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WESTLAND
OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

Voters Guide

A Statewide Online Voter Guides for the Aug. 3 primary election is available on the League of Women Voters of Michigan website at www.lwvmi.org.

The voter guides provide information about candidates throughout the state for the offices of governor, U.S. representative, state senator and state representative. Candidate questionnaire responses are provided for each seat. Information regarding county, local, judicial races and candidate forums can be found on local league websites, also accessible at www.lwvmi.org.

Gardeners needed

The City of Westland's DTE Energy Community Garden is in need of volunteers from 4-7 p.m. Wednesdays to help weed and harvest the food.

The produce will be donated to the Gleaners Food Bank of Southeast Michigan to be distributed to children, seniors, disabled people, working families and other individuals in need of emergency food.

Volunteers should plan to bring their own gardening tools, sunscreen, drinking water and closed-toed shoes. The DTE Energy Garden is located at 38155 Cherry Hill, but volunteers are asked to use the Avondale Road entrance.

Magic Monday

It's a pool party fit for the entire family. Magic Monday returns to the Bailey Centers outdoor pool from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5.

Stop by and meet the folks from WMGC radio, who'll provide music and games. The Westland Jaycees are sponsoring a paper airplane contest. Fly a plane from the Bailey Center balcony and win prizes. There also will be chalk drawing on the pool deck, a Moonwalk provided by Bobby's Bouncers. Face Flair face painting for \$1 per child and a food concession.

The cost is \$3 for children under age 12 and \$4 for adults. The pool is located behind the Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford, west of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Backpack drive

Co-op Services Credit Union is participating in a "Stuff-a-Bus" collection drive Friday, July 30, through Sunday, Aug. 1, at Westland Shopping Center, Warren and Wayne roads in Westland. The collection drive is sponsored by the Volunteers of America and WDVD 96.3FM and is part of the credit union's second annual Operation Backpack Drive.

In addition to "Stuff-a-Bus," the credit union has collection boxes in all of its branch lobbies now through Friday, Aug. 13, to enable members and others in the community to donate backpacks and basic school supplies. The donations will be distributed through Volunteers of America and its Operation Backpack initiative.

For more information about the Co-op Services backpack drive, visit the credit union's website at www.cscu.org.

County ready to seek park cleanup bids

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A request for bids could go out by tomorrow, opening the door for the remediation and redevelopment of a portion of Westland's Central City Park this year.

"We're on target to post it by week's end," said Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp, who has worked closely with Westland Mayor William Wild and his staff in the cleanup of the

contaminated park. "We spent a couple of months doing extensive drafting of the bid document and now the county's Office of Procurement is tweaking it."

The announcement that bids would be solicited was made by Wild at his Town Hall meeting at the Holiday Park townhouses last week.

"The park will be more family-friendly," said an upbeat Wild. "Phase one has been approved by the DEQ (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment) and the

work plan has been completely cleared through Wayne County Stormwater Management."

The bid package will be put out for 30 days, after which the responses will be reviewed and the contract awarded. Once the contract is signed, work can begin on the close to 13 acres in the southeastern section of the park.

"If we get a qualifying bid, we'll be able to do the work," said Helmkamp. "Hopefully we can break ground and have them out there doing the work

while the weather is still good."

The plan includes a soccer complex, outdoor bathrooms, new pavilion and walking path. There also will be a concession stand to service the soccer complex, outdoor pool, H2O Zone and Play Planet. It also calls for the installation of a geotextile membrane to cover the contaminated area, then adding 12 inches of soil to deal with the lead contamination.

Please see **PARK, A2**



John Dunlap and wife Kristi sample the pizza and buffalo wing bites at Ashley's Bar and Grill during the Westland Chamber's annual Restaurant Rally Tuesday evening.

'We like to eat'

300 diners pack restaurants for annual rally

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A sea of navy blue T-shirts took over restaurants in Westland Tuesday evening as 300 hungry diners crisscrossed the city for the Westland Chamber of Commerce's Restaurant Rally.

In its seventh year, the rally featured 13 establishments that served everything from buffalo wing bites and potato skins to specialty beverages and chocolate chip cookies.

"Everyone seemed to have a good time," said Chamber

President and CEO Brookellen Swope. "Wherever I stopped, people were talking about where they had been and where they were going. They were having fun."

Sitting in a booth a Logan's Steak House, Westland City Council President Jim Godbout loudly announced, "I'm cooking dinner tonight," drawing a laugh and smile from his wife, Sande.

"We've been doing this for seven years," said Godbout. "We'll get to six-10 restaurants, we have plenty of time."

"We look to see what's interesting and go to those we like," he added.

Across the buffet table, veterans Missy Roby, Lisa Hamlett and Kim Hamlett where showing newbie Melissa

Please see **RALLY, A2**

Police question suspect in TCF Bank robbery

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A woman being held for a robbery in Wyandotte is facing similar charges in Westland after a holdup at the TCF Bank.

Westland police detectives interviewed the woman Wednesday about the robbery. Her name is not being released pending charges in the holdup, which happened Saturday, July 24.

The woman also is a suspect in robberies in at least four cities, including Westland, Ferndale, Allen Park and Wyandotte.

In the Westland robbery, a woman in her mid-20s reportedly entered the bank on Warren Road and gave a teller an envelope with "Do not call police, give me \$100, \$50, \$20" written on it. The teller reportedly gave the woman

\$1,710, including a \$50 bait bill.

The teller told police the woman said she was sorry and told the teller to wait until she left before calling police. The teller, however, pressed the alarm button as the woman left the bank. A landscaper working in the area said he possibly saw a woman, possibly the suspect, run eastbound after crossing Warren Road.

The robbery occurred at 2:50 p.m. and two other customers and another teller told police they neither saw nor heard anything.

A video showed the suspect come from the north side of the building and enter the bank. She kept her hands in the cuffs of gray fleece jacket and never appeared to touch anything with her skin. Police were unable to locate any fingerprints.

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The suspect in the TCF Bank holdup kept her hands in the cuffs of her long-sleeved jacket and appeared to never touch anything with her skin, according to Westland police detectives.

Mayor fills vacant DPS superintendent job

A former Novi facilities and operations director has been joined the City of Westland as a superintendent in the Westland Department of Public Service.

William "Benny" McCusker was appointed to the position by Mayor William Wild.

McCusker has almost 40 years experience in managing water and sewer systems, construction and maintenance, roads and fleet management. He was the public works director for both Novi and Wixom and previously worked for the City of Inkster.

"Westland is fortunate to be able to hire

someone with the depth of experience Benny brings to the position and I look forward to his contributions in managing one of the City's largest departments during these challenging economic times," said Wild.

McCusker started with the city on July 1. Working under DPS Director Kevin Buford, McCusker will be responsible for department operations, including managing the staff of some 50 employees and supervising the delivery of services to the community.

Buford will continue his focus on the regional matters affecting DPS operations, including services provided by the City of Detroit and

Please see **MCCUSKER, A2**



McCusker



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Group works to get women out of sex industry

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland resident with roots in Garden City is organizing a fund-raiser to help women get out of the sex industry.

Laura Urenda, who graduated from Garden City West High School, has joined with Margie Kelly, a Garden City resident, and Meredith Wallace, of Livonia, all of whom have had some experience with the demons of the sex industry. Lisa Beier, a teacher who lives in Westland is also interested in the cause because she teaches impressionable adolescent females.

"Young girls get pulled in and it is very difficult to get out," said Beier who does not have a history in the sex industry.

Urenda recently founded My Sister Song, an outreach program based at Connection Church in Canton Township.

"We know the tremendous change that God can do in a

life," said Kelly, 58, who has been out of the industry for 30 years.

The fund-raiser will feature LDA (Last Days Alliance), a coalition of faith-based bands that play for a cause which was created by Steven Urenda of the group called MEDISIN WHEEL.

The fund-raiser for My Sister Song will be held at 9 p.m. Friday, July 30, at the Token Lounge at 28949 Joy, east of Middlebelt in Westland. The cost is \$5.

"More women are employed by the sex industry than at any other time in history," Urenda said. "There are more strip clubs in the United States than any other nation in the world."

Urenda maintains that between 66-90 percent of women in the sex industry were sexually abused as children.

"Many people are under the impression that girls get into this industry for easy money, but there is nothing easy about the money they make and there

is usually a story behind what lands them there," Urenda said.

Compared to the general population, women in the sex industry experience higher rates of substance abuse, rape and violent assault, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, depression and post traumatic stress disorder, she said.

"My Sister Song is committed to helping women in the sex industry to conquer these issues and we want them to know they are valued, 'purposed,' and loved beyond measure," Urenda said.

Her small team visits strip clubs and takes gifts with the simple message that the women in these clubs have a story that matters.

"Barking at them won't do them any good, but loving them does," Kelly said. "We want to help."

The gift bags are given to every woman working at every establishment and contains little things like earrings, a

candle, some candy, lipstick and an eye liner with a contact card.

The women who work in this industry soon learn that no knight in shining armor will come to rescue them, Wallace said. That type of thing may have happened in the movie *Pretty Woman* but not in real life, she said.

The contact card will connect them to resources, such as counseling, mentoring, education and a variety of support as they desire.

"The encounters with the girls are precious," Urenda said. "So, the bands at the Token are going to rock hard for our cause and we'll have an information table there in order for people to learn more about us."

T-shirts will be available for \$20, and treats will also be offered.

"We also accept product donations and financial donations," Urenda said.

The team is willing to do their all to help, according to



Lisa Beier (in back, from left), Margie Kelly, Meredith Wallace and Laura Urenda want to help women with jobs in the sex industry in metro Detroit find a way out with My Sister Song.

Kelly. "Only God can change a heart," she said. A prayer team of 15 people in the church also helps.

Checks can be made out to Connection Church with My Sister Song clearly marked and mailed to 3855 Sheldon, Canton, MI 48188 or made directly online through Connection Church at www.

connectionchurch.info/via My Sister Song. Another way to help is by shopping online using the GOODSEARCH toolbar at www.goodsearch.com and typing My Sister Song in the cause box. People also can learn more about My Sister Song at www.mysistersong.com.

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MCCUSKER

FROM PAGE A1

the Detroit Water and Sewer Department, Republic Waste and the City's Mission Green recycling program and federal and state programs, such as the state's revolving fund loans to

finance capital improvements. He also will continue to represent the department with business owners, residents, the city council and other federal, state and county officials.

"Hiring Benny also affords DPS Director Buford the ability to concentrate in other areas of the department, including financial oversight and leverag-

ing regional partners for the betterment of city services," the mayor said.

McCusker is a graduate of the University of Virginia and attended Lawrence Technological and Michigan State universities. He holds LEEDS certification and water, sewer and wastewater licenses.

RALLY

FROM PAGE A1

Tulppo the ropes.

"It's fun, it's good food and it's a girls night out," said Roby. "We're going to try and do all 12-13. We just take a bite here and a bite there."

Anthony Fall of Dearborn was following that technique at Beaver Creek where he tried the harvest salad and a chocolate cookie.

"The salad was OK, but I don't care for the feta (cheese)," he said.

Fall was among a large group from the Parkside Credit Union's Westland and Livonia branches. Many of them continued a tradition of customizing their T-shirts which serve as the ticket to the event. With navy as the color, the shirts sported stars and bars, an anchor and many of the ladies wore sailor hats. In the past, they've tie-dyed the shirts, dressed them up to be butterflies and one year shredded them to look like they'd been mauled by a tiger.

"The best year was whose your tiger, the tie-dyed shirt was the worst experience," said Tina Strasser, the head teller at the Livonia branch who cred-

ited CEO Dave Bickley with providing tickets to the event. "It's fun to do, our boss laughs at us."

Beaver Creek general manager Misty Lindquist was keeping the buffet table that included the restaurant's signature barbecue ribs.

"It's our own blend — Jack Daniel's, jalapenos, it's a secret sauce," she said. "People love them, that and the cookies. You can purchase them to go or get one free, if you eat lunch here."

At Ashley's Bar and Grill, rally participants were sampling buffalo bites, pizza, potato skins and a chocolate mousse.

"We're going to hit 12 restaurants this year," said Gina Richard of Westland. "We've been to two already, we've got it down pat."

"We pick and chose where we want to go," added David Niedermeyer of Rockwood. "So far, everything has been good."

The group included Richard's husband, Chris, and Lisa Langston, also of Westland, Doug Johnson of Birmingham and Niedermeyer's wife, Debbie.

Garden City Hospital employees, the group tries to take in both the Westland Restaurant Rally and the Garden City Dine and Dash

event held in September.

"We like to eat," said Richard.

Setting a speed record was another group of diners. By 7:30 p.m., they were on their fifth establishment — Biggy Coffee — sipping frozen hot chocolates.

"We grab and go," said Sandy Kollinger.

"We try to go to all of them so we can go back to the ones we liked best," added Robin Clarke, who was there with her mother, Robin Clarke, and brother Doug. Rounding out the group was Kollinger's father, Dave Debash.

"It's awesome, we enjoy it and look forward to it," said the younger Robin Clarke.

This is the second year Biggy has been a stop on the rally and owner Mo Elfakir decided to switch from serving coffees to serving his specialty beverages.

While the rally failed to sell out this year, Swope still is happy with the results. The chamber board already has begun talking about the need to do something different.

"We're looking to refine it and make it more interactive so the diners can feel they're a part of the event," she said.

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PARK

FROM PAGE A1

There also will be a passive ventilation trench, the installation of a slab vapor barrier for the concession stand, and several probes to monitor methane gas. Any restricted area outside of the park will be blocked off by an eight-foot high fence.

The project costs some \$2.4 million. The county will use parks millage money and \$1 million in brownfield development funds,

while the city has pulled together a number of grants and even did fund raising to cover its share of the costs.

According to Helmkamp, this is the second time bids will be put out the project. A bid request was put out several months ago but the responses showed gaps in the proposal, forcing the request to be withdrawn so more work could be done. The city used the time to add the pavilion and additional parking to the plan and was able to get some additional grants, Helmkamp said.

"We weren't able to start this in the spring, but I think we have a better plan," he said.

The bid award will have to go before the Wayne County Commission for approval and Wild has called on County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, to help get quick approval.

"She has assured me that she will work to make it as expedient as possible," he said.

