flexibility from underlying zoning regulations.

**Section 2.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.2 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Applicability**

- a. Parcels with Single Family Residential Underlying Zoning Designation. The standards of the FROD overlay zone shall be optional for any parcel that has a single family underlying zoning designation.
- b. Parcels with Other Than Single Family Residential Underlying Zoning Designation. The standards of the FROD zoning district shall be mandatory whenever any activity that requires site plan approval is proposed. Site maintenance and improvement activities and changes in use that do not require site plan approval may be conducted in accordance with the standards of the underlying zoning district.
- c. Standards of Section 9.2. The general requirements applicable to business districts listed in Section 9.2 shall apply to any project developed in the FROD standards, unless specifically noted otherwise in this Section.

**Section 3.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.3 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Permitted Principal Uses**

Buildings in the FROD district may contain more than one use. If a building contains both residential and non-residential uses, the residential uses shall be located on upper stories and non-residential uses shall be located on lower stories. In no case may a non-residential use be located on the same floor as or above a residential use, with the exception of home occupations. Where there is mixed business/office and residential use in a building there shall be provided a separate, private pedestrian entranceway for the residential use.

The following uses are permitted by right in the FROD district:

- a. Convenience commercial uses (see Section 9:4.1 for a listing of uses).
- b. Personal service uses (see Section 9:4.1 for a listing of uses).
- c. Comparison commercial uses (see Section 9:4.1 for a listing of uses).
- d. General commercial uses and repair services (see Section 9:4.1 for a listing of uses).
- e. Clothing stores.
- f. Offices, medical and professional.
- g. Restaurants and/or establishment serving alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.
- h. Studios (art, dance, sculptor, composer, etc.)
- i. Theatres, indoor.
- j. Essential services for which special land use approval is not required in accordance with Section 6.3:
- k. Attached residential dwelling units (i.e. row houses or town houses) that have a direct ground-level entrance into each unit from the exterior of the building.
- l. Upper-story residential dwelling units located above a non-residential use.

**Section 4.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.4 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Special Land Uses**

The following uses may be permitted as special land uses in the FROD District:

- a. Drive through windows.
- b. Drug stores and pharmacies.
- c. Hotel or motel.
- d. Institutional uses (see Section 9:5.2 for a listing of uses, excluding recreation and social facilities)

**Section 5.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.5 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Lot Size Requirements**

- a. Minimum lot area: 10,000 square feet
- b. Minimum lot width: 80 feet

**Section 6.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.6 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Yard Requirements**

- a. Setback requirements for principal structures:
  - Front: The front façade of all buildings shall be set back a minimum of 0 feet and a maximum of 10 feet from the front property line, except that the maximum front setback may be increased to 40 feet if a front yard parking modification is granted per Section 9:8.10(b).
  - Side: 0 feet minimum, no maximum
  - Rear: 20 feet minimum, no maximum
- b. Buildings should be grouped towards the street to form istreetwalls and located in such a manner to create public spaces that have direct physical and visual connections to the street.

**Section 7.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.7 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Building Height**

- a. The maximum building height shall be 3 stories or 46 feet, whichever is lower.
- b. Height exceptions: Special architectural features (e.g. corner towers cupolas, entry treatments, chimneys, steeples, belfries, turrets, flagpoles, parapet walls,

etc.) will be allowed to exceed the above height requirements if:

- i. The feature is located at a corner (the intersection of two public right(s)-of-way); or,
- ii. The building is located at a designated "gateway" or,
- iii. The feature is deemed to be necessary to the type, use, or style of the building in question.
- iv. Special architectural features shall not exceed the height of the remainder of the building by more than thirty-five percent (35%).
- v. The height of any new building shall not exceed the height of the immediately adjacent new or existing two story or three story building by more than fifteen percent (15%) unless the building is on a significant corner property and is approved by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.

