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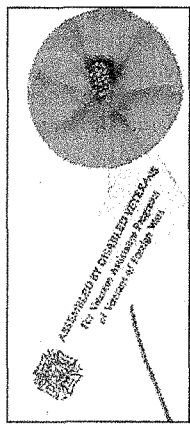


## AROUND TOWN

### Poppy sale

Bova VFW Post 9885 is holding its annual Buddy Poppy sales Thursday through Saturday, May 6-8.

Look for post members with the poppies at Ford and Hix,



Ford and Newburgh, Newburgh and Warren Road and Newburgh and Wayne Road throughout the sale days.

The VFW has been conducting the Buddy Poppy

Sale since 1922 and the poppies are assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. Money raised through the poppy sales go to veterans assistance programs.

### Fun walk/run

Time is running out to register for the 12th annual 5K Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by North Brothers Ford and the City of Westland.

The event will take place Saturday, May 15, starting at 9 a.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex on Ford west of Wayne Road.

The course is USA Track & Field certified and is a handicap accessible/flat course. Race refreshments, water and fruit will be available at checkpoints throughout the race and after the race.

There will be awards for overall male and female and the top three finishers in eight age groups — 1-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and over — in the 5K run, as well as awards for the top three finishers in the handicap group.

Participants who preregister by May 6 will receive a T-shirt. Preregistration is \$15 for adults by May 12. There will be an \$18 fee for those registering after that date. The registration for students age 18 and under is \$10. Registration will open at 8 a.m. the day of the event. To register, send a check, made payable to North Brothers Ford, to the dealership at 33300 Ford, Westland, MI 48185. For more information, call Jackie Marcacinni at (734) 524-1243 or send an e-mail to info@northbros.com.

Proceeds from the run/walk will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, a cancer research, education and treatment center in Detroit.

## Light vote expected in school election

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart is expecting the usual when it comes to the Tuesday, May 4, school election: Only 3-4 percent of registered voters to participate.

"The Wayne-Westland millage may bring out a few more, but not that many because it affects landlords and businesses, not homeowners," said DeHart.

On the ballot in Wayne-Westland is a request to renew an 18-mill nonhomestead tax. The tax raises \$19 million for the school district and is levied on commercial, industrial and some personal property like rentals.

"This is not a tax that people pay as homeowners," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "It's a tax built into the tax code in 1994 and has not been seen by voters since 1996. It's critical

to our school district."

Voters also will decide who will serve a four-year term on the school board: incumbent Trustee John Goci of Westland and challenger Karen Wilkie of Wayne.

Goci, owner of the US-12 Bar and Grill in Wayne, is seeking his first four-year term on the board after being elected to fill the remaining year of a term vacated by Frederick Weaver. Wilkie is a pharmacy techni-

cian who is making her first bid for elective office.

DeHart said there are 55,000 registered voters in the Westland portion of the school district and a majority of the votes cast in Tuesday's election will be by absentee ballots. She has sent out 3,500 absentee ballots for the election and received about 75 percent of them back.

Please see **VOTE, A4**

## 'It's truly been an honor'

### Ridener closes out 23-year career with police department

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to retirement, people usually are looking forward to that date and making plans for a long time.

Due to the early retirement program offered by the city, Westland Police Chief James Ridener will be retiring this week with 23 years of service. He hadn't been planning to retire at this time but that changed.

"This came up so fast with a short window to take advantage of it, we've had some officers already leave," said Ridener. "To retire is so personal, it's a life-altering decision. Usually, you go on your own terms, but these were dictated — the city had to do this. This is bittersweet for me. I've done this for 23 years. I've worked with a lot



After 23 years on with the Westland Police Department, the last three years as chief, James Ridener is retiring this week.

of great people."

An Allen Park native, Ridener joined the Westland Police Department in February 1987. While studying accounting and criminal justice at Michigan State University, he put himself through the Lansing Community College police academy.

"Most people who went to the academy in those days were sponsored (by a police department). I spent my last

\$2,000 on the academy," said Ridener. "You had one year after graduating to get certified. I applied at several departments and Westland was the first to offer me a job — that was important."

Having worked road patrol, Ridener moved to the narcotics unit in 1991 and worked there until 1994 when he returned to work as a patrol officer. "I enjoyed working narcotics. People

wouldn't recognize me with my ZZTop beard and hair down to my waist," Ridener said.

After being promoted to sergeant in 1996, he was a road supervisor for a few months before being assigned to run the Metro Street Enforcement Team, a plainclothes unit staffed by Westland, Garden City, Wayne and

Please see **RIDENER, A2**

## On the road again

### Nankin Transit fills need for seniors, handicapped

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether it's for shopping, doctor visits, a meal at a restaurant or bingo, senior citizens and handicapped people are able to get around thanks to rides from the Nankin Transit Authority.

"They are wonderful people at Nankin Transit," said Angeline Hotchkiss, a Westland resident whose daughter uses the bus service regularly.

A quadriplegic suffering from spastic cerebral palsy, 37-year-old Janice Hotchkiss uses

a Nankin Transit bus to go from her home in the area of Warren and Inkster roads to ARC of Dearborn.

"She has been going there for nine years. They pick her up and return her. They've always brought her home safely," Angeline Hotchkiss said. "It's so wonderful. You wouldn't believe it. It's like a big family. I can't say enough about them."

The door-to-door transportation and wheelchair lifts on each of the mini-buses operated by Nankin Transit allow Janice Hotchkiss

Please see **TRANSIT, A2**



Nankin Transit Authority Executive Director Richard Fernandez talks about the local bus service provided to seniors citizens and handicapped residents in Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Inkster.

## Index

- APARTMENTS ... C3
- AUTOMOTIVE ... C6
- CAREER BUILDER ... C1
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
- EDUCATION ... A4
- HEALTH ... B8
- NEIGHBORS ... B5-6
- OBITUARIES ... B7
- REAL ESTATE ... C2
- SPORTS ... B1

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## Fair has college info for students of all ages

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's never too early to start thinking about college.

That's the message behind the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' third annual College Fair slated for Wednesday, May 5, at Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne.

The Wayne Memorial High School TRIO Upward Bound Program in collaboration with the high school counseling department will hold the fair from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the high school media center. Representatives from more than 60 colleges, universities and trade schools will be on hand to talk to students noon-3 p.m. and parents and students 4:30-7:30 p.m.

During the day, there also will be two breakout sessions - one on NCAA initial eligibility geared for student athletes, the other on the Michigan Virtual School regarding online options for learning and expanding curriculum.

"The response from the colleges has been wonderful," said Jan Tomlinson, director of the federal TRIO Programs/Upward Bound. "They love to come to our college fair. A lot contacted us before we contacted them."

The fair is open to all Wayne-Westland parents and students from preschoolers to high schoolers and goes beyond offering information on college admissions and financing.

New this year is a com-

Please see **FAIR, A4**

### COLLEGE FAIR

**What:** The 2010 College Fair, sponsored by the Wayne Rotary Club, the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the TRIO Upward Bound Program at Wayne Memorial High School

**When:** noon-3 p.m. for students and 4:30-7:30 p.m. for parents, guardians and students on Wednesday, May 5

**Where:** Media Center of Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne

**What:** Representatives of colleges, universities and trade schools will be on hand to talk to students and parents about college. There will be on-site college registration available, information about financial aid, NCAA Clearinghouse representatives, Michigan Works! displaced workers' assistance, door prizes and give-aways.

**Information:** (734) 419-2256

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# RIDENER

FROM PAGE A1

Inkster officers.

"It was a fantastic unit and served the cities well. It was a very enjoyable job, it was one of the best jobs I ever had in the police department," said Ridener. "As a sergeant, I got to set the day-to-day operations, the targets for the day and the start times. Maybe Wayne would come in with

something that was a higher priority."

Recently disbanded due to budget cuts, MSET was a flexible unit that handled cases, such as those that closed the adult Melody Theater in Inkster and fugitive apprehension. In particular, Ridener recalled working to locate Peter Raub, who had fled after fatally stabbing his wife, self-described witch Veronica Kuclo-Raub, at their Garden City home. Raub was eventually captured in Los Angeles and later pleaded guilty to the crime.

Another case involving Westland Marine was the first

to use a continuing criminal enterprise statute and involved search warrants served as far away as St. Joseph Township in west Michigan.

Promoted to lieutenant in 2000, Ridener was a patrol supervisor until 2003 when he was assigned to supervise the Detective Bureau.

"I never expected to be chief. It wasn't until I got the rank of lieutenant that I really wanted to rise to the level of chief," said Ridener, who earned a master's degree in business administration with criminal justice leadership studies from Madonna University.

That opportunity to head the department came when then-Chief Daniel Pfannes retired and neither deputy chief put their name in to test for promotion. That opened the testing to lieutenants, including Ridener.

"I've loved my three years working for him. The city is going to be losing an incredible leader," said Deputy Chief Alan Ramsden, who will be sworn in as chief Wednesday. "A good friend is retiring." "I think he's done an incredible job. It's been a pleasure to work with him," said Mayor William Wild. "He was a 20-year veteran when he came

into the job and hit the ground running. The department didn't miss a beat."

In particular, Wild credited Ridener for technological upgrades in the department, such as a new enhanced 9-1-1 system and electronic ticketing.

"He has done a very good job going after grants," said Wild, noting a federal appropriation for in-car computers and pending grants that would fund three patrol officer positions.


On his last day as chief, Ridener will officially promote 14 officers including Ramsden as chief.

At 46, Ridener may be retired but he isn't ready to stop working. He has been teaching in the graduate program at Madonna University for five years and plans to get his resume out to agencies looking for a police chief or public safety director.

"It's truly been an honor to work for the city of Westland and to serve as chief here. Everything I have been is because of the city of Westland," said Ridener, who has been married nearly 21 years. He and wife Katie have a daughter, Alexis, 19.

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## TRANSIT

FROM PAGE A1

to attend her workshop program Monday, Wednesday and Friday — the only time she is able to go out without her parents.

"I don't know what we would do without them. My husband is retired, we're on a fixed income," Hotchkiss said. "Janice wouldn't be able to get to her program without Nankin Transit."

On a recent Monday, Marquette House assisted living residents Connie Vance and Virginia Chojnacki, both wheelchair users, were heading for a shopping trip to Walmart on a Nankin Transit bus.