City officials also are keeping a close eye on Washington,

D.C., where Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, is guiding a \$1.5 million joint city-county request for federal assistance through the Appropriations Committee. The money would be used for the second phase.

"We're waiting to hear," Wild said. "Appropriations can be a lengthy process, and I'm confident the senator will do everything he can for us."

The park has been closed to the public since November 2006 when news broke that city and county officials had known for several years that it had high levels of lead contamination, and Wild ordered the park fenced off when he took office in January 2007. Since then, city and county officials have been working with the state environmental agency to clean up portions of the park. The redevelopment encompasses 33 of the park's 64 acres.

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**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**
On Thursday, August 12th, various items of the City of Westland, PD, Special Investigations Unit, will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, at approx. 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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6998819	2002	Chev	Trailblazer	1GNDT13SX2298800
6972027	1994	Buick	Park Ave	1G4CW52L1RH620298
6987323	1993	Honda	Accord	1HGCB7659PA163044
6972122	1998	Chev	Cavalier	1G1JF5245W7235065

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

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'Dominator' contestant hosts premiere party

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Matt Sysol, the premiere party he's holding at Kicker's Bar on Plymouth Road in Livonia tomorrow evening is more in honor of his biggest fan — his mother, Wanda — than about his appearance on *The DIY Dominator*, a new DIY Network series that pits three of the country's top rough carpenters against each other in a showdown for one grand prize.

Wanda Sysol died July 12 from a heart attack, devastating Sysol, who was ready to cancel plans for the celebration when friends stopped him in his tracks.

"They told me this is what my mom would have wanted," the Westland resident said. "She was my best friend, my biggest fan."

Sysol grew up in Canton Township and his mother tracked his successes, even calling him to tell him he had turned up as the top three hottest boyfriends in Detroit on 106.7 radio earlier this year.

"She was all excited about that," Sysol said. "It was 200 girls who nominated their boyfriends."

However, his mother never got to see a commercial for the show which airs on the DIY cable channel at 10 p.m. Friday, July 30. The commercials, video clips and promos can be found in his Facebook

fan page.

The DIY Dominator features three carpenters who have four hours to construct a small wooden building that they have designed themselves. Sysol has no clue who won the contest. He'll find out with his friends and fans at the premiere party, which starts at 9 p.m.

Sysol is a third-generation carpenter and credits his grandfather for inspiring him to take it up.

"My grandfather got me into carpentry and I took off like a champ, I pretty much represent the MRCC," said Sysol. "He's a residential carpenter, I've been blessed with his talent."

A union carpenter — he is a member of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights — Sysol has "done some really cool work" on such projects as Asian Village and Westin Book Cadillac Hotel Detroit in Detroit along with several high-end homes, including multifamily projects.

He also has started his own company, BBD (Build By Design) Carpentry, figuring that if he goes out and does his best, he'll be able to provide jobs for carpenters who are out of work in Michigan.

But the biggest project he's worked on is *The DIY Dominator*. Sysol was in Denver, Colo., in April to spend three days competing for the Dominator title. The winner receives a \$10,000 grand prize.



Carpenter Matt Sysol is ready to see how well he did on 'The DIY Dominator' reality TV show. He's competing against two other carpenters on the show which airs at 10 p.m. today on the DIY cable channel.

Sysol has 13 years' experience as a carpenter and has taken course in set carpentry at the Center for Film Studies. He credits CFS in helping him land a spot on the reality TV show.

"There were thousands of applicants for this, with the Center For Film Studies training and their good reputation is what helped me get on this show," he said.

Sysol believes his mother is probably smiling down on him. He truly misses her, but he knows he's doing what she would have wanted him to do.

"This is supposed to be the best month, the best year of my life and it's the worst," he said. "I wish she could be here for this."

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AROUND WESTLAND

Grand opening

Got something clothing to donate? If it weighs 100 pounds, you could win a \$100 Meijer gift card.

That's part of the grand opening celebration of the Easters Seals Community Donation Center on Saturday, July 31.

The center, located at 1929 Wayne Road at Ford, is accepting donations that will be sold in its Savers Thrift Store to support Easter Seals programs for people with disabilities. Clothing, accessories, shoes, draperies and curtains, household items like kitchen, dinner and glass ware and furniture are being accepted. Home pickup is available.

People who donate 100 pounds of clothing will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 Meijer gift card. The drawing will be held Tuesday, Aug. 2.

The center will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (800) 70-2716.

Blood drive

The Westland Rotary Club and the Westland Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to sponsor a Red Cross blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36551 Ford, Westland.

All donors will be entered to win two Cedar Point tickets, and everyone will get a free hat from the Red Cross. People can sign up for a blood donation appointment by calling Mary McGraw at (734) 748-8515. Walk-ins also will be welcome.

Spaghetti dinner

If you love spaghetti, then pencil it in on your calendar for Aug. 6. That's when the Wayne Masonic Lodge will sponsor a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for the Special Olympics of Wayne/Westland.

The dinner will be served 4-8 p.m. at the lodge at 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road in Westland. The cost is \$6 per person. For more information about the Wayne Lodge Masons visit their website at www.waynelodge112.org.

The Wayne Lodge Masons also will sponsor their free Child ID program 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 28 and 29 at the 2010 Wayne Wheelfest in Goudy Park in Wayne. More information about the Masons' Child ID program is available at www.michiganchildid.org.

Vendors needed

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is looking for sales consultants from direct selling companies to display and sell their products at a sales event Oct. 18.

Rental space is \$20-\$30 for

the sale which will be held at the Salvation Army building at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. The event is a fundraiser for two of the corps' youth groups which are working toward a week-long trip to the Northwoods Camp in Finlayson, Minnesota.

For more information, contact Sandy Kollinger at sandra_kollinger@usc.salvationarmy.org or Josh Hubbard at joshua_hubbard@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Car show for vets

The third annual Car and Bike Show for Vets is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1645 Wayne Road, Westland. This is a new location for the show.

Proceeds from the event, which last year raised \$27,000 for the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and the Wayne County Stand Down for Homeless Vets, which benefits local veterans.

Golf outings

The Westland Veterans Association will hold a golf outing Saturday, Aug. 7, at Inkster Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 per person and includes golf, lunch, two drink tickets and dinner, which will be held at Buffalo Wild Wings on Wayne Road. Hole sponsorships are available at \$100 per hole. The proceeds will benefit the Westland Veterans Association for local veterans needs and the memorial garden.

For more information, call (734) 335-7943.

The Westland Lions Club are hosting a golf outing Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 5200 Polo Fields Dr., Ann Arbor. The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$450 for a foursome with sponsorships available. There is registration at 7 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts followed by an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch and beverages at the turn, dinner and door prizes are included.

For more information, call Mack Mayfield at (734) 722-5653, Kenneth Sharp at (734) 595-8305 or George Marvaso at (313) 801-5321.

John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 13th Annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$75 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn and light meal after golf. Guests are welcome for the light lunch, which costs \$15.

Contact Coach Bill Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. Information also is available at www.glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and raffle donations also are being accepted.

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

At the market

Stop by the Garden City Farmers' Market Wednesday, Aug. 4, when the Garden City Exchange will be doing a special Gold Exchange program. People 18 years and older with a valid driver's license can bring their unwanted gold to the market and get cash for it.

While there, stop by to buy by fresh Michigan products and connect with local farmers and the community. Visit the Farmers' Market website at www.gardencity.org and click on farmers market to print off a coupon, valid through Aug. 11. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine. The market is located at the northeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt in the Garden City Town Center Plaza. For more information, call the Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448.

Vacation Bible school

It's going to be a "High Seas Expedition" vacation bible school at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. A \$5 donation is requested but not required.

Call (734) 427-3660 for registration and additional information.

Stitching social

Stop by Maxwell's Arts and Treasures for its Stitch Away Social 6-8 p.m. the first Monday of the month. Crochet, knitting, hand sewing and needle art welcome. Bring a project that is currently in the works, or get some advice on how to start on something new. The cost is \$5 per person.

Maxwell's is at 32416 Industrial, north of Ford, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7.

Tool Time exhibit Time is running out to take in the "His & Hers" Tools that are on display on the main floor of the Garden City Historical Museum in the Straight Farmhouse. The exhibit closes Aug. 8.

If you thought tools were only used by men, think again. Women had tools for their housekeeping jobs, too. You have them. Guess the number of items in "The Box." The closest guess wins an American Tourister bag.

The farmhouse is at 6221 Merriman, north of Ford. It's

open noon-3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. For more information, call (734) 838-0650.

Preschool enrollment

Garden City Preschool housed in Lathers School has fall openings for children who will be age 3 or 4 by Dec. 1, 2010. There's morning classes two days a week for three-year-olds and morning and afternoon classes two or three days a week for four-year-olds.

The tuition-based program runs for 34 weeks. FIA families welcome. For more enrollment information, call Linda at (734) 762-6362.

The program is also hiring early childhood staff. For staffing information, contact Sonya at (734) 762-8440.

VA consultation

Are you entitled to federal benefits from the Veterans Administration? Are you applying for federal benefits from the VA? Are you fighting for an increase of benefits from the VA? If you answered yes to any of the aforementioned questions, Project SALUTE from the University of Detroit Mercy has the answers.

On Monday, Sept. 13, at

7:30 p.m., at PLAV Post #166, 39375 Amrhein (at the corner of Echols) in Livonia, free individual consultations will be provided along with a complete presentation of available disability and pension benefit matters. Bring your DD-214 (discharge papers), recent rating decisions and any other documentation which will help attorneys understand and evaluate your current position.

Flea markets

The outdoor flea market season is in full swing at the Straight Farmhouse where people can sell their goods between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. the second and third Saturdays of the month.

Spaces are available inside the farmhouse for \$15 which includes the table. Outside spaces are \$10 and sellers have to bring their own tables. Sellers can register and pay the day of the sale.

The flea market helps support the Straight Farmhouse, home of the Garden City Historical Museum, and the Maplewood Center. The markets run through Sept. 18.

For more information, call (734) 793-1850.

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Call Jose at 734-522-5273 or Emma at 1-800-677-2773 (Toll Free)

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Thursday, July 29, 2010

hometownlife.com

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Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury wins Ford honors



Showing off the Ford Motor Company's Triple Crown Award are Bob Smythe, Detroit Regional Manager, Ford Motor Company (from left); John Obeid, dealer/operator of Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, and Mike Cross, Detroit Regional Manager, Ford Customer Service Division.

It was an exciting day as Ford executives presented Metropolitan with the Triple Crown Award, Ford Motor Company's highest recognition for dealership excellence.

Metropolitan is one of only seven Lincoln Mercury dealerships in the United States to win the very prestigious Triple Crown Award in recognition of Metropolitan's success and dedication to serving customers.

That's not all.

In addition to earning the Triple Crown Award, Metropolitan also received nearly all the other major dealership awards offered by Ford Motor Company. At the dealership, Metropolitan's managers gathered to accept the awards from Ford Motor Company executives.

"Our success is due to the dedication of everyone here at the dealership," said John Obeid, co-owner of Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury.

"Caring and going the extra mile to make sure customers are happy, that's what sets this dealership apart."

The dealership received:

- 2009 President's Award
- 2009 First Place for Highest Customer Satisfaction
- 2009 Partners In Quality
- 2009 Lincoln Mercury Leaders
- 2009 Ford Customer Service Premier Club Top 100
- 2009 Ford Credit Top 100 Dealer Award
- 2009 eCommerce Elite
- 2009 Detroit Region Challenge Cup Overall Service Satisfaction.

Its state of the art Body Shop also received the 2009 Customer Satisfaction Premier Achiever Award.

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury's commitment to customer satisfaction is illustrated in the dealership's motto, that customers can "Expect Respect" at Metropolitan. This commitment is evident in the



Showing off the awards Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury won from the Ford Motor Company are Amy Ogle, comptroller (from left); Cindy Roy, finance manager; Stan Pudelek, sales manager; John Obeid, dealer/operator, Cullan Meathe, owner; Chris Conlme, general sales manager, Brian Graham, service manager; Clarity Patton, quality and business development manager; Dave Tashman, parts and service director, and Jason Ellsworth, body shop manager.

high customer service ratings Metropolitan receives from its customers.

From new or pre-owned vehicle sales to regular maintenance and large repairs, Metropolitan is dedicated to delivering first class service. It offers customers free loaner vehicles and shuttle service, its money-saving Owner Advantage Program, an impressive inventory of

new and certified pre-owned vehicles and Metropolitan's trained and dedicated staff, all of which combined to create a best-in-class sales and service experience.

Metropolitan is also a dedicated supporter of the local schools and community.

Many of Metropolitan's sales consultants have served the community for more than 20 years. They enjoying share

their experience and knowledge to help customers make informed decisions when selecting a vehicle.

Metropolitan's new car and pre-owned showroom hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Metropolitan also has a Quick Lane Service Center

that is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The Body Shop with certified technicians that are able to repair any vehicle to factory specifications is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury is at 32000 Ford in Garden City. You can also visit Metropolitan online at www.MetroMichigan.com.

MILESTONES

Grand opening

Time/Date: All day Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, Aug. 1

Location: M's Gathering Place, 32293 Ford, between Venoy and Merriman, in Garden City

Details: Garden City's newest restaurant, M's Gathering Place is celebrating its grand opening this weekend with music all day and a unique menu of tasty, family recipes, made with the freshest fixings at affordable prices. Other amenities at M's include online ordering, 14 large screen televisions for Detroit's sports lovers, a variety of craft and commercial beers, wines and spirits, and free wi-fi. Dine-in and carry out are available.

Contact: (734) 422-9320

Guest reader

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7

Location: Border's Express at Laurel Park Mall, 37560 Six Mile at Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Garden City elementary principal and children's author Alex McNece will read his book, "Ryan and Ruby Go to Kindergarten," as well as signing copies of his book. He'll also

be there on Saturday, Aug. 28, to read "Read to Me, Daddy: My First Football Book."