**Section 8.** That Article IX, Section 9:8.8 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance is hereby added to provide as follows:

**Architectural Guidelines**

- a. **Building Entrances:**
  - i. All buildings shall have at least one public, pedestrian entrance that faces Ford Road or the main street on the frontage line and is accessible (see American with Disabilities ACT, ADA) from the public sidewalk system.
  - ii. All existing buildings shall retain the original building entrance, if historically accurate.
  - iii. Rear and side entrances are permitted, only if there is a primary entrance from Ford Road frontage or the main street.
  - iv. Entrances with recessed doors are encouraged for protection from the elements and from doors swinging out into the sidewalk area.
  - v. Front entrance doors shall be constructed out of wood, glass, steel, or fiberglass or as approved by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission, provided it is compatible with the character of the district.
- b. **Façade Design:** All building facades shall conform to the following design criteria:
  - i. **Street Face:** Walls facing a public street shall include windows and architectural features customarily found on the front facade of a building such as awnings, cornice work, edge detail or decorative finish materials. Blank walls shall not face a public street. Significant protrusions (more than 6") such as awnings, cornice lines, or details at the top of windows and sills are encouraged to create shadow lines or bands on the façade.
    - Any building located at a corner site shall provide distinct and prominent architectural features of enhanced character and visibility to reflect the importance of the building's location.
  - ii. **Façade Pattern:** Large, long facades shall be subdivided into bays, through the location and arrangement of openings and architectural treatments that are compatible in size and scale to existing buildings. The maximum wall length without modulation shall be thirty feet (30'). The bay width shall be 16'-to 30'.
  - iii. **Façade Height to Width Ratio:**
    - (a) One story buildings: Single bay facades or individual bays of multiple bay facades, are not to exceed 2 feet of width for each 1 foot of building height unless otherwise approved by the City Council upon recommendation of the Planning Commission.
    - (b) Two-story buildings: Single bay facades or individual bays of multiple bay facades, are not to exceed 1 foot of width for each 1 foot of height unless otherwise approved by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.
  - iv. **Roof Type:** Many of the commercial roof configurations in the corridor are "flat" (less than 3:1 roof slope) with parapets that conceal the roof itself. In order to maintain and create a distinct visual character for the district, roofs shall comply with the following requirements:
    - (a) Existing flat roofs and parapets shall be maintained.
    - (b) All new retail/office buildings shall have flat roofs and parapets.
    - (c) Sloping roofs, gabled (6:12) or hipped may be allowed as special architectural features, particularly for residential townhouse development subject to review and approval by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.
    - (d) Parapets may be stepped.
    - (e) Mansard roofs, geodesic domes and A-frames are prohibited.
    - (f) All rooftop mechanical equipment and HV AC systems shall be screened from ground view.
  - v. **Fenestration or Window and Door Openings:** All facades visible from the street must be glazed with transparent glass. Opaque glass applications are prohibited. Glazing on the first floor (retail space) to occur generally 1'-to 2'-6" above the finished floor. Thus, a minimum 1'-to 2'-6" bulkhead is required beneath a storefront display window. Façade glass areas shall meet the following requirements:
    - (a) First floor window area: minimum 60% and maximum 70% of façade area.
    - (b) Second floor window area: minimum 25% and maximum 60% of façade area.
    - (c) Butt joint glazing, where panes of glass are glazed together using glue or other adhesive material and without a structural element of the window frame, is prohibited.
    - (d) The use of shutters is discouraged on commercial buildings.
    - (e) Façade openings such as windows and doors shall be vertical in proportion.
    - (f) Sliding doors and windows are prohibited along frontage lines. Roll up windows may be allowed subject to approval by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.

c. **Building Materials;**

- i. Exterior materials used on buildings in the FROD district shall fall into two categories, primary and accent building materials. The building material requirement is based on the exterior wall surface area, excluding windows and doors. Primary building materials shall cover a minimum of 60% of the exterior wall

surface area, while accent materials may be used on up to 40% of the exterior wall surface area.

**Primary Building Materials include:**

- (a) Durable natural building materials such as brick, stone, and other similar materials.
- (b) Exposed logs, timbers, or wood trim.
- (c) Any material that convincingly matches the appearance of the above natural building materials.

**Accent Building Materials include:**

- (a) Decorative precast concrete block.
- (b) Metal panels and trim.
- (c) Glass.
- (d) Vinyl siding and non-durable materials such as EIFS may be used as accent materials, but may cover a maximum of 10% of any exterior building façade's wall area.
- (e) Any other material except those specifically prohibited by the following subsection.

**Prohibited Building Materials include:**

- (a) Plaint concrete block (both painted and unpainted).
- (b) Plywood or T-III panels.
- (c) Aluminum siding.