"I go shopping most Mondays. We go to Meijer, Kmart, Target, Walmart and Kroger; it rotates,"

Vance said. "On Tuesday, I go to the Friendship Center for bingo. It's easy to get on, easy to get off."

The bus service allows Marquette House residents, most of whom are no longer able to drive, to shop for items themselves, said Peggy Helbling, activities director.

"We have a group that goes out to eat every other Friday. We get up to 10 people," said Helbling, who was accompanying the shoppers on their outing. "The bus is a lifesaver for us."

Formed in July 1976, the Nankin Transit Authority serves Westland, Garden City, Inkster and Wayne. Each community provides a financial contribution to match Act 51 gas tax funding and has a representative on the Nankin Transit board.

The bulk of Nankin

Transit funding comes from a \$273,000 subsidy from the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation. Nankin Transit also receives \$233,000 from the SMART millage levied in the participating communities. Other revenue comes from the fare box — riders pay \$2 each way.

"We don't take the general public, there is no room. Seniors and handicapped people are our priority, especially seniors with medical appointments," said Richard Fernandez, Nankin Transit director. "We could increase the fare, but that would push aside people."

Nankin Transit gets additional revenue from the Services To Enhance Potential, or STEP program, which uses the buses for a regular schedule to transport handicapped participants to their workshops.

The buses are also hired to help transport Meals on Wheels.

"This is absolutely a good service, when you look at what we pay. I think we budget \$15,000 or so," Westland Council President James Godbout said. "Just in March of this year, we had 3,482 passengers. Taxis don't have lifts for wheelchairs or people who can't walk a couple of steps. The buses all have wheelchair lifts."

Nankin Transit provides mobility for seniors, Godbout said, so they can get to doctor appointments and shopping.

"This fiscal year isn't complete, but we are over 25,000 riders in Westland alone," he said. "That's less than a buck a ride. Our residents make very good use of Nankin Transit — more than 51 percent of the riders are from Westland."

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OLYMPIA GROUP

# Re-enactors turn out for village's Armed Forces Day



PHOTO COURTESY OF DWIGHT KOSLOWSKI

A weapons demonstration will be featured at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8 during Armed Forces Celebration Day at the Westland Historic Village.

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Re-enactors from five different American wars and weapons demonstrations will be on hand when the Westland Historic Village Park hosts the third annual Armed Forces Day Celebration Saturday, May 8.

The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the weapons demonstration scheduled for 2 p.m. About 10 re-enactors will represent the French and Indian War, the War of 1812, the American Civil War, World War I and World War II.

"Each of the guys will set up an area of camp or talk to visitors. They will represent what kind of things they would have carried," said Jeff Koslowski, vice president of the Westland Historical Commission which is hosting the event with the Westland Historical Society.

All of the weapons demonstrated will be operational but the re-enactors won't be firing live rounds.

"They will take their weapons out, talk about them and how many rounds they can fire. The majority of it is pretty informative," said Koslowski, a history teacher at the Henry Ford Academy.

There will also be indoor presentations this year with four speakers inside the Octagon House talking about the origins of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, food preparation, Civil War veterans from Nankin Township and women in World War II.

Last year, the Armed Forces Day Celebration drew about 100 people — double the turnout the first year. Koslowski is hoping to see that at least equal attendance this year for the event which has extended hours. Admission to the event is free.

"No. 1, we're trying to make the city aware that we're an historical attraction in their own back yard," Koslowski said. "We're open three hours a week. Our goal is not to compare with Greenfield Village."

Located on Wayne Road just south of Marquette, the Westland Historic Village Park includes the renovated Octagon House and the Rowe House, the current renovation project.

"We hope to turn that into the next Eloise museum. The Kay Beard Building has a fair amount of artifacts but we hold all the available records," said Koslowski. "We'd like to have the original artifacts. The story leaps out in Nankin and south-east Michigan."

Food and beverages will be available during the event.

On Saturday, May 15, the historic village park will be the site for the Westland Garden Club Spring Plant Exchange. Garden club members maintain the gardens at the village. Everyone is welcome to participate in the exchange 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information on the plant exchange, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Maureen at (734) 728-1232.

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## Salvation Army seeks models for fashion show

The Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center is holding a Mother's Day Fashion and Jewelry Show Friday, May 7, at the newly remodeled Tele Joy Family Thrift Store and Drive-Thru Donation Center on Telegraph at Joy in Dearborn Heights.

Shoppers, staff, local celebrities and associated businesses will be modeling Salvation Army Thrift Store fashions and accessories "found right off the rack" at the 7 p.m. show.

"People are blown away not only by the quality of clothing found in our thrift stores, but by the quality of our fashion shows," said Major John Aren, administrator of the Salvation Army's Romulus Adult Rehabilitation Center

and Family Thrift Stores. "The event will feature a 32-foot long runway with music and lights, the professional makeup artistry of local businesses and all the beauty and authenticity of a New York show captured by a professional photographer at the end of the runway."

Shopper moms and their families are the featured models for the evening. They can sign up at a Salvation Army Thrift store to be a part of the event. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for makeovers by local hair and facial artists.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic refreshments will be served, courtesy of local restaurants.

"The neat thing about our shows is that the fashions you

see modeled on the runway are items that people can actually afford," said Aren. "It's all the glitz and glamour of Fifth Avenue at prices way south of those found around the Manhattan shopping district."

The Salvation Army's Adult Recovery Center services supported entirely by the revenue from the six western Wayne County Family Thrift Stores. In addition to the Tele Joy Family Thrift Store and Drive-Thru Donation Center at 8525 Telegraph, Dearborn Heights, the Salvation Army also has thrift stores at 34620 Michigan Ave., Wayne, and at 28982 Ford, Garden City. For more information, visit the center's Web site at [www.romulus.satruck.org](http://www.romulus.satruck.org).

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# EDUCATION

## Madison students explore science at SPARK Day FAIR

FROM PAGE A1

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The baker man may mix it, beat it and pop it in a pan, but students at Madison Elementary School learned there was more to baking than the content of a nursery rhyme.

Chef Tony Paquette, head of the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, showed students there's more to a cookie than eating it as a presenter at the school's 13th annual SPARK (Science Plus Activities Reaching Kids) Day.

The three-hour program was held April 23 to let students explore such things as crime scene investigation with representatives of the Michigan State Police, delve into Bubbling Potions with Mad Scientist Fluorescent Fred Kline and do something for the environment by planting sunflower seeds.

The Westland Police K-9 officers and their dogs were there as the portable smoke house set up in the parking lot by the Westland Fire Department. PTA volunteers also worked with students to create "lava" lamps with oil and food coloring.

"Science is a part of baking," said Paquette. "There's chemical reactions like how baking soda reacts in the oven."

Paquette used yeast, sugar and water to show a chemical reaction and let students feel corn starch before and after it was mixed with water.

For fifth-grader Zachery Wilson, the program was right up his alley. He wants to be a chef when he grows up. "Hey, top chef, I've been watching you; yeah, on Channel 39," he called out.

The annual program is put on by the Madison PTA and was scaled back the day to 14 presenters and programs



John Evans of Mr. E's Party Animals lets Temiloluwa Myk-Ojomoladeget up close and personal with a snake.

students liked the best. It was the last time the school will have SPARK Day. The school is being closed in June.

"We stayed within a small budget and got things we know hey liked," said Dorothy Grace, who chaired SPARK Day. "In the past, the kids picked their programs, but this year they went as a classroom, they moved as a group to each of three classrooms."

John Evans of Mr. E's Party Animals entertained youngsters with tales about the critters he brought to the school, including Frank the turtle who hid in his shell as he was petted by each and every student and then needed help from Evans to flip over. Franklin, a land turtle, doesn't swim and eats food that they like, Evans told the students.

"Not junk food, no, it's big squiggly worms," said Evans, adding that Franklin is 14-15 years old and can live up to 40 years.

When Franklin had dif-

ficulty demonstrating how he can right himself, Evans flipped him over while distracting students with a "Hey, kids, there's Mrs. Kingston," referring to Principal Sandy Kingston.

Kline played the part of a mad scientist, mixing evil snickers with demonstrations of the reaction of dry ice with such things as water, sugar and soap.

Mixed in a beaker with dish soap, the dry ice bubbled and produced a flow that resembled lava leaving a volcano.

Dropped in sugar water and capped to produce a mist, he let students and guests taste it.

"Do you know what it tastes like?" he asked. "It tastes like a burp."

He also put dry ice in a beaker and capped it with a balloon, allowing the bubbles to fill it. When the dry ice evaporated, the bubbling stopped, but the balloon stayed inflated, giving him the perfect "instrument" to play *Happy*

*Birthday* to Kyle St. John.

Parent Allison Gidley, who has a son in kindergarten at the school, used her experience as a manager at Frank's to help students plant sunflowers.

"They asked me to come up with an activity, I told them that if I do anything, it'll have to be with flowers," she said. "I found the bee thing online and tied it together. It's not too technical, I want the kids to have fun with science."

In the library, where food was set out for the presenters and volunteers, Grace said SPARK Day was scaled back due to the school's closing. The PTA also decided not to do its second fund-raiser.

Students at the school will be divided between Wildwood and Schweitzer Elementaries, and the hope is that it can be picked up at the new schools.

"The principal has indicated that she's willing to do it," Grace said.

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munity resources section, organized by the district's Family Resource Center.

Representatives from DTE, the Oakwood Health Clinic, Salvation Army, Starfish Family Services and St. Vincent d' Paul will provide information on housing and needed family services. Michigan Works! also will be back, again providing information on No Worker Left Behind.

There also will be an Elementary Exploration Room for youngsters with reading materials, information on occupations, face painting and prizes.

"Students talk about where they're going to college and what they're going to do in school, so these little ones see how important it is to do well in school," said Tomlinson.

In its third year, the fair has steadily grown from 30 universities and colleges and 1,200 participants the first year. This year, Tomlinson is hoping for 3,000 participants, including parents, guardians

and students.

"That's one of our goals, we hope we reach it," she said. "The elementary, middle school and high school principals are on board and it's a cooperative effort between John Glenn and Wayne High."

Tomlinson's belief in exposing students to college information at all ages is echoed by teacher Reavis Olive who brought his 13-year-old son to the fair last year.

"He's now 14 and he knows what he wants to do and has career goal," said Olive. "I believe the college fair had a bigger impact on him than me talking about it at home."