Contact: (734) 464-2720

Win free tickets

Time/Date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3

Location: Art Van, 8300 Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Do you have Bieber Fever? Join 98.7 AMP Radio at Art Van Furniture for your chance to win a pair of tickets to see Justin Bieber in concert! Pick up your limited edition Justin Bieber T-shirt (while supplies last), and register to win tickets to see him live on Aug. 15 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Contact: (734) 425-9600

Dance time

Time/Date: Friday nights

Location: Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt Road, Garden City

Details: Dress to impress and head to Albert's for the Friday Night Dance Party. DJ Fatty Too Slim lines up the best dance music in metro Detroit. It's hot music, hot summer nights and cold refreshing drinks. Bring your

dancing shoes and party pieces and get ready to have a sizzling good time.

Contact: (734) 525-5231

Kwikset 'LiveSmart' Tour

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7

Location: Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Kwikset will be bring its "LiveSmart" mobile tour will feature an emcee, games, and giveaways for the entire family. The fun community events aim to show parents and homeowners how simple, smart home security can be. Attendees will also have a chance to enter to win the national "LiveSmart" Sweepstakes, which runs through Nov. 1 and features multiple prize package giveaways. Each package is filled with "smart" products for the home, including Kwikset SmartKey® products. The grand prize package includes a Smart Car and is valued at over \$24,000. Living smart has never been easier.

Contact: Enter to win the online "LiveSmart" Sweepstakes at www.kwiksetlivesmart.com.

GARDEN CITY CHAMBER CHAT

The 5 Star Business Group is sponsoring a Business 2 Business and Community Expo beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10. The event will be held at Roma Banquets on Cherry Hill Road east of Venoy in Garden City. The chambers involved include Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Wayne, Westland and Redford.

Participants will begin their day at 10:30 a.m. with registration and set-up of their booths. At 11 a.m. a networking luncheon will take place followed by the business expo. The public will be invited to attend 2-6 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$60 for a eight-foot skirted table or \$15 per person for lunch only.

The directors of the 5 Star Business group are very pleased with the business that have signed up to get the most from participating in the Expo. They realize that while most businesses are slashing their advertising budgets, they are

taking themselves out of the race. The Business 2 Business and Community Expo is their chance to give chamber member businesses a competitive edge in today's marketing economy.

For the participating businesses, the Expo is their opportunity to promote their products and services to a diverse group of expo goers, ranging from potential customers, fellow chamber members, business and community leaders, decision makers and government officials to the general public.

The Expo is a great networking resource and affordable venue to advertise a company.

A few tips for a successful Expo Booth include:

- Give your business a little WOW! Factor. Try for an eye catching focal point along with your signage. Try using an item that excites the senses, like popcorn machine, flowers or bright flamboyant artwork.
- Have an informed personable and outgoing representa-

tive at your booth, someone who knows your product inside and out.

- Make contact with every visitor.
- Opening a conversation with "are you familiar with (name your product)" is good. Because if they say "yes" you can ask what their experience has been, if they say "no" you can introduce them to something new.

• Collect a business card from visitors, write notes on the back of the card, so that follow up can be direct and personable.

• Do a drawing. This gives a business the opportunity to create a marketing list for future use.

• Most important, follow up with all leads within two days of the event.

NOW is the time to sign up for the Expo, limited spots available. To register, call (734) 422-4448.

Amelia Oliverio
Executive director

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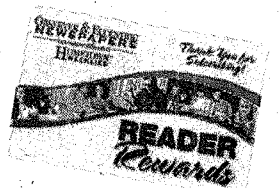


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Goodwill taps Canton for retail store

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In its fight against unemployment, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit chose Canton for its first metro-area retail store in a decade.

Jeff Ukraineec, the nonprofit agency's director of donated goods, cited several reasons why Goodwill decided to move into a 17,000-square-foot building at 41905 Ford Road, near Haggerty, with an expected opening in October.

Canton has a comparatively high income level, and residents are likely to donate new or gently used clothing, furniture, pots and pans, lamps and other household items Goodwill can sell to provide education and job-training for a growing number of unemployed people.

The flagship retail store's location near I-275 will make it accessible to donors — and shoppers — not only from Canton but also from neighboring communities such as Westland and Plymouth Township.

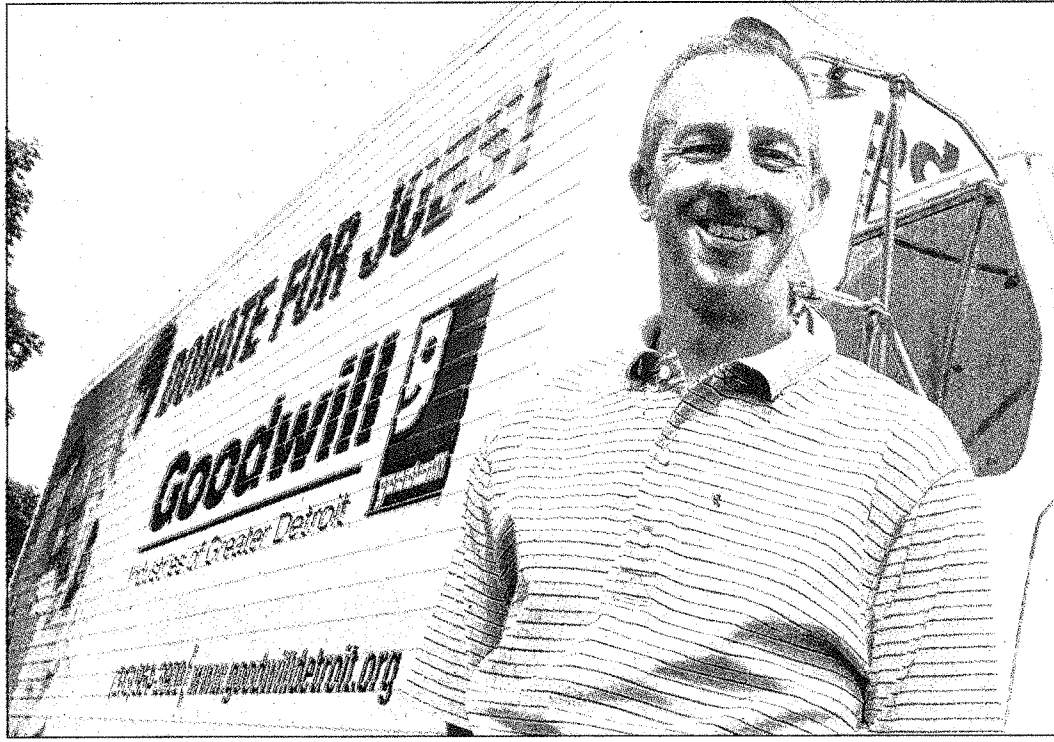
Goodwill hopes to draw customers from as far away as Canada and other Midwest states — customers who already are in Canton to visit the IKEA store, just across Ford Road.

The new store, near high-density population areas, faces a stretch of Ford Road that ranks among the state's most heavily traveled thoroughfares.

Goodwill officials believe it's realistic they can generate \$1 million in revenue in the first year, alone, due to the store's location.

Canton seemed a good fit for Goodwill, which hasn't had an area retail store in a decade, and township officials are pleased the organization chose Canton's key commercial corridor.

"We welcome them to the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Ukraineec, director of donated goods for Goodwill Industries, says the Canton store will be the first retail location in 10 years when it opens in October.

community," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "We look forward to having them as part of the community."

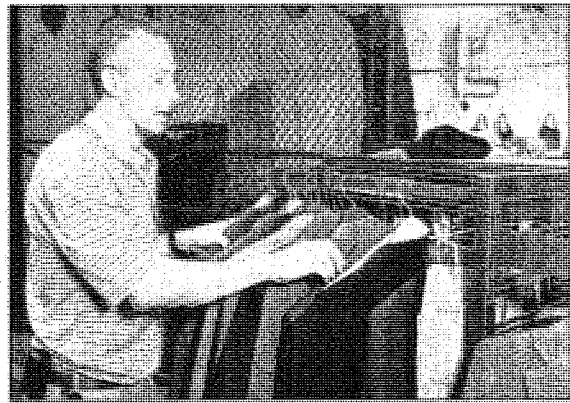
The new store will be modeled after Goodwill's two most successful retail locations in Indianapolis and Portland, Ore.

"It's not going to have the look of a traditional, old-fashioned thrift store," Ukraineec said. "The atmosphere is going to be more like a department store."

Goodwill, with a nearly 90-year history, has a Detroit headquarters but targets a broader area to help people with disabilities or other employment challenges by placing them in jobs or helping them with services ranging from job-training to resume-writing to GED help. Clients can receive training in fields ranging from retail hospitality to skilled trades.

"We have 830 employers who hire our people," Mark Lane, director of public relations and special events, said. "Last year, we touched over 28,600 individuals. It could be people with disabilities. It could be someone who worked in the steel mills or someone who was a mortgage broker."

Goodwill Industries last year also had 1,132 direct job place-



There will be a large selection of quality goods at the new store, according to Jeff Ukraineec.

ments, but the Canton store will allow the nonprofit agency to help a growing number of people who need help because of a still-ailing economy.

Moreover, the Canton store itself will employ an estimated 23 people to start.

"Our return to retail is about more than just opening a store. It's about creating Metro Detroit jobs," said Lindsay Chalmers, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit's vice president, who oversees business development for the organization.

"As we lead the charge through the Detroit area's current unemployment crisis," Chalmers said, "it's crucial not just to help local people earn jobs, but to create the businesses that will create those jobs."

Plans for the Canton store

come amid support from community partners such as The Junior Group of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, Art Van Furniture, Rogers, Minn.-based Archway Marketing Services and Detroit-based International Trading Solutions.

For more information, log on to www.goodwilldetroit.org. Goodwill also can be found on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Four teens compete in Detroit pageant

Four local girls have been selected to participate in Nationals Inc. pageants in Detroit this weekend.

Alexa Andries of Westland is participating in Nationals' 2010 Miss Junior Teen Detroit pageant on Sunday, Aug. 1, while Madison Nabozny and Emma Jimenez, both of Garden City, will compete in the Miss Pre-Teen Detroit competition and Latia Harrison of Westland in the Miss Teen Detroit Pageant.

The girls found out about their selection earlier this month after submitting an application and taking part in an interview session with this year's Detroit Pageant coordinator.

They will be competing for a share of thousands of dollars in prizes and specialty gifts that will be distributed to contestants. There are four divisions for young ladies between ages 7-19. They will compete in modeling routines, including casual wear and formal wear, and display their personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Detroit judging panel. Personality is the number one aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

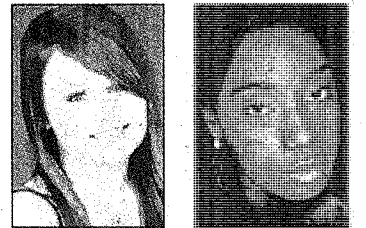
The winners will represent Detroit and the surrounding communities at the Cities of America National Competition that will take place in Orlando, Florida. More than \$60,000 in prizes and awards will be presented at the national competition. Each winner will receive expense paid trip of five nights and six days in Orlando.

Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals are helping the girls participate in the competition by becoming an official sponsor. Through sponsorship, each



Nabozny

Jimenez



Andries

Harrison

contestant receives all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support which will allow her to become a confident and well-prepared contestant in the pageant.

Alexa, 15, is the daughter of Gail Taylor. A 10th-grader at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland, she is in the school's Drama Club and the traveling choir. He hobbies include singing, acting and modeling. He sponsors are Jeni's Home Daycare where she works part-time during summer; the Fashion District-Resale & Consignment Boutique in Westland, myPCtech, LLC, in Taylor, Amico's Pizza in Livonia and Garden Lanes Bowling in Garden City.

Emma, 11, is the daughter of Melanie Jimenez of Garden City and David Jimenez of Detroit. A student at Farmington Elementary School - 5-6 campus, she loves reading, listening to music and spending time with her friends. She's looking forward to making new friends and enjoying something new at the pageant.

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July 29, 2010
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Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 E. Michigan Avenue
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 335-4661
On or about **August 16, 2010** the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) will request the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) to release Federal funds authorized under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 for the purpose of implementing MSHDA's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). MSHDA expects to directly fund the following projects using approximately \$60,000 of Michigan's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds:
Demolition. The Michigan Land Bank-Fast Track Authority (MLBFTA) will purchase and demolish abandoned or foreclosed-upon homes to support their eventual redevelopment within the 10-year period allowed by NSP. Project funds for this purpose will be expended in the City of Albion (Calhoun County), City of Westland (Wayne County) and the Township of Mt. Morris (Genesee County).
Notice of FONSI
MSHDA, based on its completed environmental assessment, has determined that the project described above will not have a significant impact on the human environment according to the applicable regulations at 40 CFR 1508.27 and 24 CFR 58.37. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required and such Statement was not prepared because no serious environmental adverse impacts or hazards were identified in the course of the environmental review of these program areas. As project sites are identified, a site-specific environmental review will be conducted prior to project implementation to determine community and environmental impact using HUD's Statutory Checklist for compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 & 6 and the Environmental Assessment Checklist.
An Environmental Review Record respecting the proposed project has been made by MSHDA which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at MSHDA, 735 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48909. The records are available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact Carolyn Cunningham at (517) 335-4661 for additional information.
No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal funds.
Public Comments on Finding
All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration. Such written comments should be received at MSHDA's address listed above on or before **August 13, 2010**. All such comments so received will be considered and MSHDA will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the proposed projects prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.
Release of Funds
MSHDA is certifying to HUD that MSHDA and Bruce Jeffries in his official capacity as Certifying Officer is consenting to accept the jurisdiction of Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, MSHDA may use the NSP funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
Objections to HUD and Release of Funds
HUD will accept an objection to its approval only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the certifying officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; or (b) that applicant's environmental review record for the project indicated omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; or (c) other specific grounds in HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Rasheedah Dix, HUD Detroit Area Office, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI, 48226.
Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. No objections received after **August 31, 2010** will be considered by HUD.
Equal Housing Employer/Lender

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Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Good news Park cleanup will be sooner, not later

For several years, Mayor William Wild has talked about the redevelopment of Central City Park. On more than one occasion he expressed optimism that work on cleaning up a portion of the contaminated site would start by year's end.

He was right that the work would start, he was just a little off on which year. It looks like 2010 may be it, especially if bids on the proposed cleanup and redevelopment of 15 acres in the southeastern portion of the park go out this week.