**Compliance with Green Building Rating Systems.** LEED-NC certification (published and administered by the United States Green Building Council) or an equivalent green building rating qualification such as EnergyStar is encouraged for new buildings. If a building is not certified according to a green building rating system, compliance with the following LEED-NC building material credits is encouraged: MR 4.1 or MR 4.2, MR 5.1 or MR 5.2, MR6 and MR7.

ii. **Parapet Cap:**

- (a) Brick: The brick shall be standard modular brick with common tooled mortar joints. Untooled joints or irregular shaped brick are prohibited. Brick color (commonly red or tan) and texture (smooth or glazed to rough) shall be subject to review and approval by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.
- (b) Stone: The stone shall be smooth finish (limestone or sandstone). The stone shall be light to medium buff color. Pre-cast limestone to simulate traditional limestone or sandstone may be used with the Planning Commission's approval.
- (c) Metal: Metal shall be aluminum or painted sheet steel if permitted after review and approval by the City Council upon recommendation by the Planning Commission. The color and finish shall match that of the window framing system.

iii. **Canopies:**

- (a) Fascia Trim: Fascia trim shall be natural finish aluminum, bronze or painted metal.
- (b) Soffit: The soffit shall be metal or cement plaster.
- (c) Support Rods: The support rods shall be metal.
- (d) Design: Canopies shall be narrow in elevation, six inches (6") to twelve (12") and flat or slightly angled. Typically, the canopies shall be flat or slightly angled so that the overall height dimension does not exceed eighteen inches (18"). Canopies shall be self supporting or supported by tension rods. Canopy projections shall be limited to forty-eight inches (48").

iv. **Awnings:**

- (a) Design: Awnings shall be traditional in design and must be made from fabric or similar material, rather than metal, plastic or rigid fiberglass. Awnings shall not be made of high gloss, shiny or translucent materials.
- (b) Size: Awnings shall be proportional to the window opening and compatible in height, length, depth and bulk with the building façade. Awnings shall not obscure the architectural features of the building but rather the awnings shall respect the overall building façade.
- (c) Shape: An awning that is triangular in section sloping outward and down from the top of the awning or half round is generally preferred. The City Council may approve other awning shapes, such as round top, box or other unusual shapes, where such shape is appropriate to the integral architectural design of the façade.
- (d) Fabric: Fabric shall be standard cloth fabrics in either solid, stripe or patterns that compliment the design and materials on the principal building.
- (e) Location: Awnings shall not cover distinctive architectural features of the building façade. All awnings shall be attached directly to the building, rather than supported by columns or poles. First floor awnings shall not be located higher than the midpoint between the highest level of the first floor and the window sill of the second floor. First floor awnings area exempt from the setback requirements, and may extend up to 6 feet from the face of the building. Such awnings may encroach into a right-of-way area.
- (f) Ground Clearance: Awnings must provide a minimum of eight (8') feet of vertical clearance from the sidewalk surface grade to the lowest support or awning structure.
- (g) Upper Story Awnings: Upper story awnings shall be permitted only on vertically proportioned windows with a height to width ratio of 2:1 or greater, provided the awning does not exceed the width of the window by more than 6 inches and extends no more than three (3') feet from the face of the building. Awnings shall not extend above the roof line.
- (h) Lighting: Internally illuminated or back-lit awnings are prohibited.
- (i) Awning Signage: Awnings with lettering, symbols and/or other graphics shall be considered to be signs and shall be subject to the sign regulations in Article XV.



# Fat Tuesday

## Throw a King Cake party or pack away the paczki

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

King Cake not only satisfies the sweet tooth, but can make you feel like royalty in a single bite.

"Ours is a traditional New Orleans-style cinnamon coffee cake. We braid it and decorate it with the traditional colors of Mardi Gras, yellow, purple and green," said Jeff Pavlik, owner and baker at Sunflour Bakehaus in Farmington.

"Our King Cake feeds 10 to 12 and comes with traditional plastic baby or coin, as well as a set of 10 beads (necklaces). The coin or baby is placed outside of the cake when you buy it, but it's your responsibility to hide it under a slice. Whoever picks that slice has rights to be the king or queen of the party."