The college fair, a requirement of the federal TRIO grant, is being sponsored by Upward Bound, the Wayne Rotary Club and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

"As we continue, more and more people are taking an interest in it and more students are participating in it," said Tomlinson. "I know it's going to be a great event, a fun event, not only for the people who come but for the participants."

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## VOTE

FROM PAGE A1

"That's they way it has been," she said. "Last year in the school election, we had two precincts where no one voted."

DeHart is handling the Wayne-Westland election in the Westland, Canton and Dearborn Heights portions of the school district. Wayne City Clerk Mary Carney is handling the election for that community as well as one precinct in the city of Romulus.

DeHart also handles the Westland portion of the Livonia Public Schools and is predicting a low voter turnout. Residents will fill one seat on the school board in the election.

Incumbent Steve King, who is CEO of the band Steve King and the Dittilies and a substitute teacher, is seeking a second four-year term on the board. He is being challenged by attorney Mark Johnson.

DeHart is urging residents to take the time to vote, pointing out that "voting is more than a right, it's a responsibility."

"It doesn't matter who's on the ballot, voting is your voice," she said. "If people realized that the school board handles more of their money than the city council, they might come out an vote. It's the truth, it's a little known fact."

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

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# News anchor's story inspires those seeking new careers

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wednesday marked a day for a career boost at "U Drive Success" at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

WDIV-TV news anchor Rhonda Walker helped provide some of that boost for attendees by reminding them that hard work, dedication and a positive attitude helps create opportunities. The event provided attendees with free workshops to learn more about starting their own business, enhancing resumes and interviewing skills, networking and other strategies for job hunting.

The "U Drive Success" program was a cooperative venture coordinated by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and its partners that included Schoolcraft College, Madonna University, Davenport University, Walsh College, University of Phoenix, Northwood University, Eastern Michigan University and ITT Technical Institute.

Walker reflected on leaving her pharmaceutical sales career and taking a huge cut in salary to begin on a quest to do something she wanted to do: get into broadcasting news.

She already knew the roads in Detroit from her experience as a sales rep and driving during rush hour. "I didn't want to be a traffic reporter, but I was going to be the best traffic reporter," Walker said of her first break in the business with Fox 2 News.

When supervisors see a strong work ethic from employees, those workers make themselves irreplaceable, she said.

It's easy to be complacent or lazy, she said. Facing challenges in moving into a new career can be daunting, she said. "Try to remove negative words," she said. Career changers should remind themselves that they "have everything (they) need," she said.

Determination and a positive attitude are crucial, she said. "Those are little seeds of hope and things that say I'm not going to

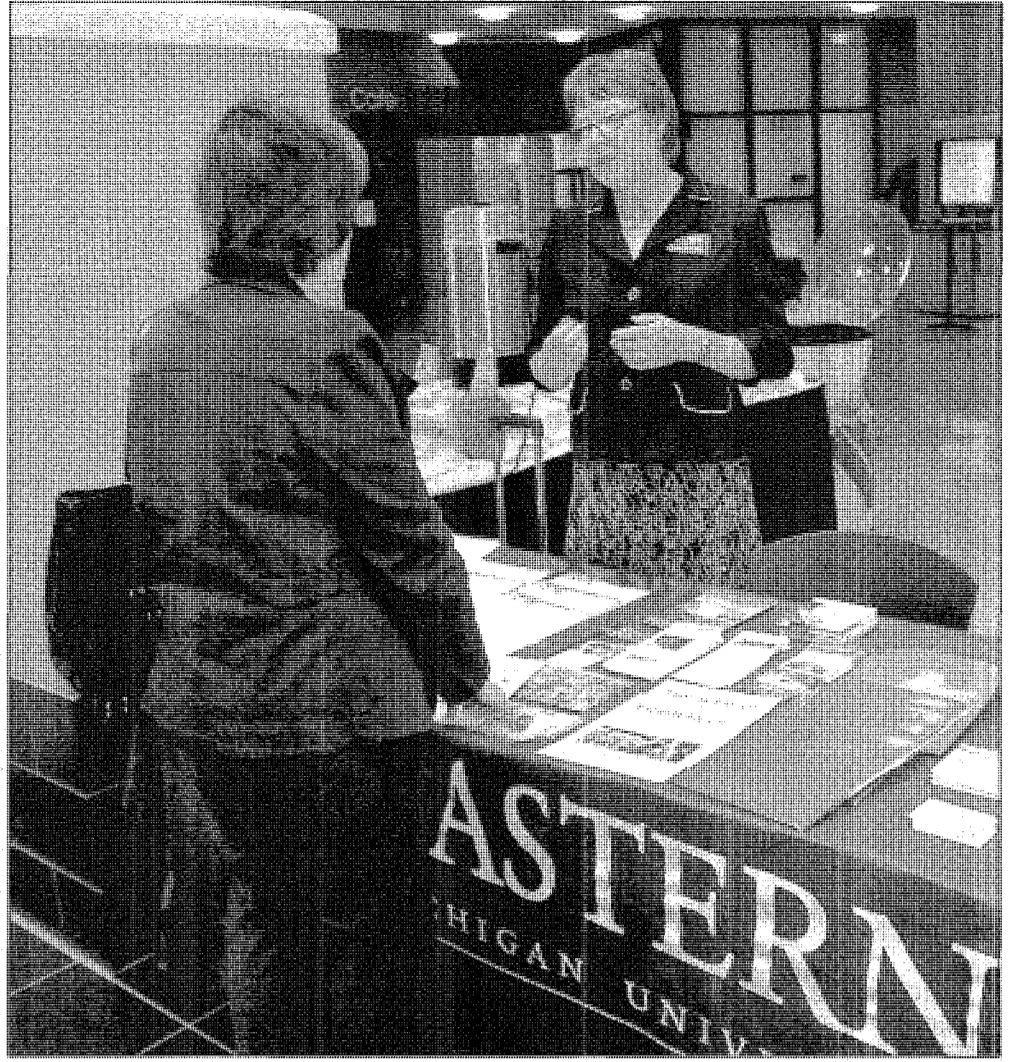
give up," Walker said. "The fear of not accomplishing can be so debilitating," Walker said. "It is so hard."

Attendees enjoyed Walker's presentation. Many looked to revamp their careers.

John Wagatha of Westland attended the day's sessions to reassess his career. He said the workshops were interesting and felt motivated after the speech. "I thought what she had to say was uplifting," he said.

Richard Zarczynski, also of Westland, attended the seminars to see what others are doing. "I want to make sure I'm on the right path," he said. "What I got from her speech is learning that what I've been doing the last year is the right thing to do."

Zarczynski wanted to become a DBA (database administrator) for SQL (sequence query language) and continue in his IT career. "I'd be more marketable," Zarczynski said. "You have to keep going and not give up. You can't give up."



Teri Skully talks with Cheryl Aubuchon from Eastern Michigan University about classes for a master's degree.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ann Kuneman of Northville, Tina Dziedzic and Jaclyn Doerr, both of Plymouth, are almost to the halfway point of the walk.

# Walkers move their feet to help March of Dimes

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rolland Walt, 85, of Farmington Hills had on his walking shoes Saturday, April 24, his 37th year in the March of Dimes March for Babies.

"To help babies, that's why we're here," said Walt, a retired business broker who walked with daughter Judy Perry of Commerce Township. "I'm just thankful I have three children. They're all well."

The walk kicked off at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland and went through Livonia and toward Plymouth Township. On the six-mile loop was Deanna Wright of Wayne with daughter Billie Wright-Ericson of Canton and Billie's husband, John. They were walking for John and Billie's children, Holland and Eden, who'll turn 6 this July.

"They were born at 24 weeks," said Wright, who's grateful for services and research of the March of Dimes. The babies weighed 1 pound, 3 ounces, and 1 pound, 5 ounces, at birth. "Both of them are doing great."

This is the team's fifth year walking, with some 60 walkers braving the rain, "give or take a couple."

Deanna Wright's 10 grandchildren include another set of preemie twins who weren't born as early. They're well.

### 'GOD HAS BEEN GOOD'

"All 10 of our grandchildren are walking today. We really don't take life for granted anymore. God has been good to us," she said.

Jennifer Waligora of Canton was team captain of about 12 walkers for her daughter, Jessica, who died at age 2 in 2000.

"We've been walking every year since she was born," she said of Jessica, born at 28 weeks and weighing 1 pound, 7 ounces. Their daughter was in the hospital NICU 90 days, dad Mark said.

The couple walked with their older children Amanda, 15, and Nolan, 9, in Jessica's memory. "It's just all the things they've contributed to the hospital," Mark said of the March of Dimes.

Jennifer remembers when Jessica was born. They felt helpless, so they decided to "get out



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonnie Fischer of Westland, Kim Strange, with kids Peyton and Breanna, of South Lyon, and Jackie Abraham of Canton walk in a light rain as part of the UAW/Detroit Diesel team.

and do something for her." Their daughter died the Friday before what would have been her first March for Babies.

"That really brought us coming back every year," Jennifer said.

Jackie Abraham of Canton and co-worker Bonnie Fischer of Westland were walking with Detroit Diesel/UAW Local 163, with the UAW among sponsors of the event. They were joined by family members. It was Jackie's first walk, Bonnie's fifth or sixth.

Her niece Breanna, among walkers, has dystonia, a neurological movement disorder characterized by involuntary muscle contractions and spasms that result in abnormal postures and movements. Jackie's late son had a chromosome disorder.

"It's just a good cause, a very good cause," Abraham said. "It's something that definitely needs to be done."

"They're so many different problems here," Fischer said of the several thousand walkers and their children.

As they returned to Nankin Mills, the hardy walkers were greeted by Shooter, the Plymouth Whalers mascot. They got a festive sendoff thanks to the Livonia Middle School pom team.

"We volunteered to come

cheer on the walkers," said Megan Mila, 13, of Livonia, a Holmes Middle School eighth-grader. "I think it's for a good cause and that it will go for good things."

She was providing the taped music for the team. Music was featured along the route to spur on the walkers.

Stephanie Reinemeyer of Milan walked with Team Ike and Ella as a co-captain of the group of about 80. Ella, her daughter, died young, as did Ike, son of another co-captain. The children died within a few months of each other.

"We're just trying to raise money and show our support and honor commitment," she said of the Milan Church of Christ friends. "We wish it was sunnier."

The local event was among others held to improve babies' health by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. The national goal is \$100 million, the state \$2.8 million. Metro Detroit's goal is \$1.2 million, Hines Park's \$300,000 and the city of Detroit location \$200,000.