The park has been a black eye for the city since November 2006 when a story broke about its widespread lead contamination. Built on a former county landfill, it was devastating news for the people who had frequented it. The news created a panic and a lot of anger when residents learned that city officials had known about the problem for years, but nothing had been done about it.

Wild has had the task of dealing with the problem since he took over as mayor in 2007. From illegal dumping on the site to the fear of methane gas, he and his staff and Wayne County officials have shown leadership and creativity in finding a way to get the park back online. Thirty-three acres of the park will be restored in several phases. The first phase will provide, among other things, a soccer complex, outdoor bathrooms, concession stand, new walking path and pavilion.

In talking about the development at his Town Hall meeting last week, the mayor called the new and improved park site "much more family-friendly" which goes well with the new and improved kid magnet the city has created at nearby Tattan Park with its Play Planet playscape and H2O Zone splash park.

It's clear to see that the mayor has made lemonade with the lemons that were handed to him when he took office. We are glad to hear that redevelopment will come sooner rather than later and look forward to the first shovelful of contaminated dirt being removed from the site.

We know it will be awhile before sounds of families resonating from that area of the park are heard, but we now know they're coming. For us and for the residents of Westland, that's good news indeed.

Angelo Plakas will be missed

Earlier this month, City of Westland lost a special individual with the passing of City Attorney Angelo Plakas.



Mr. Plakas

Those who knew him remember his big smile, his kind words, his caring demeanor. He was wise. He was experienced. He was practical. He had a way of making you feel you were a longtime friend, even if it was your first time meeting him. He was a master storyteller.

Mr. Plakas was Westland's city attorney for more than 20 years and looked out for the city and its elected officials.

He kept them on the straight and narrow. Some may not have agreed with his legal opinions, but they, first and foremost, were fair and honest.

The quality of the man was reflected in those whom he worked with over the years — Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, retired District Judge C. Charles Bokos and current District Judge Mark McConnell, to name a few. It will take some time to get used to, but we know the mayor and council will find a city attorney who will be up to filling his shoes.

We, too, will miss Angelo Plakas. We offer our condolences to his family and to the City of Westland. This corner of the world is a better place because of him.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: Killing of police officer

There is no such thing as "early release" from prison. A person can get paroled at their earliest out date but not just let go. If a person is sentenced to 2-5 years they can be paroled anytime within that five years but not until they have served at least 2 years. The guy that murdered this officer is a career criminal. He knew he had a gun, he knew he was a felon, and he knew he was going to get searched and sentenced to a flat 5 years (no chance of parole. He would have to serve exactly 5 years for the possession of a gun by a felon.) He chose to murder the officer rather than go back to prison.

There are no words to describe my anger at this guy and quite honestly I think prison is too easy on the prisoners and under certain circumstances I think the death penalty is appropriate. This is one of those cases.

chwtory

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you plan to vote in the August primary election?

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



"Yes, I do. I got my absentee ballot waiting to be signed, but I'm very undecided as far as the candidates are concerned."

Marie Demsky
Garden City



"Yes, I've already voted absentee."

Joe Spano
Canton



"Yes, I do. I was Democrat, but I'm going Republican because I don't trust them."

Loretta Mahalak
Livonia



"Yes, because it's my constitutional right to vote, but don't ask me who I'm going to vote for because I don't know yet."

Richard Gora
Garden City

LETTERS

Friend and colleague

I just want to add my congratulations to Darrell Clem for his recognition from the City of Westland. I just saw him at Angelo Plakas' wake, and it was so good to see an old friend after my absence in Florida.

Darrell always conducted himself professionally and empathetically in his coverage of Westland's Youth Assistance Program. I consider him to be a friend as well as a colleague, and I am so proud and happy for him for this award.

WAY TO GO, DARRELL.

Ronaee Bowman

Well-deserved tribute

A well-deserved tribute was paid to Darrell Clem, former Westland Observer journalist, at a Town Hall meeting recently held at Holiday Park in Westland. Personally, I would love to have heard comments from his former bosses — Westland Observer editors Leonard Poger who was there when he began his reporting days, and Sue Mason who was there when he was transferred to a neighboring community.

Darrell was with the newspaper for 18 years until June of 2009.

Some of the subjects he wrote about that are near and dear to my heart were:

1. Fund-raising projects for historical events.
2. Articles on local historic buildings.
3. Vandalism to headstones in our historic

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

Ganong Cemetery.

4. Complete coverage on Annapolis Park sub in our quest for the National Register and the State Historical Marker. A particular article he wrote in February 2005, "Annapolis Park seeks historic designation," was about a phone call he made to Lansing to check on the status of the project that Edna Parker and myself had mailed there a year before. Even after his call that lit a spark, it took a year to complete all of the requirements needed to be considered for the National Register. It was

worth the time and effort for Annapolis Park is the first and only historic district and National Register listing in Westland.

5. Darrell wrote an awesome article on the 1856 one-room Perrinsville Schoolhouse titled, "Restored school opens door to history." It was huge and filled with photos by staff photographer Tom Hawley. It told about the upcoming Open House Ceremony and State Historical Marker dedication.

6. He wrote an award-winning article on Rosa Parks.

7. Another article was on Thomas H. Brown, elder statesman mourned.

8. An lastly, his outstanding coverage of Central City Park contamination. Two of the first pieces he wrote on it were titled "Parents blast officials for silence on lead — soil tests as early as 1999 indicated problems" and "Old pictures capture dump site that became Central City Park."

9. Any articles on Cooper School — the fourth school built in 1966 being demolished, or reporting on redevelopment of the site

Darrell told me more than once that he tried to tell both sides of a story. He did just that for he was always objective and unbiased in his reporting. And I can truly call him a great journalist, my friend, and my fellow Kentuckian.

Ruth Dale,
local historian
Westland

GUEST OPINION

Protecting sources: protecting the public

During the course of its investigation into the current Gulf of Mexico oil spill, *The Associated Press* was given information from the then-office of Mineral Management Services that was not making a lot of sense.



Kevin Smith

As millions of gallons of crude spewed into the gulf waters and the oversight by MMS officials on BP's well was being called into question, an anonymous source in that office told reporters far different stories than what they had been initially told. This anonymous source set the record straight by coming forward and speaking out, and suddenly the world knew that this was more than a mechanical failure; it was a full system failure. The people hired to keep these events from occurring were ignoring their responsibilities.

At times, anonymous sources provide crucial information to the press. Stories of oil disasters may be the latest, but without citizens coming forward and sharing vital information, Americans would not know about steroids in sports, excessive military spending, or food and drug hazards. We would never have been told about Watergate.

A bill currently in the U.S. Senate will help assure such stories continue to reach the public. S. 448, The Free Flow

of Information Act, will protect the sources on whom journalists rely from having their identities exposed in all but a few circumstances including where national security concerns are raised. Five years in the making, the current version of this bill is supported by more than 50 journalism organizations, the White House, the Justice Department and most of your congressional delegation.

Most states have laws that can protect a source's identity from overzealous prosecutors and judges, but there is no such protection yet at the federal level. S. 448 would change that and extend the same protections offered through statute or common law in 49 states to the national government. Without it, stories focusing on the federal government will not be told because reporters are faced with threats of jail time and fines if they do not turn on their sources.

Subpoenas against the press numbered more than 3,000 nationwide in 2006 with 335 issued by federal prosecutors seeking the identities of news sources, according to a survey conducted by a Brigham Young University law professor. More than a few journalists have spent time in jail, and some have been forced out of the profession all together by heavy fines that crippled them financially. These are all heavy-handed tactics to elicit the names of people who can then be identified and retaliated against. Media companies large and small faced

with the enormous expenses of fighting such legal battles to protect sources are turning their backs on compelling stories.

As S. 448 awaits permission from key Senate leadership to come to the floor for a full vote, all senators, representing the interests of American citizens, need to hear from their constituents. Citizens who value the importance of transparency in governance and think the American press needs to continue to serve as the watchdog on the federal government should tell their senators to support this measure.

The clock is ticking as Congress will recess in August. Tell your senator to have the bill moved to a full Senate vote as soon as possible and support its passage.

Without this bill, stories that affect lives, like the oil spill in the Gulf, will never get the detailed attention they need to bring about change. Without this bill, your government has a better chance of operating in darkness or lying its way out of trouble. Help bring this to an end by voicing support for S. 448.

Only when there is a free flow of information from the government to its people can we truly appreciate the beauty and power of a democracy.

Kevin Z. Smith is the 2009-10 national president of the Society of Professional Journalists. Reach him at ksmith@spj.org. For more on SPJ's work to improve and protect journalism, see www.spj.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, July 29, 2010

hometownlife.com

hometownlife.com

BECOME A FAN TODAY

Report: Two men foiled taking vacuum cleaners

Retail fraud

A 20-year-old Detroit man and a 22-year-old Highland Park man were arrested at the Meijer store at Warren Road and Newburgh on July 24 for shoplifting and were held on outstanding warrants after they were observed by security trying to take two \$400 Dyson vacuum cleaners, police said.

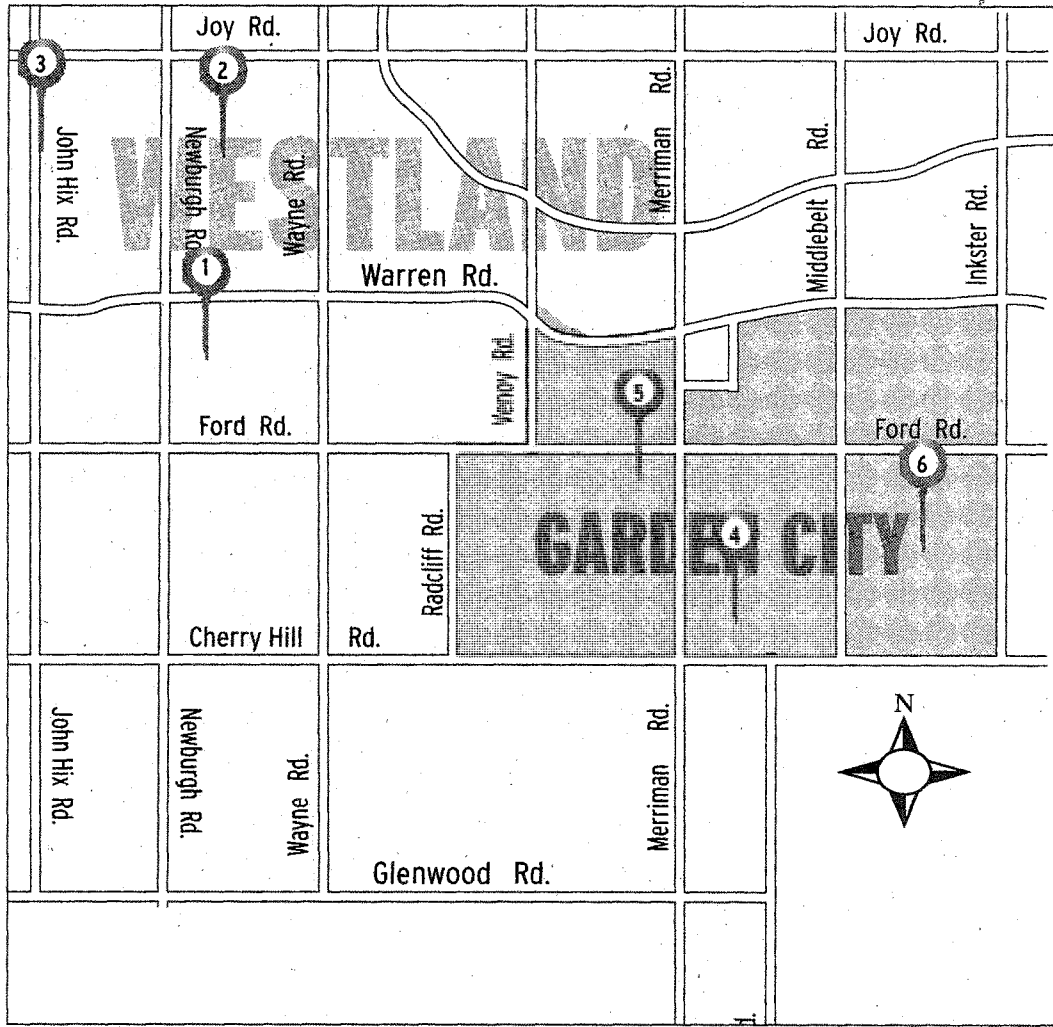
The security officer told police the two men entered the store and went to the vacuum cleaners where they began looking through them. They left the area, but returned a few minutes later and each selected a Dyson vacuum cleaner. The men left the store and went to the outdoor garden center where they placed the vacuum cleaners outside a gate, police said.

They began to leave the store when they saw employees approaching and instead retrieved the vacuum cleaners and walked back into the store where they left them in an aisle, police said. Both men did not have identification and one of them provided a fake name, police said, he was ticketed for providing false identification.

A Westland man and woman were charged with retail fraud after trying to remove women's clothing, body wash and 59 cans of Five-Hour Energy drink from the store in a black bag, police said.

Security officers told police they watched the couple select the merchandise and place in the bag, then leave the store without stopping to pay.

When stopped by store security, the man reportedly refused to re-enter the store and told his female accomplice not to either. The security



officers told the man to leave to avoid a confrontation, however, police found him leaning against the woman's car and arrested him, police said.

Stolen vehicle

A resident on McKinney Drive in the Warris Farms apartment complex called police July 23 to report his 2008 Dodge Nitro was missing from the parking lot. He had last seen the vehicle 18 hours earlier when he parked and

locked it. He told police he was current on his payments and the car wasn't due to be turned in until March.

Police questioned the man about the report after receiving a call from the Detroit Police Department's Northwest District just 16 minutes after he called the Westland Police.

He admitted he had been in Detroit when the vehicle had disappeared, but said friends had picked him up, police said.

The Nitro was valued at \$10,000.

Stolen tires

Four tires and rims were stolen from a car parked in the driveway of a home in the 8100 block of St. Johns Drive sometime after 11 p.m. July 23.

The owner discovered the tires missing and the vehicle sitting on landscaping blocks about 8 a.m. July 24. The culprits left lugnuts behind. The loss was estimated at \$2,000.

Report: Employee caught cashing in lottery tickets

Assault

Garden City police are investigating an alleged assault between a softball coach and a player July 25 at Garden City Park located at Cherry Hill and Merriman.