The trinket also reminds the royal party-goer to serve King Cake at the next Fat Tuesday gathering, which they also must host.

"We've been doing them for seven years. When we first started doing them no one had seen them. It was a long process of education. They've started to catch on in metro Detroit," Pavlik said, adding that contemporary versions range from pecan praline-filled to cream cheese and bourbon-flavored.

"We stay pretty true to the kind of cake that has been around for years in New Orleans. You'll find French and Spanish King Cakes from the same tradition."

King Cake traditionally was served on Epiphany, the Christian observance held 12 days after Christmas that marks the three kings visit to the baby Jesus.

Epiphany gave way to the carnival season, which lasted until Lent.

"The carnival season was the ball season and these (King Cakes) were served during the grand balls," Pavlik said. "The king or queen could pick the

partners they wished to dance with. These balls were continuous activities. You could have one every week."

### AVAILABLE NOW

Pavlik began making and selling King Cakes last weekend in time for the Super Bowl and will have the traditional Mardi Gras sweet available through Fat Tuesday, Feb. 16.

He'll also sell fruit- or custard-filled Polish pastries, "paczki," but will buy them from a local doughnut-maker. He's taking orders on both King Cakes and paczki.

"We do carry extra in the store, but if you want to guarantee paczki or King Cake I highly recommend ordering ahead."

King Cakes, with necklaces and trinket, are \$15. Paczki are \$13 a dozen or \$1.25 a piece. Sunflour Bakehaus is located at 33250 Grand River Ave., in downtown Farmington; (248) 442-2360.

Pavlik said his bakery sells "quite a few" King Cakes to people who want a Fat Tuesday alternative to paczki.

"You can slice off a sliver of King Cake," he noted. "You have better portion control."

### BAKERY MUSIC

Who cares about portion control when you can polka the calories away?

"People have danced. They've polka danced in here. And they love it," said Bridget Domzalski, describing the annual scene on Fat Tuesday at her business, GM Paris Bakery in Livonia.

Joe Czapski will be on hand with music from 6 a.m.-6 p.m., at the business, located at 28418 Joy; (734) 425-2060.

But customers don't have to wait until Tuesday for a GM Paris Bakery-made paczki. Domzalski said she has been making "a couple of hundred dozen" a day this week, all while also making a full line of



Sunflour Bakehaus in Farmington decorates its King Cake with sugar in Mardi Gras colors.



Paczki is an annual treat at Sunflour Bakhaus in Farmington.

bakery items. By Saturday, the bakery will make only paczki "24 hours a day."

"It is busy. They'll be lined up out the door Tuesday, and on Monday, too."

GM Paris Bakery sells paczki for \$6.50 a half dozen, \$12 a

dozen or \$1.25 each.

Here's a sampling of other local stores with paczki or King Cake for Fat Tuesday:

- Joe's Produce Gourmet Market, 33152 W. Seven Mile, Livonia, has sold out every day since it began offering pac-

zki about a week ago. Debbie Warren, cake decorator for the store, suggests ordering ahead to guarantee they will be available in the fillings requested. Cost is \$6.49 a half dozen and \$1.29 each. (248)477-4333

- Heritage Bakery, 37458 Five Mile, Livonia, sells both King Cake and paczki and is open 5 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

"We started two weeks ago. People have been buying us out every day," said Ryan Sarb, who works behind the bakery counter. "The King Cake is more of a bread than a cake, but it does have a sweet taste. About one out of every 15 people who come in for paczki buy one." King Cakes cost \$12.95; the paczki are \$11.50 a dozen or \$1.25 each. (734) 464-1855

- Old Fashioned Bake Shoppe, 27427 Warren, Garden City, usually sells out of paczki around 1 or 2 p.m., on Fat Tuesday, according to owner,

Louie Simovski.