### 'REALLY BIG YEAR'

"It's a really big year for us," said Sarah Collica, March of Dimes Metropolitan Detroit Division community director. The fund-raising event has

been held nationally since 1970, starting as "Walk America," and in Hines Park since the 1990s.

Last week, organizers were still calculating, but Collica said the Hines Park and metro Detroit goals were met and likely surpassed.

"How much we've surpassed it, we don't know. There are still some dollars rolling in," she said.

About 2,500 people walked in Hines Park, among the 8,000 metro participants.

"It was a great success," Collica said. "I was a little worried about the weather." Collica said.

Feet were a bit sore at the Hines Park walk's end, and stomachs empty, so the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth came to the rescue with hot dogs off the grill, manned by Roy Klay of Wayne.

Jeanne Baldwin of Plymouth Township and Mark Riegal of Canton were among some 15 club members volunteering with the food.

"We do it every year," she said. "We've got like 2,000 hot dogs."

"It's just a great cause and it's something we've been doing for years," Baldwin said of the March of Dimes, among the service club's youth-focused projects.

"We've been here since 5:30 this morning," Riegal added.

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**BUDGET HEARING NOTICE**

Academy of Westland will be holding its annual budget hearing on **May 14, 2010** at 5:00 p.m. The location will be at 300 Henry Ruff Rd., Westland, MI 48186. The budget is available for public inspection at the same address. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Openings Meetings Act.

Publish: May 2, 2010 OE0988942-2x1.5

**CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

**Petition #2699-M. Daniels-1750 Selma**  
Request for a 6' front yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct a 7' x 18' covered porch addition to the front of the home that would be located 19' from the front lot line; whereas Section 7:4.2 requires a minimum 25' front setback.

**Petition #2700-A. Catarino-7739 Cherrywood Dr.**  
Request for a 13' rear yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 to construct a 12' x 14' porch enclosure to the rear of the home that would be located 22' from the rear lot line whereas Section 7:4.2 requires a minimum rear yard setback of 35'.

**Petition #2701-C. Gratton-38557 Shelby Dr.**  
Request for a 1'6" rear yard fence height variance in order to install a 6' high privacy fence in the rear yard of the home which constitutes a side yard for the lot to the north; whereas Section 22-303 states that if a rear yard fence for one lot would constitute a side yard fence for an adjoining lot due to the direction in which the two lots face, the maximum height specified in subsection c of this section (4'6" in height) shall be applicable to the entire circumference of the rear yard involved.

**Petition #2702-D. Gushard, 37434 Beechwood**  
Request for a 2.2' front yard setback variance from Ordinance 248 to construct a 6' x 17' covered porch addition to the front of the home that would be located 22.8' from the front lot line whereas Section 7:4.2 requires a minimum front yard setback of 25'.

**Petition #2703-C. Miller-35251 Webster**  
Request for a detached accessory structure variance from Ordinance 248 in order to construct an above-ground pool in the front yard of the home whereas Section 7:4.3(c) states that a detached accessory structure must be a minimum of 10' behind the rear building line of the principal structure.

Publish May 2, 2010 OE098897 2x1

# Who we support in Tuesday's school election

On Tuesday, May 4, voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the Livonia Public Schools, which takes in the northern portion of Westland, will go to the polls to decide who should represent their interests on the Boards of Education and, in the case of Wayne-Westland, decide if an 18-mill non-homestead tax levy should be renewed.

Interest in school elections has dwindled over the years since the passage of Proposal A, but we urge voters to take the time to go to the polls. Members of the school board represent the interest of the residents, students and employees. They do not handle the day-to-day operations of the district, but chart the course that the district, through the superintendent and his administrators, will follow.

## WAYNE-WESTLAND

In Wayne-Westland, school board incumbent

John Goci of Westland is being challenged by Karen Wilkie of Wayne.

We believe Goci, who is completing his first full year on the board, should be elected to the four-year term.

There is a place on the board for Goci, who asks questions and gets information that residents need to hear about issues facing the district and the decisions being made. However, we believe to better serve his constituents, Goci needs to move beyond the rhetoric of huge salaries and provide ideas and suggestions how the district can save money and survive the next few years without drastic cuts to the educational program.

The 18-mill tax renewal represents a quirk in Proposal A. The millage is not a new tax nor is a tax on primary residences. It is not levied on homes, but rather commercial, industrial and some personal property in the



John Goci

district. It raises more than \$19 million in revenue.

Its passage is important to the future of the district. Without that revenue, there would have to be drastic cuts made.

We recommend voters return **JOHN GOCI** to the school board and strongly urge resident to vote **YES** on the 18-mill tax renewal.

## LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In the Livonia school district, incumbent school board member Steve King is being challenged by Mark Johnson for a four-year term.

Like Goci, there is a place on the Livonia school board for King. He is the one board member most likely to express the opposing viewpoint and question the status quo. Often,

he is the only one to vote no on an issue.

Some of the issues he battles other board members over aren't as relevant as others, and there are times when he carries his dissident role too far. We believe he needs to be less divisive and look for common agreement where he can.

We think King fills an important role on the board and is the stronger, more qualified candidate. We encourage voters to re-elect **STEVE KING** to another four-year term.



Steve King

These are troubling times for education, and people need to be involved in the educational process. We urge residents to go to the polls on election day. They will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in both school districts.

## A hidden agenda?

Is Wayne-Westland school board Trustee John Goci confused or just ignorant? From reading his comments about the superintendent's evaluation in Thursday's *Observer*, I'm not sure.

I'm not commenting on his decision to vote "no" on the superintendent's annual performance evaluation. But Goci should know that the evaluation and any pay raise and/or contract extension, that while related, are two separate issues.

Goci is also quoted as saying that Superintendent Greg Baracy has a "perpetual" contract. Not true. Baracy has a contract that expires in four years, unless the school board extends it.

Goci says that Baracy, who is working under a salary freeze, should have a 10 percent pay cut. That's easy to say, but financially it is nonsense. For the school board to have funds for a first-year teacher, the board would have to slash Baracy's salary at least 20 percent. For a high seniority teacher, the pay cut would have to be at least 30 percent. In reality, if that happened, Dr. Baracy wouldn't be applying for food stamps and one more teacher added to the faculty wouldn't amount to a hill of beans, educationally speaking.

Based on my 42 years of covering suburban school boards as a community newspaper editor, including 33 1/2 with the *Observer Newspapers*, of which 22 were with the *Westland Observer*, it is clear that Mr. Goci seems to be pursuing another agenda that has nothing to do with performance evaluations or salaries. Invariably, when a school board splits on a superintendent's evaluation, the administrator simply updates his or her resume and seeks employment with another school district. Any money saved at the moment would be spent for a professional search committee to find a replacement.

I have observed Dr. Baracy for many years and I am sure that he could resign anytime he wants and become a well-paid educational consultant. Others have done that — and they are not starving.

If Mr. Goci's real intention to encourage Baracy to resign, then the board trustee should be aware that his actions may have unintended consequences.

**Leonard Poger**  
Westland

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Westland Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

**Fax:** (313) 223-3318

**E-mail:** smason@hometownlife.com.

**Blog:** You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

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

## We need Steve King

I urge all voters to come to the polls Tuesday, May 4, to support Steve King. Mr. King may not always be perfect in his delivery to express himself at the board table, but he always questions when needed, educational processes, contracts and financial issues when they arise. Our children and community need every opportunity of support behind them and I believe that Steve King is our children's "union leader." Our children and families seem to be the ones shortchanged under every budget cut. How many times, especially at the elementary level, are their issues? How many times do your children come home from school with work to be completed and they don't have a textbook to reference? Study guides and reference materials created by LPS are incomplete. Some of our current board members could never believe that there is anything wrong with the educational processes that we have in place for our students; however, I feel different.

Our teachers do a very good job with the tools they have, but struggle because they have to do without. Our students and teachers need and deserve more at the classroom level. In my opinion, some members of our board keep their heads in the sand or fall into being manipulated by our administration. I really believe that some of the current board members really can't understand when or why Mr. King asks questions. But as a board member that's part of your job not to accept a proposal or project because it's expected and to think outside of the box.

As a community we have a responsibility too. We need to make sure we support our children by

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

taking a few minutes of our time to vote. We can always find some excuse not to go to the polls, can't we? We are too busy, don't feel like it, the kids have soccer, baseball or we're just too lazy to take five minutes to go to the polls to make our vote count. Remember last year's election when Mr. Spence lost by six votes? We won't have anyone else to blame but ourselves when Dr. Liepa comes up with the next "plan" for our district. What will be next? I'm sure we won't find out until after the school board election, will we?

**Eileen McDonnell**  
Livonia

## Johnson is the best choice

I am proud to endorse Mark Johnson for Livonia school board trustee. Experience has shown that we need leaders who bring their own independent thinking to the table, but are willing to work together with their co-trustees to make difficult decisions to move the district forward. The last several years of reduced funding are continuing to force the district, the city and families to do more with less. Each individual voter should decide what characteristics and values make a good leader and board trustee.

Mark is a product of Livonia Public Schools. He and his wife, Rose, have chosen Livonia Public Schools to help educate their children. Mark, the father of twins (one in our general education program and one who went through one of our exemplary special education programs), would bring his practical experiences in both our general and special education programs to the board table.

Mark has a record of volunteerism in our community that would bring a multitude of positive experiences in working on behalf of our youth to the school board. Serving at the bequest of three Livonia mayors, Mark has been a productive and engaged member of the Livonia Parks & Recreation Commission for 22 years, leading the group as chairman for the past six years. Mark has gained valuable experience in working collaboratively with the four other members of the commission, as well as various community groups such as the Livonia Junior Athletic League, Livonia Hockey Association and various soccer organizations, to make our city one of the best for youth sports and recreation. Mark and his fellow commissioners' contributions were instrumental in bringing us the reality of our Recreation Center, a place for our youth and families to have great opportunities to interact in a healthy and productive environment.

As an attorney, Mark has built a successful practice with his partners over the past several years. His professional and business experiences as an attorney and mediator are important qualities that will be an asset to our current board trustees. Since board trustees do not possess line-item veto rights, many of the issues and contracts brought before the board require collaboration in order to accomplish the goal of the district — offering the best possible educational programs for our students.

I hope you will find that Mark's experiences, professionalism and dedication to our community make him the best choice to help lead our district through these difficult times. You can learn more about Mark at [www.citizensformarkjohnson.com](http://www.citizensformarkjohnson.com).