The player, a 53-year-old Wayne man, reportedly said the coach told him he couldn't play because of a previous incident in which the player threw a bat. The alleged victim reportedly said that the coach, a 59-year-old Westland man, thrust out his chest and lunged at his chest.

The coach reportedly said they got close enough so only their cap brims touched. He denied head butting the player.

Police noted there were no visible injuries to either man.

When an unknown suspect thought a man threw a bottle at a black Ford Escape he was riding in at Farmington and Alta, he said the suspect got out of the car and punched the 18-year-old Garden City man in the face and in the ribs.

The suspect and the people in the Escape were estimated to be between 20-25 years old.

Embezzlement

A 28-year-old Belleville man who worked at the 7-Eleven store at 28205 Ford admitted cashing scratch off lottery tickets without paying for them July 26-27, police said. An estimated

\$294 was reportedly stolen.

The store wants to prosecute the man who started working there in May. They have obtained a video, according to the police report.

Property destruction

Witnesses repeated the same phrase in describing what happened right before five vehicles were hit about 3 a.m. July 25. They all said they saw some suspects in a "green Dodge Caravan" shooting an airsoft gun and laughing, police said.

The suspected vehicle was first seen on Marquette and then going southbound on Garden, police said.

Vehicle windows were reported broken in the 28900 block of Marquette, the 29900 block of Barton and the 29609 block of Florence. Two vehicles were hit in the 29400 block of Florence.

Retail fraud

An unknown citizen, acting as a Good Samaritan, helped return a shoplifted case of Budweiser beer about 3:30 p.m. July 23.

An unknown suspect left the 7-Eleven store at 2205 Merriman. Once outside, the citizen made the suspect give up the beer, which the citizen returned the product to the clerk. The employee wasn't able to get the man's name who performed the good deed.

By Sue Buck

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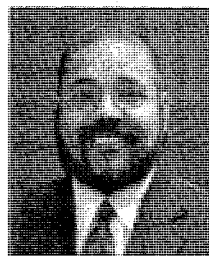
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lions Club Car Show

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11

Location: Culver's, 6500 N. Newburgh, just west of Warren Road, Westland

Details: Cruisin' with Culver's and Memories in Motion Car Club is holding at benefit car show for the Westland Lions Club. A \$15 donation guarantees a goody bag and dash plaque to the first 100 classic cars registered by Aug. 1. Send your name, address, daytime phone number, model make and year of the vehicle with a check made payable to the Westland Lions Club to 35013 Cady St. Westland, MI 48186.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 522-0411

Mental health program

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28

Location: Oakwood Heritage Hospital, 10000 Telegraph, Taylor

Details: National Alliance on Mental Illness Metro is presenting a program on mental health education and legislative issues parents, professionals, and caregivers, anyone who wants to learn and understand more about mental illness. The topics of discussion include Signs and Symptoms, Stress, Dual Diagnosis, Dealing with the Difficult, Communications and Legislation Issues Impacting Mental Health. The speakers will be Milton Mack, chief Wayne County probate judge and Leon and Mary Ellen Judd of NAMI Metro. The program is free of charge and a light lunch and certificate of attendance will be provided. The program is sponsored by Oakwood Heritage Hospital.

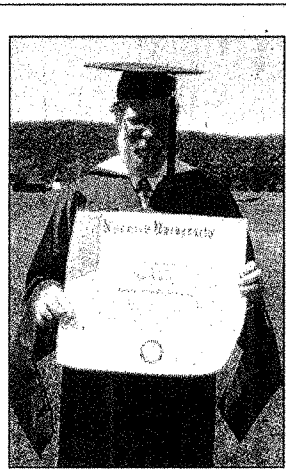
Contact: Reserve a spot by Aug. 19, by calling Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197 or by e-mail at tamera.varkas@oakwood.org

Craft show sign-ups

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9

Location: St. Theodore Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: The St. Theodore's Confraternity of Christian Women is



It's official

Daryl A. Bailey of Westland shows off the master of arts degree in military history he recently received from Norwich University. Bailey completed the course work on-line and also traveled to the campus in Northfield, Vermont, for a week of residency. Bailey, the former chairman of the Westland Historical Commission, is co-author of "Images of America: Westland."

accepting signups for its fall craft show. Table rental is \$25.

Contact: Mary at (734) 425-4421, voicemail 10.

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.

Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to

support the bands. Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland
Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland
Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place

Time/date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

Adult Day Services

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays
Location: 570 S Main St., Plymouth MI

Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals

Contact: Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

Metro Fibromyalgia

Time/date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City

Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Menopause & More

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month
Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.

Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint

Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.

Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove

Time/date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.

Details: Support group, newcomers welcome. Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

You can generally just scan class action lawsuit notice

Over the last few weeks, many investors have received official notices regarding class action lawsuits brought against a number of mutual fund companies.

A few years ago, there was a mutual fund scandal in which a number of companies were charged with improper trading practices. Some of these companies settled those cases and made reimbursements to shareholders. Over the last year or so, investors received an unsolicited check from a mutual fund company. Now many are receiving notices with regard to a variety of class action lawsuits that were filed on behalf of a shareholder.

Investors lately are asking what to do when they receive these types of notices. The good news is nothing. Most of the notices do not require action, they merely inform investors of their rights. For the great majority of people the check is found money. However, for a small fraction of people with unique situations and where a substantial amount of money is involved, there may be reason to opt out of the settlement. These cases are rare.

If there is nothing that most people can do why did the company even bother

sending the information? The answer simply is it's the law and the theory is that it is better to have too much information than not enough. Therefore, if you've received notification about a class action lawsuit with regards to a mutual fund, don't worry about it or get anxious.

Whether it is annual reports, proxy statements or notification about a lawsuit, it is important that at least you give a cursory review of the documents and information that you receive.

Unfortunately, most of the information sent by mutual fund companies (in fact by most companies) seems to be written by lawyers for lawyers. However, that doesn't excuse you from at least attempting to understand what the material sent means and how it affects you.

In addition, don't forget that if you use a professional financial adviser, it is a fair question to ask them. After all, a good financial adviser should be able to provide you with assistance. A good financial adviser monitors investments after they are purchased.

Don't let these items increase your anxiety level. We all have enough of it already.

Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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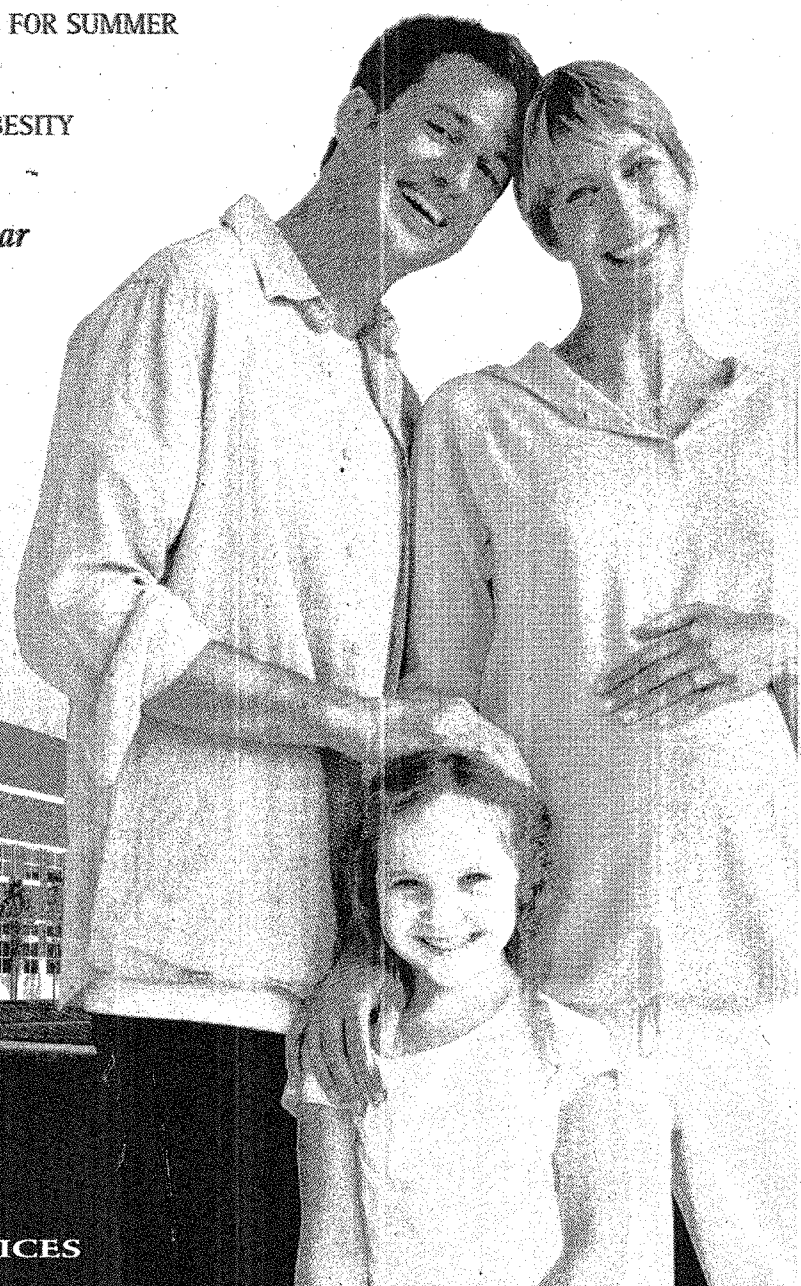
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BARBARA DEGRAW | PHOTO

Closer P.J. Zocchi (22) of the first-place Oakland County Cruisers has converted all 20 save opportunities this season in the Frontier League.

Ford Field hosts Frontier League set

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Frontier League baseball will be up-close and personal this weekend as the first-place Oakland County Cruisers will roll into Livonia's Ford Field for a three-game series with Washington (Pa.) Wild Things.

The unaffiliated independent minor league team, with no current home park, stands 38-20 (as of Monday) and leads the East Division of the Frontier circuit by 6.5 games over the Traverse City Beach Bums.



Gera Alvarez

There will be no admission charge for any of the three games, which kicks off with a double-header at 4 p.m. on Saturday in a pair of seven-inning affairs, followed by a single nine-inning matchup beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The Cruisers, who play 78 of their 96 games away from the metro area, will return for another three-game set against the Kalamazoo Kings beginning

with a twinbill at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1 and a single game at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2 at Ford Field. (The Livonia Junior Athletic League will provide concessions for all six games.)

"We're very excited to play in Livonia and it will be an intimate atmosphere," said Jerry Garland, the Cruisers' Director of Sales and Customer Relations. "We hope to have a great crowd - so check us out, it's not a bunch of beer league-type guys, it's probably more closer to double-AA caliber ball with the average age of our players around 22 to 27."

The Cruisers' franchise is in its fourth year of existence since joining the Frontier League, which consists of 12 teams, including six clubs in the East and six more in the West.

With the help of a local group of investors, Baseball Heroes of Oakland County, LP, the Cruisers are expected to break ground soon on a new 4,000-seat plus stadium on an 11-acre parcel at Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph roads (at the old Oakland Mall).

The new park will be called Diamond

Please see **LEAGUE, B3**

Neu, McHugh look to contribute at Concordia

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

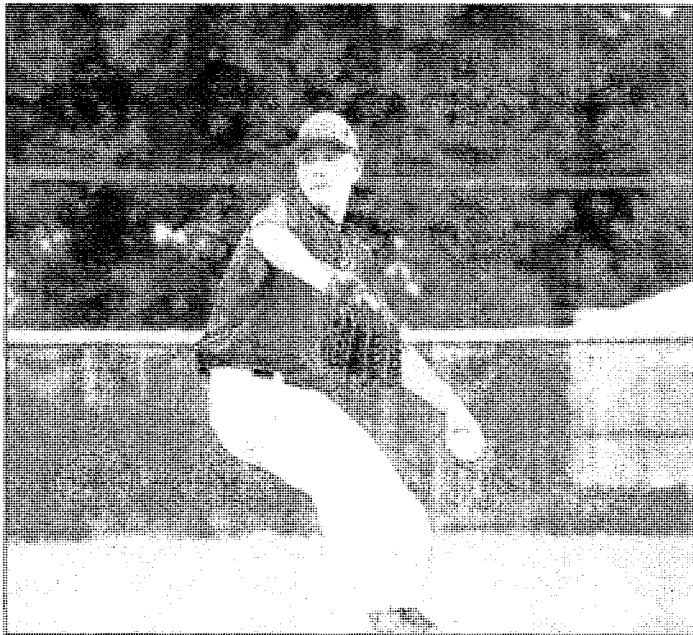
Looking to turn the fortunes of the baseball program around, Concordia University recently inked a pair of former Observerland standouts.

Ryan Neu, a shortstop who for the past two years starred on the diamond at Macomb Community College after prepping at Canton High School, and Nate McHugh, a standout pitcher at Garden City

High School the past two seasons, both signed letters of intent with hopes of helping the Cardinals regain some of their prowess competing for top honors in the always-tough Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

"We really like both players and feel they will both benefit from our program," said Ryan McCosky, who is serving as interim head coach of

Please see **CONCORDIA, B2**

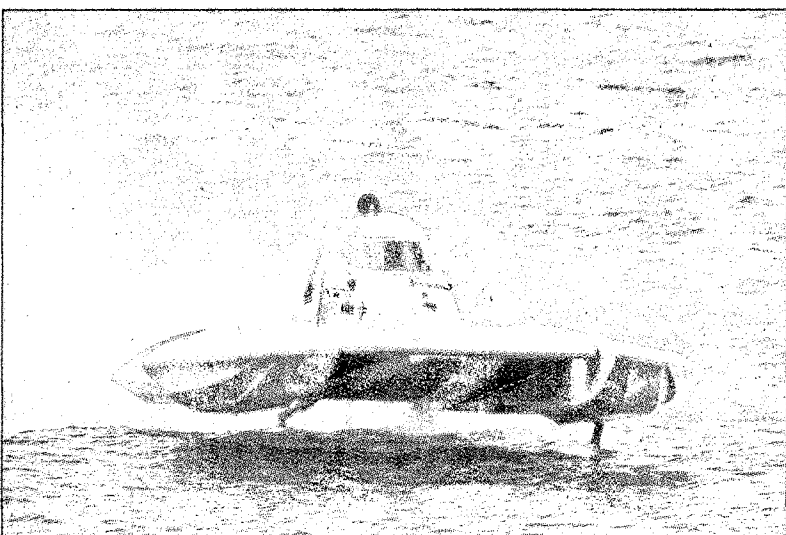


Former Garden City hurler Nate McHugh will take his diamond talents to Concordia University and suit up for the Cardinals baseball team next spring.

PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Racing team rebounds from rough start

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Jim Sechler's boat, the Fast Eddie II, rebounded from a rough first day to win both heats in hydroplane racing July 18 at the Quake on the Lake.

After a rocky start, Jim Sechler and his hydroplane team rebounded on day two of the Quake on the Lake to salvage the July 17-18 racing weekend.

A failed engine in Sechler's boat, Fast Eddie II, wiped out the opening day at Pontiac Lake in Waterford, but he and his crew came back to win two races Sunday with another motor.

"In the five years we've been running, we never had an engine explode," Sechler, a Farmington Hills resident, said. "We blew one up in the first race Saturday."

"We spent the afternoon putting a motor back in. We got it ready to go; we got it ready for Sunday and won both heats. Saturday, we didn't do so well!"

Sechler, with driver Dan Kanfoush at

the wheel, is in a tight race for the overall points leadership in the APBA one-liter modified class, and the engine failure cost the team valuable points.

Sechler called it a minor setback, however. The 200 points from winning qualifying and final heats Sunday helped to keep Fast Eddie II in contention.

"That keeps us in the running," Sechler said. "We're still doing pretty well this year."

The greater disappointment was the fact the failed engine was brand new and had just been installed the previous week, he added.

"What's a little frustrating is we lost a good engine that had little run time," Sechler said. "It was running really well. I thought we had a pretty good shot and

Please see **RACING, B2**

SIDELINES

Baseball scholars

Five area players were recently named to the 2010 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-State Academic Team.

Among those earning honors for the second year in a row include Nick Hopson and Jack Chinavare, both of Livonia Franklin, and Christian Leathley, of Livonia Churchill.

Nick Anderson and Ben Anderson, both of Livonia Stevenson, also were named to the squad.

Vaulters sparkle

Members of the Skyshark Camp, coached by Vern Williams, competed July 16-17, in the Grand Haven Beach Vault, a pole vault event drawing a field of 300 ranging in age from 13-to-75.

Four-time NCAA women's champ Kylie Hutson cleared 14-6, while men's NCAA champ Mark Hollis jumped 18-7.

Top area finishers included Laura Borovsky (Livonia), third, ages 25-29 (9 feet, 6 inches); Derik Peterman (Livonia), third, College-Open Men (15-0); Megan Paruta (Canton), tied for eighth, Girls 17-18 (8-9); Meghan Lark (Livonia), 11th, Girls 15-16 (8-3); Carl Rayford (Livonia), tied for 15th (12-0); Michael Greer (Livonia), 18th, Boys 17-18 (12-0); Lindsey Kreutzman (Livonia), tied for 12th, Girls 15-16 (7-6); Audra Flores (Westland), tied for 12th, Girls 15-16 (7-6 each); Morgan Quist (Livonia), tied for 20th, Girls 15-16 (6-9).

Salem tennis camp

Returning and incoming freshman players for the Salem boys tennis team will practice at a camp from 9:30 a.m. until noon daily beginning the week of Aug. 16 at the Huron Valley Tennis Club.

The cost is \$132 for the entire week or \$28 per day.

To register, call the club at (734) 662-5514.

Zylstra takes 7th

Competing as an amateur, Plymouth's Bill Zylstra placed seventh with two-round total of 2-under 71-71-142 in the 2010 Club Car Michigan PGA Senior Open, July 12-13, at Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek.

Steve Wells of Hampshire Country Club captured first place and the \$3,000 top prize with a 6-under 68-70-138.

Cruisers camps

The Oakland County Cruisers will conduct a pair of baseball camps at Livonia's Ford Field, located at 14281 Farmington Road (at Lyndon).

Session 1 (ages 14-18) will be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2 at Diamond No. 1. The cost is \$75.

Session 2 (ages 7-14) will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 1 at alternate diamonds.

Each camp is limited to the first 48.

For registration information, call (248) 681-0084 during normal business hours or e-mail Cruisers Academy director Matt Dillard at mdillard@cruisersbaseball.com.

Free junior golf

The Wolverine Sports and Conservation Club's third annual junior boys and girls golf tournament will be Aug. 21-22 at Livonia's Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

The free event is on a first-come, first-serve basis (limited to the first 144 golfers). Lunch and T-shirt is included. Trophies will be awarded for each boys and girls division winners.

Registration for ages 10-12 and 13-14 - a nine-hole event - is at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21. Tee times are at 8:30 a.m.

Registration for ages 15-16 and 17-18 - an 18-hole event - is at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 22. Tee times are at noon. Golfers can only register online at www.wolverinesports.org. Call Bob Murray at (734) 751-4466.

CONCORDIA

FROM PAGE B1

the Cardinals following the resignation in May of former head coach Karl Kling. "Ryan has some big shoes to fill after having (Livonia Stevenson) Tony Pounders here the last four years playing shortstop, but his work ethic is second to none and we like a lot of things he does.

"When we watched Nate (pitch) we saw him go out there and take the mound with the competitive edge we're looking for," McCosky continued. "He has pretty good stuff and I think he's the kind of guy we can develop his potential."

A left-hander, McHugh led his Garden City teammates in wins (7), innings pitched (54) and earned run average (2.81) last spring as the Cougars finished with a 21-8 ledger overall and advanced all the way to the regional finals. At the plate he proved to be a difficult out, clubbing opposing pitchers at a .395 clip, driving in 27 runs and scoring 21 times.

"Coach McCosky said he could use me as a pitcher, but is also looking at me to help out at first base and the outfield," said McHugh, whose repertoire on the mound includes the two- and four-seam fastball, curve, slider and change-up. "This (college ball) has always been a

dream for me and I'm looking forward to it."

Neu, meanwhile, picked up right where he left off playing shortstop for the Chiefs both his junior and senior seasons by being the heart and soul of the Monarchs lineup the last two years.

"Baseball has always been No. 1 for me and I've always been interested in Concordia, so it's a pretty good situation," Neu said. "Playing at Macomb was a really good stepping stone and I know I have big shoes to fill because Pounders was such a great player."

"I know I'll be really nervous when I go out there, but I've been working out hard trying to get bigger and fast-

er to help better prepare me for this challenge."

According to both McCosky and Neu, solidifying the middle of the field defensively at shortstop will be top priority. Significant contributions at the plate by the incoming Cardinal will rate as a dividend.

"It's going to be defense first with him, but we know he can hit, too," McCosky said.

"I'm a contact hitter, but I know I have to get stronger," said Neu, who found himself in the lead-off position much of the time at Macomb. "It's going to be a challenge for me, but that's why I like baseball so much...because of the personal challenges."

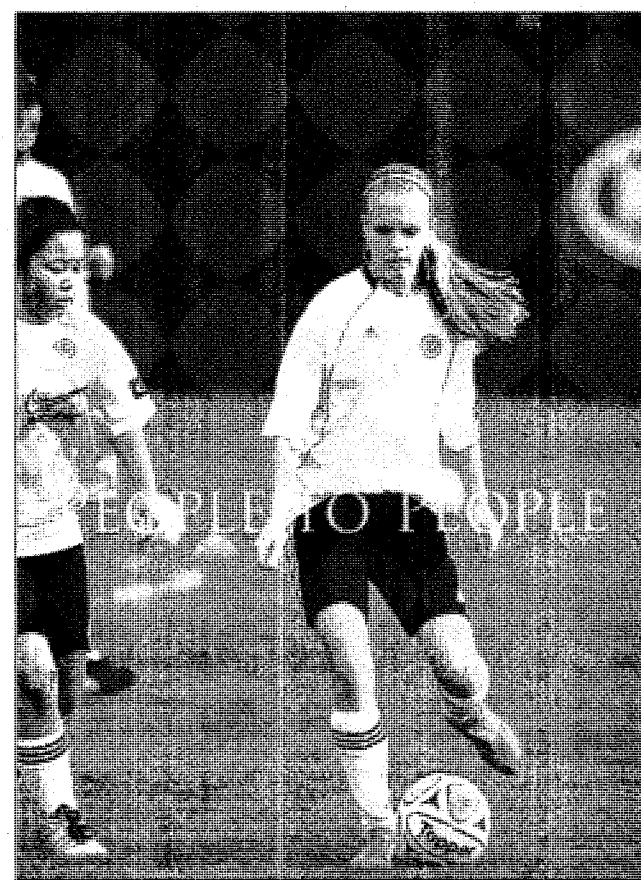


PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Livonia Churchill sophomore Ashley Elliott recently returned from the Zico Cup Futbol Tournament in Brazil with her first-place under-15 U.S. Galaxy squad.

Livonian gets kick out of Zico Cup experience

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ashley Elliott's proved to have the Midas Touch as a soccer ambassador on her recent trip to Brazil.

The 14-year-old sophomore goalkeeper from Livonia Churchill High did not allow a goal as she helped her Galaxy U.S. under-15 team capture the gold medal in the Zico Cup Futbol Tournament.

Her clean sheet also included an appearance in an All-Star game.

The Galaxy squad was coached by Suzanne Martinez and trained by former U.S. National Men's Team coach Steve Samson.

Elliott, who began playing soccer at age three, was recommended to the People to People exchange program where she was the only representative from Michigan.

This spring Elliott played

for the Churchill junior varsity squad and is currently a member of the Livonia City Soccer Club's under-14 '96 Red team.

Elliott said the best part of her experience were the new friends she made across the U.S.

The worst part? Wake-up calls at 7:15 a.m.

The People to People team also toured an orphanage where they brought school supplies for the 128 children, as well as giving them U.S. soccer patches. They also exchanged soccer patches with the Brazilian teams.

Elliott was also able to explore one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Christ the Redeemer, located on the top of Corcovado Mountain, which can only be accessed by cable car.

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titles are usually determined in separate events. There were about 50 boats at Waterford for the Quake on the Lake, and there will more than 140 at this race.

"When you have a problem with the boat, it's not like you can throw it in the local lake and see if you fixed it," Sechler said. "We're going 10 and a half hours to Maryland, and we're not sure it's going to run or not. We'll just try to prepare as best we can and hope for the best."

"The fact we ran well on Sunday makes me feel we're not totally in trouble. We have to make sure we stay focused and get this thing up and running."

Each team can compete in as many events as they want, but only the top 15 count toward their total points. Sechler has nine race days in and needs six more.

"Hopefully, we pick up one this weekend at the Summer Nationals," he said. "Then, we have a week off and a few more to close it out. We're in good shape. I just hope we had our hic-cup for this year."

RACING

FROM PAGE B1

were actually leading the race when it let go.

"I went from thinking we were in a good spot to not finishing the race. That was disappointing, but stuff like that does happen."

The unfortunate part is the biggest race of the season is this weekend and we want to be prepared. Instead, we're going in with one engine and not feeling real confident right now. I think the competition smells blood in the water."

The triple crown race will decide the APBA Summer National, Canadian Summer National and World Championship winners in one event this weekend in Cambridge, Md.

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Sechler

MR. SHOVEL

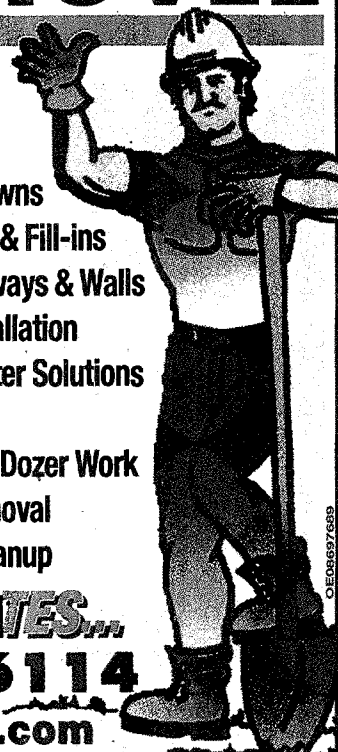
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The Michigan Bulldogs Baseball Club, a travel baseball organization based in Livonia, is proud to announce our tryout dates for the 2011 season.

This past season we had three teams competing in league play out of the Kensington Valley Baseball and Softball Association in addition to playing in numerous tournaments, including Cooperstown, NY and Myrtle Beach, Sc.

10 and under (Birth dates after April 30, 2000) - Tryouts Sunday, August 8 at Bicentennial Park in Livonia. For more information, contact head coach Lee Richards at 734-718-8522 or leerichards12@yahoo.com

12 and under (Birth dates after April 30, 1998) - Tryouts Sunday, August 1 at Bicentennial Park in Livonia. For more information, contact head coach Jim Rintala at 734-812-0952 or jdrathome@yahoo.com

13 and under (Birth dates after April 30, 1997) - Tryouts Sunday, August 8 at Bicentennial Park in Livonia. For more information, contact head coach Scott Linsner at 734-740-7498 or coachscott@michiganbulldogbaseball.com

14 and under (Birth dates after April 30, 1996) - Tryouts Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, August 1 at Ford Field in Livonia. For more information, please contact head coach Greg Denomie at 734-765-3897 or via email at sdenomie@sbcglobal.net

For information on 9U and 11U teams or to learn more information about the Michigan Bulldogs Baseball Club, please contact Scott Linsner at 734-740-7498 or via email at coachscott@michiganbulldogbaseball.com

Gooding's gem puts Coach's Corner in AAABA tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Right-hander Jeremy Gooding was more than good than enough Sunday as Coach's Corner posted a pivotal Livonia Michigan Collegiate League victory over the Michigan Rams in a battle of top 20-and-under teams at Ford Field.

Gooding, a freshman starter at Monday University who went 10-1 with a 2.39 earned run average this spring, scattered seven hits and three walks over seven innings as Coach's Corner improved to 26-7 (52 points).

The win also allowed coach Mike George's team to control its own destiny in the Collegiate League race.

Gooding, a Livonia native from Dearborn Divine Child High struck out seven, got out of pair of bases loaded jams to earn the victory against the Rams.