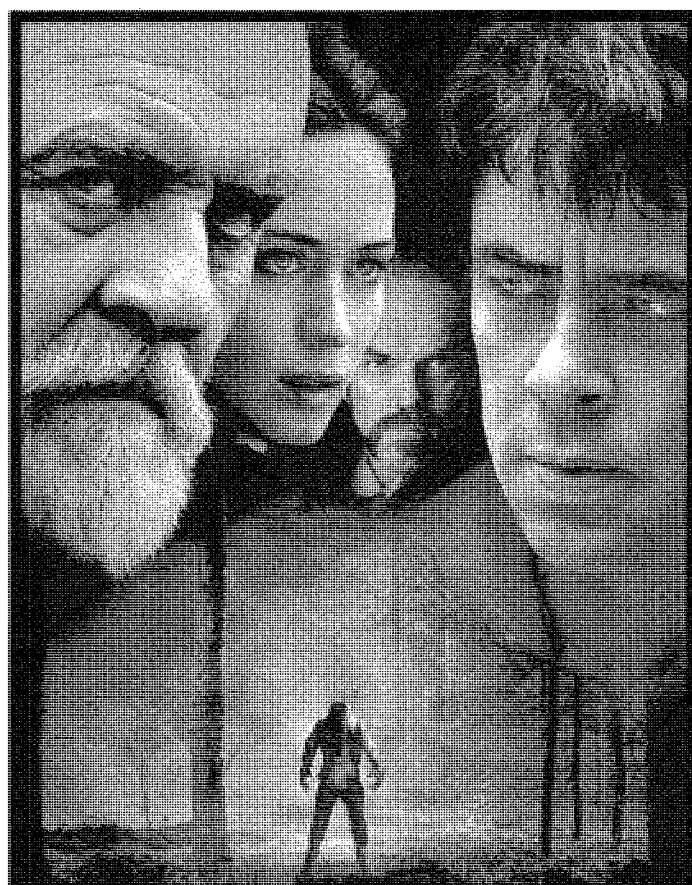
"The best way is to place an order," said Simovski, who admits a weakness for prune-filled paczki. He'll sell raspberry, apple, blueberry, cherry, custard and lemon in addition to prune paczki Monday and Tuesday. Cost is \$8.99 per dozen or 90 cents each. (734) 522-3010.

- Le Cakery Bake Shop, 844 N. Wayne Road, Westland will sell paczki with seven different fillings on Monday and Tuesday and is taking orders this week for both King Cakes and paczki. Owner Pauline Dimovski also said customers can special order buttercream filling for paczki. She'll open her bakery early both days, at 6 a.m. Monday and 5 a.m. Tuesday.

"We're known for our paczki," she said. "I tell you, they are so good."

They cost \$1 each or \$12 a dozen. (734) 326-4151

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## Bake a Fat Tuesday tradition

Want to try your hand at making Carnival King Cake? Here's the recipe Jeff Pavlik's uses at his Sunflour Bakehaus in Farmington. Don't forget to place a small plastic baby or plastic coin under the cake before you cut and serve it. Its recipient wins the king or queen title and responsibility for the next King Cake and Carnival party.

### CARNIVAL KING CAKE

- Cake dough
- 1/2 cup warm milk
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons butter at room temperature
  - 1 package active dry yeast
  - 1/2 cup lukewarm water
  - 1/2 cup white sugar
  - 1 egg
  - 1/2 teaspoons salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- Filling
- 1 1/2 tablespoons butter at room temperature
  - 1/2 cup white sugar
  - 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- Glaze
- 1 cup powder sugar
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons water

- Sugar decoration
- 1/2 cup of white sugar for each color
  - Purple, yellow and green food coloring
1. Warm milk on stove and combine with butter. Set aside until lukewarm.
  2. Place yeast in lukewarm water with 1 tablespoon of the sugar. Temperature of the water should be no more than 110 degrees. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
  3. Combine milk and yeast mixture in mixing bowl, whisk in the egg and add the remaining sugar, salt, and vanilla. Slowly add in 2 cups of flour, stirring continuously until a dough forms. Place dough on work surface and knead in the extra 1/2 cup of flour, adding small amounts of additional flour if needed to form soft, smooth and elastic dough. Knead for 10 minutes. If using a bread machine follow instructions for making a coffee cake.
  4. Place dough in a lightly oiled bowl. Cover dough and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour. When risen punch dough down, let it relax for 5 minutes, then stretch it into a large rectangular piece, approximately 9 by 11 inches.
  5. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
  6. Spread butter over entire surface of the dough. Sprinkle sugar over the entire surface and then the cinnamon.
  7. Fold dough into thirds, cut into three equal strips with a pastry cutter and braid. Let braid relax for several minutes then bring ends together to form an oval.
  8. Let cake rise in a warm spot until doubled in size, about 45 minutes.
  9. Bake for about 25 minutes until golden brown.
  10. Let cake cool completely. Prepare colored sugars. Mardi Gras colors are purple, green and gold. Mix the icing and spread over top of the cake and then sprinkle colored sugars in alternating pattern.