Please join me in voting for Mark Johnson for Livonia school board trustee on Tuesday, May 4.

**Lynda L. Schell**  
Livonia

## King an independent voice

I am supporting Steve King for re-election to the Livonia school board. Mr. King has demonstrated over the past four years his commitment to and passion for this district. He does his research, studies each issue and votes with the best interests of the students in mind. The school administration has made some poor decisions in the past few years that have caused irreparable harm to this district. Mr. King has consistently questioned the actions of the administration and offered alternative ideas to address the many problems facing this district. He is always willing to listen to the citizens and is often the only board member who will respond to e-mails, phone calls and letters regarding their concerns.

Mr. King understands that the role of the board member is to ask questions and hold the administrators accountable for their actions. He understands that simply rubber stamping the desires of the administration does not necessarily mean what is best for the students. He understands that he works for the people in the district and not the administration. And finally, he understands that it is possible to be critical of the district and administration and still be immensely proud of the accomplishments of our students and teachers.

An independent voice on the board, Mr. King has the integrity and courage to stand up for what he believes. Please join me in voting for Steve King on Tuesday, May 4.

**Lindsay Spence**  
Livonia

## Healthy Kids

Making a Difference  
One Step at a Time

Garden City Hospital and the Garden City School System are teaming up to instill the values of a healthy lifestyle in the elementary students of our district. Our program promotes good eating habits, exercise, and good citizenship through a fundraiser designed to benefit our entire community. Our goal is to raise money for pieces of new playground equipment in Garden City Park for the children.

We are asking local area residents to join in helping our kids achieve their goals. Please use the donation form below to help "make a difference, one step at a time."

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Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about additional ways to support Garden City Hospital.

Please e-mail be acknowledgement of my donation

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For more information, please call Joyce Barszcz at (734) 634-7308 or email [jbarszcz@spi-pcs.com](mailto:jbarszcz@spi-pcs.com).

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## The Works Progress Administration remembered

During the Great Depression, 13 million Americans were without work. In order to help remedy this situation, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, otherwise known as Executive Order 7034.

This act created the largest public-assistance program in our country's history with the institution of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The idea behind this relief measure was to provide people with jobs, not just handouts. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the creation of the WPA.

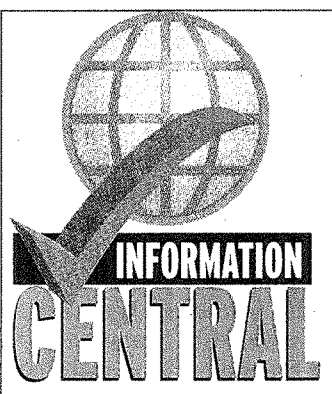
The WPA lasted for eight years, cost the government almost \$11 billion, and employed 8,500,000 men and women. Projects were decided upon based on their lasting benefit to the country. Workers constructed highways, bridges, dams, schools, airports and tunnels. During its existence, 651,000 miles (1,047,000 km) of roads, 125,110 buildings and 78,000 bridges were built.

Creative professionals also were able to find jobs through the arts programs. Artistic types were able to paint murals, produce music and theatre, create sculptures, and write state travel guides and national surveys. There is virtually no area of this country that was not affected by the WPA.

Even with all of its accomplishments, the WPA still remained controversial. Conservative critics said the program was wasteful and that the workers were lazy. Unemployment fell in 1937 and Congress started cutting back funding for it. By 1938, unemployment figures rose again and funding was increased to previous levels.

In the 1940s, World War II drew near and with it came the wartime boom. With the increase in employment, the WPA was no longer needed. On June 30th, 1943, the program was terminated by presidential proclamation.

To learn more about the Works Progress Administration and its accomplishments, check out Nick Taylor's book, "American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work." Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123,



or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at [www.westland.lib.mi.us](http://www.westland.lib.mi.us).

### Highlighted Activities

**Understanding Fibromyalgia - A Holistic Approach to Chronic Pain and Fatigue:** 7 p.m. May 4

Learn safe, effective and natural alternative methods for addressing Fibromyalgia and chronic pain symptoms. Join Dr. Brian K. Brackney of the Foundation for Wellness Professionals as he sheds light on this very timely topic. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the library at (734) 326-6123 or visit.

**Poetry Group:** 7 p.m. May 5, age 18 and up

Interested in reading, discussing, and writing poetry? Please join us for one of our sessions, whether you're a first-time writer or a serious wordsmith. Sign up by inquiring at the Reference Desk. Check out our blog at [www.westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com](http://www.westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com)

**Friday Night Movie Madness:** "Crazy Heart," 7 p.m. May 7

Bad Blake is a broken-down, hard-living country music singer who's had way too many marriages, far too many years on the road and one too many drinks way too many times. And yet, Bad can't help but reach for salvation with the help of Jean, a journalist who discovers the real man behind the musician. Starring Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal. Rated R. No registration is required. This is an After-Hours program. The library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**Zumba Dance Party:** 2 p.m. May 8

It's back by popular demand! Join instructor Lisa Davis-English in some Latin-inspired moves that are sure to get you moving in time for spring. Space is limited, so please pre-register at the Reference Desk, or call (734) 326-6123

**Rescheduled - Innocence Project with Ken Wynnemko:** 7 p.m. May 11

Ken Wynnemko was accused and convicted of a crime he did not commit. He spent 10 years in prison but was exonerated of the crime after attorneys from the Innocence Project. A group dedicated to using DNA samples to overturn wrongful convictions, came to his aid and pointed out discrepancies in his case. Come hear Ken and his attorney talk about the experience and what they are doing now to help others in similar situations. Sign up at the Reference desk to reserve your seat. A Certified Sign Language Interpreter will be provided.

**Job Seekers Lab:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

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

**Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library:** 7 p.m. every Wednesday.

Everyone welcome, including crocheters. Special Demo: Picking Up Dropped Stitches. Materials Provided.

**Chess Group:** 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays.

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

Information Central was compiled by Andrea Perez, reference librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

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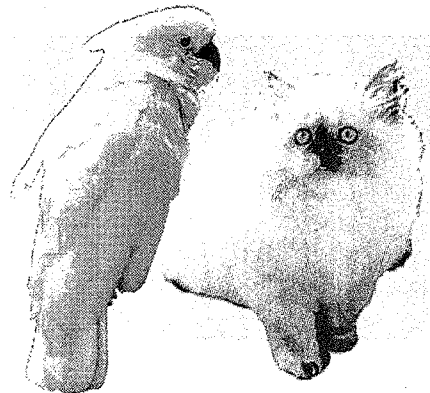
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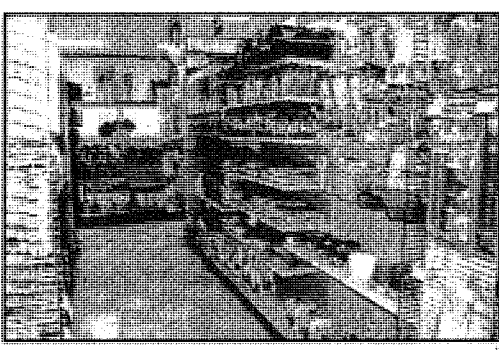
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GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATIONAL GIRLS TRACK MEET April 29 at Franklin TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Churchill, 117 points; 2. Franklin, 77; 3. Stevenson, 60.

Erickson (S), 28:12; 5. Scott (F), 28:32. 400: 1. Kelly (C), 1:03.5; 2. Raisanen (C), 1:03:7; 3. Verleye (S), 1:04:41; 4. Mallory Church (F), 1:05:93; 5. Brenna Gabrielson (S), 1:06:15.

(LC), 15-5:75; pole vault: 1. R. Engstrom (P), 8-6; 2. Lindsey Kreutzman (LC), 8-6; 100-meter hurdles: 1. M. Lewis (P), 16:1; 2. J. Raisanen (LC), 19:6; 3. P. Farnstrom (LC), 19:9; 300 hurdles: 1. Molly Jarvis (LC), 53:9; 3. S. McCall (LC), 54:5; 100 dash: 1. Heinzelman (LC), 12:8; 2. Demi Crossman (LC), 13:4; 3. Jarvis (LC), 13:7; 200: 1. Lewis (P), 25:9; 2. Megan Kelly (LC), 27:0; 400: 1. Knox (P), 1:04:3; 2. Kelly (LC), 1:04:6; 3. Dusablon (LC), 1:08:1; 800: 1. N. Traitses (P), 2:40:4; 2. Tiffany Jarvis (LC), 2:41:3; 3. Michelle Azar (LC), 2:46:9; 1,600: 1. Sara Kroll (LC), 5:30:0; 2. Kerrigan Riley (LC), 5:31:0; 3. Bethany Pilat (LC), 5:36:0; 3,200: 1. P. Green (P), 12:48:3; 2. Alexis Hickson (LC), 12:53:4; 400 relay: 1. Churchill (Cochran, Crossman, Heinzelman, Liz Lerner), 53:8; 800 relay: 1. Churchill (Kelly, Heinzelman, Crossman, Jarvis), 1:50:8; 1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth, 4:24:5; 2. Churchill, 4:52:6; 3,200 relay: 1. Churchill (Riley, T. Raisanen, Kroll, Pilat), 1:07:6.

Sarnecky goal gives Blazers 1-0 win

Livonia Ladywood notched its first girls soccer victory over Livonia Churchill since 2001 with a 1-0 victory Friday at home. Dominique Sarnecky scored what proved to be the game-winning goal in the fourth minute.

GIRLS SOCCER most important week of the season. Ladywood takes on Bloomfield Hills Marian, ranked No. 3 in Division 2, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday home. PARKWAY 2, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 0: In a game played in a steady rain Thursday, host Sterling Heights Parkway improved to 3-1 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division with a win over Lutheran High Westland (2-4-2, 2-2-1).

The Blazers fell behind 1-0 in the 20th minute on a goal by Lauren Jbara of Notre Dame Prep. Brennan then tied it up in the 33rd minute on a penalty kick after Morgan Chops was fouled in the box. The Blazers went ahead for keeps with one minute left to spare before halftime as Dominique Sarnecky notched her first career goal off an assist from Kelly Capocchia.