Losing pitcher Brandon Sinnery (Michigan) allowed three runs (two unearned) on just three hits in five innings. He struck out seven before giving way to reliever Neil Zalud in the sixth as the Rams fell to 25-8-1 (51 points) in the league.

Austin Delmotte's 2-run double in the first inning staked Coach's Corner to a 2-0 advantage. Steve Pelletier also knocked in a run in the third and Drew Adamiec (MU) scored twice.

Brett Mazmanian went 2-for-4 and scored the Rams' lone run in the fifth on an RBI by Cam Walker.

On Monday, Coach's swept the Tecumseh (Ontario) Thunder, 10-1 and 10-3, in a twinbill at Ford Field.

On Tuesday, Coach's Corner improved to 28-7 (56 points) and locked up a playoff berth in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Regional this weekend in Zanesville, Ohio by sweeping the NFWB Cobras in a double-header at White Lake Lakeland High School, 7-0 and 8-3.

Westland John Glenn's Robert Fraser (Madonna University) improved to 7-1 with a 4-hitter in the opener, while Aaron Saarela (MU) went five innings to earn the win in the nightcap with

relief help by Delmotte.

"Pitching has carried us all season," said George, whose team opens AAABA regional action 4 p.m. Saturday against Youngstown, Ohio. "We have six guys and they've all pitched well."

Meanwhile, the Rams finish 27-8-1 (55 points) and will play either Saturday in the American Amateur Baseball Congress Stan Musial State World Series

in Battle Creek, or qualify for the National Amateur Baseball Federation College World Series, which begins Aug. 4 in Toledo, Ohio.

The Rams' fate will be determined Wednesday as the 22-and-under Michigan Bulls (27-8, 54 points) will try and get a share of the LCMBL crown with a win over Advanced in a 5:45 p.m. start at Ford Field.

Coach's Corner can win the Collegiate crown outright with a win over the Motor City Pride.

RAMS 4-8, ADVANCED 0-0: The Rams completed their 36-game Collegiate regular season schedule Monday by sweeping 22-and-under Advanced at Bicentennial Park, 4-0 and 8-0.

The Rams (27-8-1, 55 points) took the opener as Wayne State University left-hander Alex Pierce went all seven innings, allowing just two hits and two walks while striking out 11.

Bobby Thomas (WSU) paced the Rams' offense going 2-for-3 with a homer and three RBI. Cam Walker (WSU) went 3-for-3 with an RBI, while WSU-bound Jeff Sorenson (Livonia Stevenson) doubled and scored twice.

Losing pitcher David Partyka went six innings, allowing four runs on seven hits. He struck out three, walked two and hit one batter.

In the nightcap, right-hander Tyler Higgins (WSU) pitched another com-

plete-game gem on a three-hitter. He struck out 10 and walked only two.

Walker went 2-for-4 with a double and three RBI, while Brett Mazmanian (Ouachita Baptist, Ark.) was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored. Sorenson added two RBI and Sam Ott (Eastern Michigan) had one.

Losing pitcher John Nelson gave up eight runs on seven hits in six innings. He struck out six and walked six as Advanced fell to 12-20-1.

LEAGUE

FROM PAGE B1

at the Summit.

"We're in the formal underwriting process step and it's looking good right now," Garland said. "The economy set us back, but it's been a phenomenal effort by everybody involved."

In 2009, the Cruisers called Oestrike Stadium at Eastern Michigan University their home after playing all 96 games on the road in 2008 as the Midwest Sliders.

They were formerly known as the Slippery Rock (Pa.) Sliders before a group led by Cruisers President and CEO Rob Hilliard purchased the team and brought them to Michigan.

The most recognizable name on the Cruisers is former Tiger Dimitri Young, who serves as a bench coach for acting manager Gera Alvarez. Young is also Vice-President and Senior Advisor for Baseball Operations.

After finishing 12 games under .500 last season, the Cruisers have been in cruise control for much of the summer as six players made it to the Frontier League All-Star Game.

The pitching staff is led by Brisbane, Australia native James Albury, a starter who is 6-3 with a 3.86 earned run average in 60.2 innings.

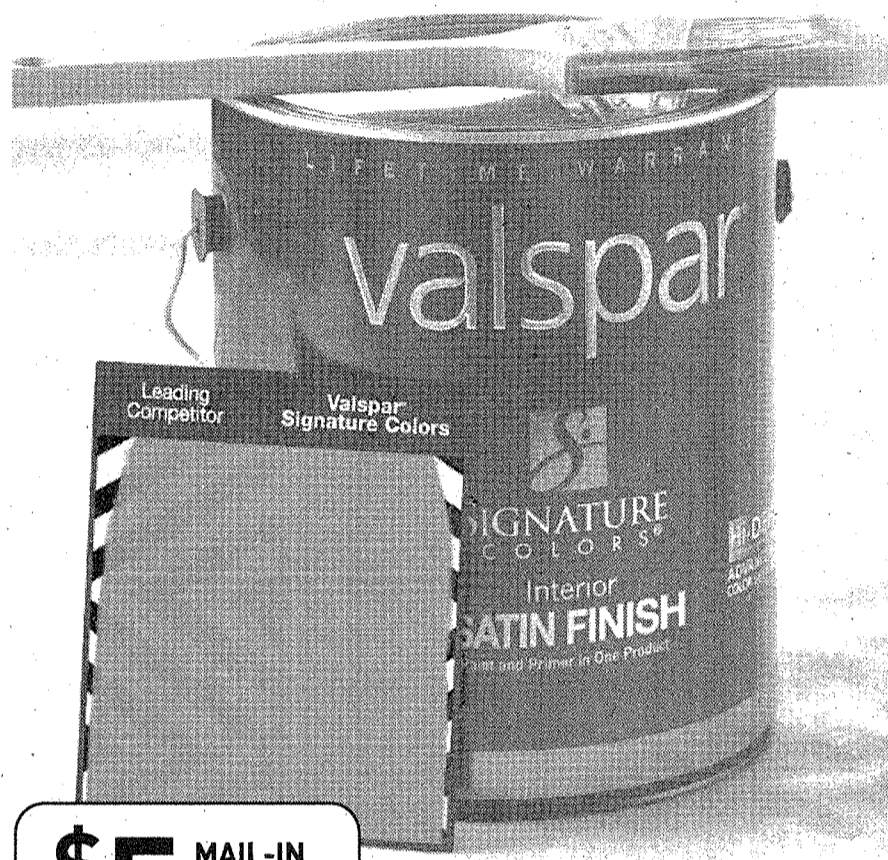
Even more impressive is closer P.J. Zocchi, a Clemson grad who has converted all 20 save opportunities with an impressive 1.03 ERA. He was a 36th-round pick of the Cleveland Indians.

Meanwhile, outfielder Jeremy Jones (North Carolina A&T) is the team's top hitter at .309. He also leads the Cruisers with seven homers and 39 RBI.

Another interesting story is outfielder Robbie Tolan, a Bellaire, Tex. native who was once a promising minor league prospect with the Washington Nationals who was shot in his home in a brutal case of mistaken identity. He plays with that bullet still lodged in his body.

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The Livonia Travel Tarheels recently completed their 2010 baseball season with a 19-3 record and a National Conference title in the Kensington Valley Baseball-Softball Association. Members of the Tar Heels include: Bowen Burdette, Peter Kirouac, Aaron Madsen, Adam Heaman, Frankie Carlin, Jake Rosen, David Gasser, Austin Petrie, Connor Breen, and Bobby Mandrink. The Tarheels are managed by Bruce Rosen. Assistant coaches include Dave Madsen and Mike Mandrink. Tryouts for next season will be Aug. 14-15. For more information, visit www.livoniabsa.com.



Blue Jays champs

The 2010 Blue Jays recently finished undefeated and champion of the Livonia Junior Athletic League's Bronco Major Division. Members of the Jays include (front row, from left): Nick Hoyer, Jeremy Haist, Noah Billingsley, Jake Giacobbi, David Connelly; (second row, from left): Joe Chinavare, Jordan Barr, Keenan Jones, Griffin Riley, Brennen Wright, Colin Smith, Andrew Klopfer; (back row, from left): coaches Tobin Jones, Dave Riley and Tom Chinavare.



Courtney Webb keeps her eye on the ball during the first game of adult coed slow-pitch softball playoffs held recently at Claude Allison in Redford Township. Canton Computer Docs defeated John's Team, 14-7, but lost Game 2 by a score of 23-2 to College Park, setting up further play between the teams in the double elimination playoffs of the Redford Parks and Recreation's spring/summer season.

RECREATION SOFTBALL

REDFORD TOWNSHIP SOFTBALL

Men's - Upper (Thursday)

Sandy/Jack/Tom	8	3	0	16
Detroit Drama	7	4	0	14
Michigan Heat	7	4	0	14
Sandy/Aurora	5	6	0	10
JJ's Jags	5	6	0	10
The Avengers	1	10	0	2

Men's - Lower (Thursday)

Hal's Auto	11	0	0	22
Crusaders	10	1	0	20
Longshots-Jamie	7	4	0	14
Stables-Mike	7	4	0	14
Horizon	7	4	0	14
Sandy/Shawn	6	5	0	12
The Hitmen	6	5	0	12
Redford Moose	5	6	0	10
The Juicers	3	8	0	6
Mikula Chiro.	2	9	0	4
The Rebels	2	9	0	4
Off Base	0	11	0	0

Men's - Upper (Friday)

MLBD	12	0	0	24
Gabby's	11	1	0	22
Fat Kats	8	4	0	16
Hit Squad	7	5	0	14
Double J	6	6	0	12
Allen Decor	6	6	0	12
Colonial H&C	6	6	0	12
Keford's Tow	5	7	0	10
White Rhino	3	8	0	6
Badnewsbeer	1	11	0	2
Morningwood	0	12	0	0

Men's - Lower (Friday)

Foul Balls	10	0	0	20
Timberwolf	8	2	0	16
Old School	7	3	0	14
Hitters	6	2	1	13
Sport Gambler	6	3	0	12
Fat Kats 2	6	3	0	12
JC Distributor	5	4	0	10
Phillies	4	5	0	8
IPS	3	6	1	7
Rusty Gloves	3	6	0	6
Don Massey	3	7	0	6
Burton Tree	0	9	0	0
Transformer	0	9	0	0

Women's - Upper (Monday)

BMV Doctors	11	0	0	22
LadyBlue	9	3	0	18
Sand's Lounge	8	3	0	16

Women's - Lower (Monday)

Gabby's	5	5	1	11
Morse M&S	3	9	0	6
St. Val's	2	8	1	5
Telway Tow	1	11	0	2
Yardbirds	9	2	0	18
Livewires	9	2	0	18
Redford B&G	8	3	0	16
Duffy's	8	4	0	16
SB W/Attitude	2	9	0	4
Scat. Sunshine	2	10	0	4
NW Fellowship	2	10	0	4

COED - Upper (Tuesday)

The Truth	8	1	2	18
Stables-Tom	6	5	1	13
PITA	6	6	0	12
Oak. Plumbing	5	6	1	11
Stables-Mike	5	7	0	10
Crusaders	5	7	0	10
Gabby's	4	8	0	8

COED - Lower (Tuesday)

Doc's Sport	11	1	0	22
Sandys/AITLK	9	3	0	18
Frm. Hills COG	9	3	0	18
Sandys/Kelly	8	4	0	16
Strange Brew	6	5	1	13
The Saints	6	6	0	12
Uncray-Denise	5	7	0	10
Brew Crew II	4	8	0	8
Uncray-Patrik	4	8	0	8
Redford Moose	3	8	1	7
Liquid Chaos	0	12	0	0

COED - Upper (Wednesday)

College Park	12	0	0	24
Cant. Comp.	9	3	0	18
John's Team	6	6	0	12
Btrzup/Sandys	5	7	0	10
Hit N' Run	4	8	0	8
One Under	4	8	0	8
Doc's Sports	4	8	0	8
Buf. Wild Wings	4	8	0	8

COED - Lower (Wednesday)

UNC.Rays-Andy	12	0	0	24
Emptypitchers	9	3	0	18
Ray's Team	8	2	0	16
Thoro-Bredz	5	6	0	10
Don Lors Elec.	5	7	0	10
Angry Rhinos	4	6	0	8
8 Second Ride	3	8	0	6
Bryan's Team	3	8	0	6
Tom's Tree Service	1	10	0	2

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wayne-Westland soccer

Registration for the fall 2010 Wayne-Westland Soccer League (ages 4-19) will be held through Friday, July 30.

There will also be a co-ed adult league offered this fall.

For registration information, call (734) 467-5260, or visit www.wssoccer.com.

Bulldogs tryouts

The Michigan Bulldogs Baseball Club, based in Livonia, has announced its tryout dates for the 2011 season including:

10-and-under - Tuesday, Aug. 8 at Bicentennial Park (contact coach Lee Richards at leerichards12@yahoo.com); 11-and-under - Sunday, Aug. 8 at Bicentennial Park (contact coach Randy Weekley at weekley5@hotmail.com); 12-and-under - Sunday, Aug. 1 at Bicentennial Park (contact coach Jim Rintala at jdrathome@yahoo.com); 13-and-under - Sunday, Aug. 8 at Bicentennial Park (contact coach Scott Linsler at coachscott@michiganbulldogs.com); 14-and-under - Saturday-Sunday, July 30-Aug. 1 at Ford

Field (contact Greg Denomie at sdnomie@sbcglobal.net). Contact Linsler at coachscott@michiganbulldogs.com.

Salem tennis camp

Plymouth Salem's boys tennis will be holding a tennis camp beginning the week of Aug. 16 at Huron Valley Tennis Club. The camp will be held daily from 9:30 a.m.-noon at a cost of \$28 per day or \$132 the entire week.

If you are a returning player or an incoming freshman, please plan to attend. Call the club at 662-5514.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefit).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice. www.ssdfighter.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, July 29, 2010

hometownlife.com

Go to hometownlife.com for a chance to win a VIP car pass to the African Wildlife Safari Park in Port Clinton, Ohio.



Young actors take on Shakespeare, song, dance

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Shannon VanEsley wasn't sure what to expect when she agreed to teach and direct Motor City Youth Theatre's Shakespeare day camp for kids.