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# FOOD

## Tell your sweetie 'I love you' over dinner on Valentine's Day

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Candlelight, flowers and Sack Meal #3.

Cupid may be on a budget this year, but he's not skimping on style at local White Castle restaurants.

"They all do something a little different," said Diana Ford, district supervisor for White Castle. "It's something special and unique to each location. Each general manager creates their own aura."

"Some might have flowers in vases. Some do candles. Some bring in cider and do a toast. Some might have red tablecloths. They are all a little different."

"One of my stores last year made an arch with balloons. One store bought rose petals and sprinkled them on the floor and had flowers and balloons attached to them."

Although many sweethearts will head to more traditional eateries, all Detroit-area White Castles with dining rooms — including those in Redford, Canton, Livonia and Farmington Hills — are taking reservations for Sunday, Feb. 14, and they are "pretty full" Ford said. For reservations call (248) 477-1450 ext. 10.

The company has offered a sit-down meal served by wait staff — by reservation only — complete with decorations, on Valentine's Day since 1991. Ford said the event has been available in Michigan for about five years. The special day attracts loyal customers and twosomes who originally met at a White Castle and want to celebrate memories.

The dinner event is extended an additional hour, from 4-8 p.m., this year because Valentine's Day coincides with a Sunday, Ford said.

"We thought people would want to bring their kids." The menu doesn't change on Valentine's Day. Everything normally available — including Meal Sack #3 which includes 10 Slider hamburgers, two soft drinks and French fries for \$12.06 — can be ordered.

This year, everyone with a reserved place at the restaurant also will receive a free cupcake for dessert. "Some people think, oh, this is a joke. We're going to White Castle. Then once they get in there they say 'Oh my gosh, this is the best Valentine ever,'" Ford said.



SWEETHEART SPECIALS

suggestion for a romantic meal?

"The chef can prepare two different entrees and split them on two plates."

The pastry chef hasn't finalized the dessert menu but will offer a special, too.

Costanza suggests sweethearts visit the martini bar before their meal and stay after to hear keyboard player Paul Fitz entertain.

"Start with a martini. Then it's nice to have dinner and then move back into the lounge for dessert and music."

Make reservations for the restaurant, located at 39405 Plymouth Road, at (734) 254-0400.

With room for 250 customers, reservations for two generally aren't necessary at Amantea in Garden City, but Valentine's Day likely will be the exception.

Domenic Porco, owner, suggests them at least between 5-7 p.m., at his restaurant, 32777 West Warren Road. Call (734) 421-1510.

"We are having two dinners complete with two beverages for \$29.90," he said, describing the Valentine's Day special. "That's two prime rib dinners."

The special will include salad, coleslaw or soup, vegetable and two small cannoli.

### MIXED GRILL

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres await Valentine's Day diners at Fiamma Grille Steak and Seafood Restaurant in Plymouth.

"We'll put together a pairing of a couple of dishes, generally meat and seafood, simply grilled," said Ryan Yaquinto, manager, describing the special.

The restaurant, located at 380 S. Main, will be open from 4-9 p.m., Feb. 14. He recommends reservations at (734) 416-9340.

"We do have high back booths," he said, describing the most romantic seating at Fiamma Grille. "And we have a couple of window seats that are great for people

watching or weather watching, especially if it's snowing outside." Here's a sampling of other area restaurants for Valentine's Day dinner:

- Cafe Cortina, 30715 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills will be open Valentine's Day. Call for reservations, available after 6:15 and until 10 p.m., at (248) 474-3033.

- Antonio's Canton, 2220 N. Canton Center Road, Canton, will be open 1-9 p.m. Seating is on a first-come basis and reservations are taken only for parties of eight or more. (734) 981-9800

- Rose's Restaurant & Lounge, 201 N. Canton Center Road, Canton. Open noon-9 p.m. Sunday. (734) 981-9904.

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