GIRLS TRACK FROM PAGE B1

Churchill coach Pat Daugherty said. "Kerrigan has a lot of ability, but I was surprised she ran that well passing Megan McPherson (of Franklin), which says a lot because McPherson is a great runner." The Chargers, who also took 4 x 800 relay in 9:59.01, also had several other noteworthy performances.

said. "They had nine (firsts), we had four and Stevenson had four. In this meet, the six points is a big deal." The Patriots also captured 4 x 100 relay as Jackie Lane, Natalie Modes, Jen Mueller and Kathryn Chinavare went 53.56.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 7 LIVONIA STEVENSON 2 April 28 at Churchill No. 1 singles: Laura Gumper (LS) defeated Paige Fallu, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1; No. 2: Nicole Kruse (LC) def. Ashley Benvenuti, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Ani Cooper (LC) def. Melissa Martinez, 6-3, 6-1; No. 4: Mara Karagozian (LC) def. Taylor Tincham, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS LIVONIA CHURCHILL 3 CANTON 3 April 27 at Churchill No. 1 singles: Paige Fallu (LC) defeated Megan Leung, 7-5, 6-1; No. 2: Nicole Kruse (LC) def. Taylor Lppler, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3; No. 3: Mara Karagozian (LC) def. Jacklyn Hollingsworth, 6-4, 6-3; No. 4: Sydney Liedel (Canton) def. Shelby Cohen, 6-1, 6-0.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 3 April 27 at Wayne No. 1 singles: Angelica Woods (LF) def. Morgan Greig, 6-1, 6-0; No. 2: Chauna Gibson (LF) def. Cailee Parendo, 2-6, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5); No. 3: Stephanie Tomlin (WM) def. Kelsey Sitarski, 6-2, 6-2; No. 4: Xi Yan Wang (WM) def. Annie McLeod, 6-4, 6-4.

GIRLS TRACK

Churchill coach Pat Daugherty said. "Kerrigan has a lot of ability, but I was surprised she ran that well passing Megan McPherson (of Franklin), which says a lot because McPherson is a great runner." The Chargers, who also took 4 x 800 relay in 9:59.01, also had several other noteworthy performances.

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BOYS TRACK RESULTS

LIVONIA CITY BOYS TRACK & FIELD MEET April 29 at Stevenson TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Stevenson, 94.5 points; 2. Franklin, 91; 3. Churchill, 39.5; 4. Clarenceville, 31.

BOYS GOLF RESULTS 4-0 KLAASouth Division; Churchill, 1-2 overall, 1-2 KLAASouth. SOUTH LYON 158 LIVONIA STEVENSON 160 April 26 at Fox Creek South Lyon scorers: Cody Tubbs, 38 (co-medalist); Alex Waybra, 39; Derek Krauss, 40; Lucas Copp, 41 each; Sam Lebonski, 42; Travis Tubbs, 45.

STEVENSON FROM PAGE B1

school record for career homers (11) and RBI (80). And to top it off, Sorenson excels in the classroom with a 3.99 grade-point average and a 29 ACT test score.

BOYS TRACK FROM PAGE B1

made 43 (feet), and then wins it," Stevenson coach Scott Shaw said. "Will Burek winning the 110 and 300 hurdles and getting second in the long jump was a big day. And Matt Williams had a nice day, too. He was on both our 4 x 200 and 4 x 400 relay teams, and he also won the 400.

a pair of individual wins from junior Austin Jones, who captured the 1,600 (4:40.42) and the 3,200 (10:16.82). As did Stevenson, the Patriots won two relays including the 4 x 100 (44.2) and the 4 x 200 (1:31.79).

Do Not Forget Mother's Day May 9th LUNCHES Mon.-Sat. 11-4 1/2 lb. Burger w/Fries..... \$4.75 8 oz. N.Y. Strip w/Potato & Vegetable..... \$5.95 Entree Salads.... \$6.25

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# Zebras sweep rival Glenn in DH; Spartans pull out suspended win

Wins have been hard to come by so far this season for both the Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn baseball teams.

On Wednesday, the two struggling teams met for territorial bragging rights in a KLAASouth Division doubleheader with host Wayne winning both ends, 3-2 in eight innings and 4-2.

The Zebras improved to 4-8 overall and 3-6 in the division, while Glenn remains winless at 0-12 and 0-9.

Pinch hitter Kyle Casey delivered the game-winning RBI single for the Zebras in the opener after singles by Jacob Lefler, Shane Wilson and Jake White (RBI) tied it in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Lefler paced Wayne's 11-hit attack going 3-for-4. Shane Kommer Shane Wilson also added two hits.

James Nutt, who pitched the eighth, got the win in relief of Wayne starter Zach Lloyd, who went the first seven innings, allowing just four hits and four walks while fanning seven.

Rob Schurig was the losing pitcher in relief of starter Spencer Dowd, who went the first seven innings allowing nine and a walk to go along with nine strikeouts.

Caleb Clenney and Andrew McGrath each had RBI sacrifice flies for the Rockets.

In Game Two, White pitched six solid innings and Tyler

## KLAASBASEBALL

McCurry came on for the save to complete the sweep for the Zebras.

White allowed just four hits and walked two. He also helped his own cause going 2-for-4 with two RBI.

Losing pitcher Colton Lipinski went five innings, allowing three runs on three hits. McGrath finished up.

Clenney went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Dowd added an RBI sacrifice fly for the Rockets.

**STEVENSON 2, SOUTH LYON 1:** In a game suspended from April 21 doubleheader with the score tied 0-0 after three innings, Livonia Stevenson (13-1, 8-1) earned a dramatic victory in the bottom of the seventh inning over the host Lions (7-7, 3-5).

South Lyon took a 1-0 lead in the top of the seventh, but Stevenson's Brendan Hayes answered with a homer and Tyler Lynch came through with the game-winning RBI single after Troy Bodtke had taken first after a passed ball on a strikeout.

Winning pitcher Evan Piechota completed all seven innings, allowing just five hits and a pair of walks while fanning 10.

Ryan Finn, the losing pitcher, also went all seven. He allowed three hits, walked five and struck out seven.

Collin Tittle and Caesar Sabuda each collected two hits for the Lions.

**CHURCHILL 12-11, FRANKLIN 1-3:** In a KLAASouth Division twin-bill Wednesday, visiting Livonia Churchill (10-6, 6-3) collected a total of 24 hits to sweep Livonia Franklin (7-8, 4-5).

Joe Williams went 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored to pace Churchill's five-inning, 12-1 mercy-rule win over the Patriots.

Christian Leathley added two hits, two RBI and two runs, while Troy Bogenschutz also added two hits in the victory.

Winning pitcher Steven Hovermale, a senior left-hander, went all five innings. He allowed just two hits, walked five and struck out one.

Losing pitcher Joel Trudell gave up seven runs on seven hits. He walked four and struck four in 4.1 innings before giving way to Nick Hopson.

In the nightcap, Churchill rolled to an 11-3 victory as Leathley belted a 2-run homer in the fourth inning.

David Harris also went 3-for-3 with a double, two RBI and two runs scored. Stephen Foster added three hits, scored three times and knocked in two.

Winning pitcher Ben Matigian went all seven innings for the Chargers, scattering eight hits and three walks. He struck out seven.

Losing pitcher Dan Muller, who lasted 2.1 innings, went 3-for-3 at the plate and scored a run.

Steven Wells also collected two hits as the Patriots dropped their fourth straight.

**FRANKLIN 12, LINCOLN PARK 2:** Steven Wells went 3-for-4 with a double, triple and four RBI Friday as host Livonia Franklin (8-8) snapped a four-game losing skid with a win over the Railsplitters (6-10).

Joel Trudell also went 3-for-3 with a triple and RBI, while Will Kramer chipped in with two hits and three RBI.

Freshman Josh Gorman, who went the first 3.1 innings in the mercy rule victory, got the victory. He allowed two hits, walked five and struck out three without giving up a run.



## Hoop champions

Livonia North, a team of fifth-graders, captured five straight games to win the 16-team March Madness tournament held March 20-21 in Pinckney. Livonia North defeated host Pinckney in the championship game, 40-33. Members of Livonia North include (bottom row, from left): Nate Leach, Craig Jakacki, Jack Bushart; (middle row, from left) Scott Findlay, Dillon Champagne, Chris Tanderys, Matt Harding, Nick Poulos, Alec Gorman, Jacob Redd, Cade Bunton; (top row, from left) coaches Dennis Bushart, Joe Jakacki and Brian Bunton.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP BASEBALL**  
**Monday, May 3**  
 Salem at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
 Novi at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Canton, 4 p.m.  
 South Lyon at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 S.L. East at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Hamtramck at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, May 4**  
 Luth. Westland at A.A. Greenhills, 4:30 p.m.  
 Ypsi Calvary at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
 Churchill at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.  
 Franklin at Canton (2), 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Novi (2), 4 p.m.  
 Plymouth at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m.  
 Oak Park at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, May 6**  
 Wayne at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.  
 Huron Valley at Ply. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 8**  
 (all double-headers unless noted)  
 Gibraltar Carlson Invitational, 10 a.m.  
 Ypsi Lincoln Tournament, 10 a.m.  
 Renaissance at Luth. Westland, 1 p.m.  
 Lakeland Invitational, TBA.  
 Shelander Tournament, TBA.  
**GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**Monday, May 3**  
 Salem at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
 Novi at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Canton, 4 p.m.  
 South Lyon at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 S.L. East at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Southfield at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, May 4**  
 Marian at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.  
 Univ.-Liggett at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
 Churchill at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.  
 Franklin at Canton (2), 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Novi (2), 4 p.m.  
 Plymouth at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m.  
 Oak Park at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
 Luth. Westland at Willow Run, 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, May 6**  
 Wayne at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
 Huron Valley at Ply. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, May 7**  
 at Fox Creek G.C., 3 p.m.  
 Huron Valley at Ply. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
 Churchill vs. Plymouth at Fox Hills G.C., 3 p.m.  
 Franklin vs. John Glenn, Wayne vs. Canton at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.  
 Stevenson vs. Novi at Walnut Creek G.C., 3 p.m.  
**Thursday, May 6**  
 Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, May 7**  
 Wayne vs. Redford Union at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.  
**GIRLS TENNIS**  
**Monday, May 3**  
 Ladywood at Warren Regina, 4 p.m.  
**Tuesday, May 4**  
 Churchill at Grand Blanc, 4 p.m.  
 Wayne at Milford, 4 p.m.  
 John Glenn at Howell (Parker), 4 p.m.  
 Franklin at Pinckney, 4 p.m.  
 W.L. Northern at Stevenson, 4 p.m.  
 Ladywood at A.P. Cabrini, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, May 6**  
 Churchill at Lakeland, 4 p.m.  
 Wayne at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.  
 Waterford Mott at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Franklin at Wat. Kettering, 4 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Milford, 4 p.m.  
**Friday, May 7**  
 Farmington at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 8**  
 Ladywood at Fenton Quad, 8:30 a.m.  
 Warrior Classic at Woodhaven, 8:30 a.m.  
 Monroe Invitational, TBA.  
**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
**Monday, May 3**  
 Notre Dame Prep at Ladywood, 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
 Ladywood at A.A. Gab. Richard, 6 p.m.  
**Friday, May 7**  
 Mercy at Ladywood, 6 p.m.  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
**Thursday, May 6**  
 Rochester College at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
**Thursday-Friday, May 6-7**  
 WHAC Playoffs at Bailey Park, TBA.  
 TBA - time to be announced.

# Warriors, Trojans post victories

Lutheran High Westland improved to 5-1 in the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with a 6-2 baseball win Thursday over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

Winning pitcher Gage Flanery went the first six innings, allowing one earned run on eight hits and two walks. He struck out seven.

Flanery also paced the Warriors' 8-hit attack going 2-for-4 with a double, triple and run scored.

Austin Baglow, who pitched scoreless seventh when he retired the side, also helped out with the bat going 2-for-4 with a double, RBI and two runs.

Kent Kryzyske and Ben Derminer added RBI singles, while Jake Andrezejewski contributed an RBI sacrifice fly as the Warriors improved to 8-3 overall.

The loss drops Inter-City to 4-4 overall and 3-3 in the MIAC Blue.

**CLARENCEVILLE 6, CLAWSON 2:** Eric Trotter pitched a 4-hitter and struck

out 12 Thursday as host Livonia Clarenceville (7-10) turned back Clawson (3-7) in a non-conference game.

Trotter also singled in runs during the first and third innings to stake the Trojans to a 2-0 lead.

Clawson answered with a pair of runs in the top of the fourth, but Clarenceville broke it open with four runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Damien Quarles keyed the rally by delivering a clutch 2-run single. Ben Gehan also drew a walk with the bases loaded to force in another run. Losing pitcher Steve Wendell gave up four hits in the setback.

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 Trio - any combination of 3 people.....7 pm

**THURSDAYS:**  
 Adult Youth.....6:30 pm  
 Doubles - 2 on a team  
 any combination.....6:45 pm

**FRIDAYS:**  
 Cosmic Youth Bumper League.....6:30 pm  
 4-9 yrs old  
 Cosmic Youth Trio.....6:30 pm  
 any combination of 3 - 10-18 yrs. old

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# NEIGHBORS

## CROP walks raise funds to combat hunger worldwide

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OGE STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of walkers in southeast Michigan will log between 1.5 and 6.2 miles today, Sunday, May 2, in solidarity with hungry people around the world.

The Rev. Mary Biedron, associate minister at North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills, says the mileage is no coincidence.

"For many people around the world, that's how far they have to walk to get food and clean water," said Biedron, director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP walk, a hunger relief program of Church World Service. "The goal has been not just to get contributions, but to cause people to be aware of hunger. The walk is meant to be an interactive experience as well."

Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of 36 Christian denominations that offers development, disaster relief and refugee assistance in 80 countries. In the U.S., the organization helps communities respond to hunger and disasters, resettles refugees and promotes fair national and international policies. Its CROP walks and other programs give participants an opportunity to make a difference in their communities and around the globe.

The Farmington event is among more than two dozen CROP walks taking place in Michigan this spring. Several are scheduled this weekend in the metro area, including in Redford and Wayne/Westland. Livonia and Plymouth/Canton will hold walks in October.

Walkers and runners take pledges for donations to the cause and will log 10 kilometers — that's 6.2 miles — or participate in a two-mile walk



Michelle Rockafellow (left) and Judy Curtis helped coordinate the Westland CROP walk a few years ago. Curtis is coordinator this year.

in Farmington. In Westland, they walk 1.5, three or four miles.

"You don't even have to walk. I have one man who's going to rock in his rocking chair," said Judy Curtis, Wayne/Westland walk coordinator. "I have eight churches committed. Last year we had walkers, wheelchairs and strollers."

One reason Curtis supports Church World Service is because it responds quickly to disasters around the world.

"I don't know who needs a well. I don't know the best crop to grow, but they send specialists in who do and it's fabulous," she said. "And they aren't just in other countries. They're in America, too."

### HELPING AT HOME

Three-quarters of the proceeds helps Church World Service combat hunger worldwide. One-quarter is donated back to the community for local use.

Each walk designates where the local funding will be used. In the Farmington area, St. Alexander's Food

Cupboard, the Salvation Army, Neighborhood House, the Baldwin Center in Pontiac and Yad Ezra, a kosher food pantry, will share 25 percent of the proceeds collected. The Wayne/Westland walk supports Full Gospel Temple's warming station, John Bolde Memorial Food Depot in Wayne, the Salvation Army, Good Hope Lutheran Church's food pantry in Garden City and Wayne Westland Fish. Redford Interfaith Relief receives the local quarter of proceeds from the Redford Crop Walk.

### MICHIGAN LEADS

"We're in over 144 communities in Michigan alone and 1,800 across the country," said Antoinette Lloyd-Evans, assistant regional director for Church World Service. "2009 marked the ninth year Michigan was the top fundraising region. I think that's a great testament to the generous spirit of Michiganders. People have stepped up and said, 'Hey we realize there's need in the community, but we're going to do everything in



The CROP walk team from St. James Presbyterian Church get ready to walk in Redford last year.

our power to make this a success."

Last year, nearly 120 walkers raised approximately \$10,000 at Wayne/Westland's 15th annual CROP walk. Redford's 25th annual walk last year drew 124 walkers and netted \$10,285.

The Farmington-area CROP walk's 352 participants collected \$33,485 last year. This year participants will mark 25 years with a birthday cake and commemorative T-shirts.

### LOCAL ASSISTANCE

"Typically it brings in about \$1,500 for our agency once all the money is collected and divided up," said Lea Luger, development director for Yad Ezra, the only Jewish anti-hunger agency that benefits from the Farmington walk.

The money buys groceries for the Berkley-based food pantry that served 2,500 families last

year. The need has increased by 1,300 families since 2007.

"We have families from Flint, families from the city. We've helped people Downriver and in Ann Arbor, whoever comes to us," Luger said. "It's a whole new demographic — people who thought they'd never be in this situation, people who are embarrassed or don't know how to navigate the system."

### KOSHER FOODS

Yad Ezra primarily serves Jewish families because it provides kosher foods, but it won't turn away anyone who needs one-time, emergency help.

Luger will walk Sunday along with other Yad Ezra representatives. Registration starts at 1 p.m. followed by the walks at 1:30 p.m., at First United Church of Farmington, located on Grand River Avenue, east of Farmington Road.

The Wayne/Westland walk registers at 1:30 p.m. and starts at 2 p.m., at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. The church will serve pizza, salad and desserts after the event.

The Redford walk registers at 1 p.m., with a 1:30 p.m. start time, at Presbyterian Village of Redford, 25330 W. Six Mile, Redford.

"It's such an important cause and such a pleasure and blessing to see how many people get involved in world hunger," Biedron said. "If everyone comes together and does what they can, it's remarkable what can be accomplished. Rain or shine, we'll get out this Sunday and do it for the people of the world."

For more about Church World Service and CROP walks, visit [www.church-worldservice.org](http://www.church-worldservice.org).

# Mother's Day Brunch

in the Townsend Grand Ballroom  
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. seating times

- ✦ Eggs, Omelet and Waffle Station Made to Order
- ✦ Chilled Seafood Display
  - Sushi Rolls
  - Oysters
  - Shrimp
- ✦ Carving Station
- ✦ Children's Buffet
- ✦ Hot Station
  - Eggs Benedict
  - Bacon, Sausage Links
  - Ginger Glazed Salmon
  - Herb Rubbed Turkey
  - Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
- ✦ Pasta Station & Salad Bar
- ✦ Breakfast Breads & Deluxe Sweet Table

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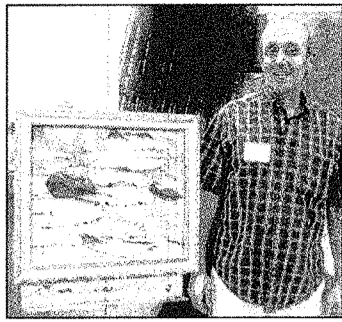
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**CITIZENS BANK**

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Kevin Blevins of Westland took third place in the VAAL Spring Art Show for his work, 'Before the Rain.'

DATE CHANGE

The awards reception for the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's Spring Art Show has been changed from May 5 to Thursday, May 6. The reception will run from 7-8:30 p.m. at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, at Five Mile east of Farmington Road. (734) 838-1204. Meet the winners and view the show.

MUSIC IN ART

Before checking out VAAL's spring show, swing by the

Plymouth Arts Council (PCAC) to view its new exhibit. 'Music in Art' 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday through May 24, at the council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction.

The show celebrates the first anniversary of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society's residence at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, home of the PCAC. The two organizations, while completely separate, have been sharing space as a cost savings measure.

The show consists of 64 pieces, including watercolor, oil, acrylic pen and ink, paper painting, and collage, submitted by artists throughout the Detroit metro area. Painting themes range from classical music, to jazz and rock and roll.

Visitors may vote for their favorite piece for the People's Choice Award. It will be given at an artists' reception, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, May 23. The reception is free and open to the public.

For more information call the PCAC, (734) 416-4278.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Nicole Majdali and Dave Cunningham, both from Livonia, were honored Tuesday, April 27 for their volunteer efforts at Manoogian Manor, an assisted living center for the elderly.

Over the past year they



Dave Cunningham and Nicole Majdali are all smiles at a party in their honor at Manoogian Manor in Livonia.

helped residents with social events and arts and crafts projects.

'Their volunteer efforts have dramatically enhanced the quality of life for our seniors,' stated Rosemarie Arakelian, Manoogian Manor administrator.

Dave Cunningham said he gets back even more than he gives by working with the seniors and Majdali said being with the residents is 'special.'

Manoogian Manor is located at 15775 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Appliances - Can they come on by themselves?

Let me begin by telling you that I am contacted by at least one homeowner every month asking me why their major home appliance started working without them even turning it on. This pertains to kitchen ranges, microwave ovens and even dishwashers.



Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon

I am also reading about these incidents on appliance Web sites and in my view, this is becoming very alarming. Here is an example from Yvonne: 'We came home last night and we sensed a burning smell in the house. Come to find out it was our dishwasher. When I opened the dishwasher door, it was like heat coming out of an oven. The dishwasher was not on when we left the house, but when we came home there was heat coming out of the dishwasher. It was very, very hot. The only indicator light on the touch pad that was lit was the heated dry. The dishwasher is a GE Profile and was installed about three years ago. We haven't had any other problem with it since it was installed. What could the problem be? Could the dishwasher go on by itself?'

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have talked to Yvonne and her husband and they tell me they still use their dishwasher but now they have to trip the circuit breaker after every use. I asked them to call General Electric and report the problem and to also contact the US Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772 and report this problem to them as well.

If all of you reading this column will go into your computer and look up the dishwasher recalls that have been announced in the past few years you may be surprised to see that the figure falls into the millions. I happen to feel that this appliance turn-on problem is just as serious as a vehicle speeding up to 90 mph without touching the gas pedal. The car problem

is certainly much more obvious than the appliance product coming on in the middle of the night, burning your house to the ground or causing death in the family. This problem may be better hidden than other things that are not reported by manufacturers to the CPSC. I would love to see every home in America with a working smoke detector that is located near enough to all appliances to save a life.

On this subject I recently read a story on my radio show of a home where the cat walked across the kitchen range and activated the touch pad control causing the stove burners to come on. When your arms are full and you're looking for space to put something down, the range top is not what you should use.

In years past we didn't have all these electronics on major appliances and you never heard about products starting on their own. Now they talk about appliances that you can control from a telephone at the office and technology that will make today's products look like a tub and scrub board. I talked with a man the other day who sells thousands of products every year and he gave me a mouthful as to his view on how little regard is given by manufacturers in backing up their products. His grandfather founded the business in 1928 and like he says, 'Things sure are different today.'

I may be the only person in this country writing a column on major home appliances and I won't be around forever. While I'm here I would love to see the manufacturers install a safety mechanism in their electronic hardware that won't let any sort of electrical interference or whatever turn on their products. They could do it and I'm sure that homeowners wouldn't mind paying the extra for it. At least they would be able to feel safe at night. Stay tuned.

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

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**FLUID IN THE KNEE AFTER KNEE REPLACEMENT**

Having a knee replacement does not always mean an end to a troublesome knee. Fluid can accumulate in the new joint causing both pain and impaired ability to walk.

The reason that fluid returns is that the knee joint has crevasses and turns in the joint lining; the result is that even in the most complete joint replacement operations, some joint lining cells remain. These cells retain the capacity to make joint fluid if an irritant appears within the joint.

The most common irritant is microscopic shards coming from the artificial joint. In some people, the body's environment leads to a minute shredding of metal particles from the knee replacement. These particles, if picked up by the joint lining cells, set up a response within the lining cells that leads the production of joint fluid.

The result is pain in the knee and the return of an unsteady gait.

A physician has no choice but to take the excess fluid out by aspirating the knee joint. Often physicians feel reluctant to undertake the procedure for fear of inducing an infection. However, every time a doctor does a knee aspiration or injection the possibility of infection exists. The need to take precaution to avoid infection is part of every joint aspiration procedure.

When a doctor aspirates at the site of a knee replacement, he just needs to be sure not to omit any step he takes when aspirating an ordinary knee. There is no need to be more cautious, instead, the doctor should remain focused and alert.

OE0896099

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Free information, speakers and resources to help those caring for an older adult or a person with a disability

**Wednesday, April 21, 2010**  
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Redford Community Center  
12121 Hemingway  
Redford, 48239

**Saturday, April 24, 2010**  
12:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
River Rouge High School  
1460 Coolidge Hwy  
River Rouge, 48218

**Monday, May 3, 2010**  
12:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Flat Rock Community Center  
1 Maguire St.  
Flat Rock, 48134

**Monday, May 10, 2010**  
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Summit on the Park  
46000 Summit Pkwy  
Canton, 48188

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- Elder Abuse
- Financial Exploitation
- Handling Stress
- Home Health Care
- Hospice
- In-Home Help
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Senior Housing/ Assisted Living/ Nursing Homes
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# Public health concern: Researchers say hookah use on the rise

Wayne State University School of Medicine researchers have published the findings of a pilot study that shows hookah smoking is on the rise among white Americans of non-Arab descent.

The team believes the hookah trend could hold dangerous health implications, including serving as a gateway to cigarette smoking and other drug use.

While the hookah — a water pipe used to burn and ingest flavored and scented tobacco — conjures up images of middle-aged and older men of Arabic descent sharing a smoke in dark cafes, Dr. Bengt Arnetz and Dr. Hikmet Jamil, professors in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, say they believe the practice is insidiously working its way into a health hazard for Americans.

Arnetz, who also is director of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, says he's concerned that the trend appears to be rising with

younger age groups. "Hookah use is now spreading rapidly in the U.S. as well as across the globe among those of non-Arab descent. The moassel (tobacco and various added flavors) makes the smoking very smooth and appealing, which makes it possible to smoke for longer times," he said. "The hookah smoke smells sweet and attractive. Thus, a combination of low cost, social gatherings, peer pressure and perception of less risk makes hookah smoking very attractive."

A number of hookah cafes have been operating in metropolitan Detroit. The state's May 1 ban on smoking in public places may extinguish smoking in some of those establishments, but a provision in the law could allow them to continue. And a quick scan of the Internet finds a number of sites offering hookahs and related flavored tobaccos readily for sale to home users.

For their study, "Sociodemographic risk indicators of hookah smoking among White Americans: A pilot study," published in the March 2010 online edition of the *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* journal, the doctors surveyed 240 adults of non-Arab descent in Southeast Michigan. They found that 19 percent of those surveyed were involved in hookah smoking. Ten percent said they smoked only using a hookah, and 9 percent smoked both cigarettes and a hookah.

### WORSE THAN CIGARETTES

Nineteen percent of the respondents said they believed smoking via a hookah was less harmful than smoking cigarettes. Hookah smoking, Arnetz said, is likely more dangerous than cigarette smoking. Hookah smokers are exposed to and inhale greater amounts of carbon dioxide, nicotine and other carcinogens during a session with the water pipe.

Arnetz said researchers don't know whether the health risks for second-hand smoke from hookahs are similar to secondhand smoke from cigarettes. The exposure dose and time that nonsmokers spend when visiting hookah bars will determine long-term risks. However, hookah smoking has been shown to increase the risk for lung cancer, respiratory illness, low birth weight and periodontal disease, he said. And there are investigations into whether the practice increases the risks for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis C.

### USER PROFILE

Those most likely to use a hookah, according to the survey results, were 22 and younger and lived with a family member who used tobacco. The study found no difference in the prevalence of hookah use between men and women. Hookah use was more prevalent among students and those who exercised



A variety of hookahs

regularly, lending credence to the hypothesis that smokers mistakenly believe the hookah offers fewer health hazards than cigarettes.

"We believe in general the hookah venue attracts both genders," Arnetz said. "You do it in groups, and there is a perception of less danger but

also more social peer pressure to use it."

Arnetz and Jamil have submitted a grant request to the National Institutes of Health seeking \$450,000 a year for five years to expand their pilot study. They propose following a random sample of adolescent students from ninth grade through high school. This would be the first random sample study of hookah use among students in general.

"We want to study the prevalence of hookah use among different groups of students, especially youth from underserved families; how hookah use might change during the high school career and what factors determine the uptake of hookah, including peer pressure," Arnetz said. "Finally, we want to study whether hookah acts as a gateway drug for cigarettes, marijuana and heavier drugs, and poor lifestyle choices in general."

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### MAY

#### Tai Chi

The Michigan Tai Chi Association runs classes for beginners, 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, beginning Monday, May 3, at 38121 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia. Call (734) 591-3530 for details or see www.taotaichi.org

#### Detox and weight loss

Learn about detoxification of the human body at a free presentation, 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Limited to 15. Reservations required. (734) 756-6904. Sponsored by TLC Holistic Wellness; www.TLCHolisticWellness.com

#### Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The organization plans a bowling fund-raiser 7-9 p.m., Friday, May 7 at Cloverlanes, 28900 Schoolcraft, Livonia. \$20 includes two hours of bowling, pizza and soda and fun. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction with items such as restaurant gift cards, Tiger tickets, massages, and more. All proceeds will benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. RSVP to (734) 427-6410.

#### Karmanos Cancer Institute

The 2010 Annual Dinner gala, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, May 8, will include a reception, an elegant dinner, a super silent auction, a raffle sponsored by Tiffany & Co., and a fashion show designed by creative icon Linda Dresner, also a breast cancer survivor. Master of Ceremonies will be radio legend and Karmanos supporter Dick Purtan. Special tribute will be given to Gerold Bepler, new president and chief executive officer of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Entertainment will be by the Bay Area Blues Society. Held at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. Tickets are \$375 to \$750. For information, call Karry Samulski at (313) 576-8106 or e-mail samulskk@karmanos.org.

#### Film premiere

"2010 ROPARD Children's Vision Award Ceremony," features dinner and the premiere showing of Keith Famie's film, "Can You See How I See?" Proceeds from the event benefit ROPARD, The Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases, funding pediatric retinal research and services provided by the Children's Low Vision Resource Center. The dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the movie at 8:15 p.m., Saturday, May 8, in

the Great Hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$150 for dinner and movie; and \$50 for the movie only. Call ROPARD at (800) 788-2020 or go to www.ropard.org for more information.

#### Stroke program

Learn about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of strokes, 10:30-11:30 a.m., May 11, in the auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. 9 Mile, Southfield. An optional tour will follow the lecture of the Bi-Plane Interventional Suite showing the latest technology in diagnostic imaging. The presenter will be Dr. Matthew Holtzman, neurologist on staff at Providence Hospital and Providence Park Hospital. To reserve your seat, call St. John SeniorLink at (888) 751-5465.

#### Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia & CFS Support Group will hold its Fibromyalgia Awareness Day luncheon 1-3 p.m., Thursday, May 13, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. The luncheon is open to anyone with fibromyalgia, chronic pain or individuals seeking a support group to help them deal with fibromyalgia. For more information, visit www.MetroFibroGroup.com

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