"I had done Shakespeare but never directed it," said VanEsley, 27, a New York actress and former Redford resident, who has taught in the summer program for several years. "I really had not done Shakespeare with them before."

VanEsley, a Motor City Youth Theatre alumnus, was pleasantly surprised.

"I have some kids who I would say are as good or better than some adults who try to do Shakespeare. It has been amazing to see them grow, to shape them into poised performers. They've learned some serious technique. It has been a cool process."

And a fast one.

Shakespeare day camp meets for three hours week day afternoons from July 5-30, culminating in a public performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Aug. 6-8. Although rehearsals began last month, VanEsley said campers "basically learned everything about (the play) in the last three weeks."

"They are learning a lot of improvisational skills and how to think on the spot. They're learning how to be aware of their surroundings on stage and how to be poised in any situation. The things they are learning on stage — poise, awareness, team work — are important life skills."

For VanEsley, the summer teaching and directing gig offers an opportunity to "reconnect with her roots and 'give back' to Motor City Youth Theatre and its students. She joined the troupe, founded by Nancy and Fred Florkowski of Redford, about 20 years ago, when it was known as Redford Youth

MOTOR CITY YOUTH THEATRE

Broadway Motown: Students from the theater's summer camp dance and sing Broadway and Motown songs in this one-night production, 7 p.m., Friday, July 30. Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 per family for unreserved seats

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Summer camp students present the Shakespeare comedy at 7 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Aug. 6-7 and 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 8. Tickets are \$8 per person; \$12 per two people; or \$15 per family for reserved seats. They're available in advance or at the door

Renaissance festival: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. Kids can decorate wooden swords, make puppets, fairy crowns, masks, jewelry, shields and more in this day long craft festival. Children who are accompanied by a parent or adult guardian may drop in at one or more craft stations and pay for each individually. Parents also may pay \$15 per child and drop them off for three hours of supervised crafts
Location: All activities planned for the Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, west of Inkster, south of Schoolcraft, Livonia
Contact: (313) 535-8962

Theatre. After graduating from Thurston High School, VanEsley moved to New York to study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy before touring with the American Family Theatre. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the New School University in New York City, N.Y., and primarily performs professional theatre for children.

YOUNG ACTORS

"It's instant gratification. They are a joy to be around and they're always excited. I like working with kids," VanEsley said. "This group



Shannon VanEsley, a Redford native now living in New York, is directing Motor City Youth Theatre day campers in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' at the Grantland Street Playhouse in Livonia.

(Motor City Youth Theatre) is so enthusiastic. They're such sweet kids. I couldn't ask for a better place to be at this moment."

Motor City Youth Theatre offered an outdoor Shakespeare production for adult actors for several years, before staging a student show — *Hamlet* — last year.

"It was amazing," said Nancy Florkowski. "Our first *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was with adults. Now the kids are everything."

The theatre has offered a summer camp almost every year since 1990, but took a break from teaching last summer when students performed *Hamlet*. When camp resumed this year, Florkowski incorporated the Shakespeare performance.

The theater also offered a musical theatre camp, focusing on Broadway and Motown tunes, for three hours on weekday mornings this month.

VanEsley taught the class and choreographed and directed the final show, which starts at 7 p.m., Friday, July 30.



Students in Motor City Youth Theatre's 'Broadway Motown' summer camp rehearse tunes for a show on Friday, July 30.



Students in the Shakespeare day camp at Motor City Youth Theatre will perform 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' Aug. 6-8 in Livonia. Isabelle Correia plays the donkey. She is surrounded by (clockwise from top) Autumn Karson, T'Nia Wood, Anastasia Kamlay (far right), Shannon Stork, Michelle Levin, Tami Barnes (far left) and Saskia Koenig. Alina Steinberg, wearing the pointed hat, plays Puck.

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Couple tours holy land with Mike Huckabee, Pat Boone

Jerry and Sharon Smith of Livonia are devout Christians who share a love of music.

Jerry is the musical director at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth (the church celebrated its 175th anniversary July 18) and a longtime member of the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast Committee. Sharon is a pianist and a regular performer at the breakfast, which typically draws more than 500 individuals.

So it's no surprise that when they traveled to Israel earlier this year that music director and singer, Jerry Smith, led the group in singing *When Peace Like a River* on the banks of the Jordan River. The Jordan River is where Christians believe Jesus was baptized and preached to his disciples.

The Smiths were part of a tour sponsored by Liberty University, of Lynchburg, Va.

The tour group of more than 90 people from throughout the United States was hosted by Mike Huckabee, former GOP presidential candidate, and his wife, Jan. The popular former Arkansas governor, who now has a television show on the Fox network, is an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

Also on the trip was Pat Boone, a popular singer and actor during the 1950s and early 1960s, who continues to entertain and perform, as a motivational speaker and a Christian activist, writer and preacher. Boone is a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.



Jerry Smith (with microphone) leads the group in singing the old gospel 'Blessed Assurance' by Crosby at Caesarea Philippi, one of the sources of the Jordan River.

BIBLICAL SITES

The 10-day tour began in Jerusalem with stops at the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, Temple Mount, the Bethesda Pool, the Via Dolorosa, the Garden Tomb and the Wailing Wall. Traveling to Tiberius (on the Sea of Galilee) by way of the Dead Sea and the Jordan River, Huckabee related various sites to Scriptural references: Capernaum, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Golan Heights, Caesarea Philippi and Nazareth. The group also held a Sunday worship service while sailing on the Sea of Galilee. On the return to the Mediterranean coast, the tour included a visit to Megiddo, the famed center of many Israelite battles, and Caesarea.

SEEING SCRIPTURE

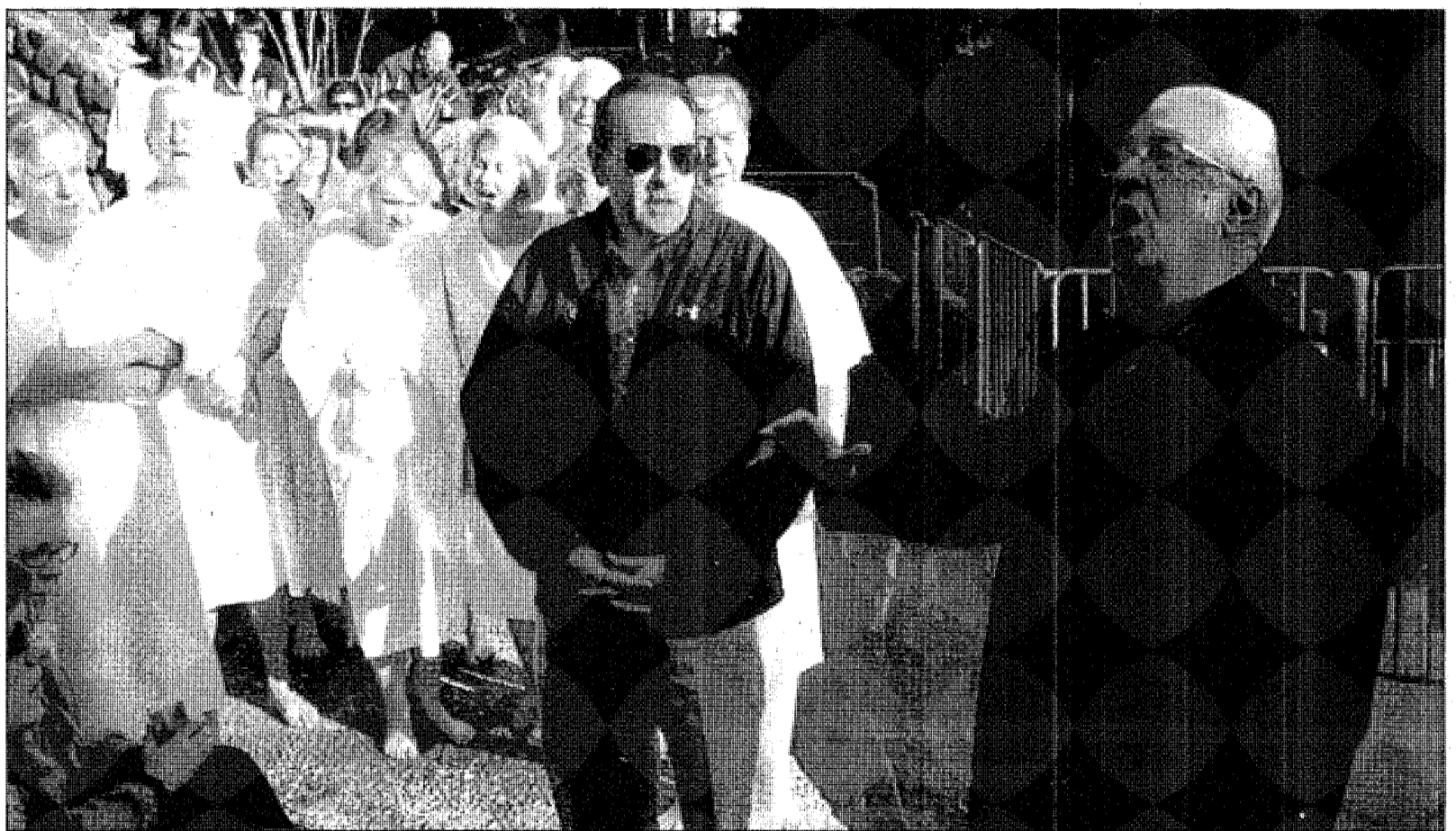
"Two thousand years plus of history remains and the church groups have preserved the holy sites," said Jerry Smith, "Pilgrims are still coming in large numbers" to visit the Holy Land.

"Reading Scripture and then seeing Scripture is indescribable," he added.

The group also visited Jerusalem — an international/interfaith center of religion.

As both Smiths pointed out, the Holy Land is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The Smiths said the tour deepened their belief as "more than spectators in the arena of religious purpose." They added that it expanded their "horizons of belief as seen and experienced by thousands who have walked this land."



Jerry Smith leads the group in singing 'When Peace Like a River'; by Spafford at the Jordan River. In Christian tradition, Jesus was baptized there by John the Baptist.

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For Information regarding
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248-437-2011, Ext. 247
or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form.

JULY 29-AUG. 4

CROP walk
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Aug. 2
Location: Geneva Presbyterian, 5835 N. Sheldon in Canton.
Details: Recruiter's orientation meeting for the annual Plymouth/Canton CROP Walk that will take place Sunday, Oct. 17. The Walk raises funds for Church World Service and the Plymouth Salvation Army.
Contact: Barb Fichtenberg at (734) 981-4205 or bfichtenberg@hotmail.com

Singles
Time/Date: 8-11 p.m., Friday, July 30; arrive at the restaurant by 7 p.m.
Location: Portofino's, 3455 Biddle Wyandotte

Details: Join Bethany Suburban West and Bethany South Downriver for a "Moon Light Cruise" on the Detroit River, starting at Portofino's. Tickets are \$30. Bethany provides spiritual, social, and educational assistance to divorced, separated and singles of all faiths through peer-to-peer ministry. It is a non-profit volunteer organization, and is part of the ministry of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit

Contact: Pat at (313) 769-5818 or Judy at (313) 389-4730

Teen coffeehouse
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Aug. 1
Location: Our Lady of Loretto, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Free coffee house for teens
Contact: (313) 534-9000

Vacation Bible School
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m., Aug. 1-5
Location: Lola Park Lutheran, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Vacation Bible School for ages 3 through adult, featuring lessons, crafts, singing and snacks
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523; lolaparklutheran.com

Vacation Bible School
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 2-5
Location: Newburg United Methodist, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: "Campground of Miracles" Vacation Bible School for kids, 4-11. They'll explore their faith, enjoy summer activities such as sandcastle building, cooking over a campfire and fishing, make crafts and learn about the miracles of Jesus. \$10 per child
Contact: (734) 422-0149

Vacation Bible School
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 2-6
Location: St. John Lutheran School, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills
Details: "High Seas Expedition" Vacation Bible School; for children age 3 through fifth grade
Contact: (248) 474-0584

AUG. 5-11
Church tour
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 7
Location: St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Fifth annual church tour will visit National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Detroit. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch at Pasquale's in Royal Oak.
Contact: Debbie Dufour at (248) 719-2535 or David Conrad at (734) 425-5950, Ext. 203.

AUG. 12-18
Vacation Bible School
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 16-19
Location: Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth
Details: "Hero Headquarters" Vacation Bible School for ages 4-12. Program includes Bible study, games, snacks, songs and crafts; free admission. Registration begins Aug.
Contact: Capt. Jolene Hull or Cassie Hull at (734) 453-5454 or e-mail to jolene_hull@usc.salvationarmy.org

AUG. 19-25
Family Fun Fair
Time/Date: 5-10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19; 5-11 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21; and 1-9 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22
Location: Our Lady of Loretto, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: 51st Annual Family Fun Fair with rides, games, Las Vegas-style games in the gym, bingo in the church basement, \$4,999 raffle, craft booths, bake walk, dollar menu food booths. Entertainment includes Terry Bar and the Full Tilt Boogie Band on Friday, Hard Cover and All Wheel Drive on Saturday and Terry Bar on Sunday
Contact: (313) 534-9000

Summer-Fest
Time/Date: Aug. 20-22
Location: 33445 Warren Road, Westland
Details: Summer-Fest activities include basketball tournament, 3 p.m. Friday; battle of the bands, 6 p.m. Friday; craft show and sidewalk sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday; Kidzone, 3-6 p.m. Saturday; dinner, 6-7 p.m.; concert, 7-10 p.m.; outdoor worship under a tent, 10:30 a.m., Sunday
Contact: (734) 968-9222 or (734) 458-7301

AUG. 26-SEPT. 1
Vacation Bible School
Time/Date: Aug. 27-29
Location: Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School; \$5 per child with a maximum of \$20 per family
Contact: Register at (734) 464-0990

SEPT. 2-15
Prayer service
Time/Day: 10 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Unity World Day of Prayer involves people of all faiths joining in prayer for the health and well-being of the world, as well as for one another.
Contact: (734) 421-1760; www.unityoflivonia.org

ONGOING
AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

Livonia Unity
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 9 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture reading
Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday
Location: 26701 Joy
Details: Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey
Contact: (313) 274-3820

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Crafters wanted
First United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 23
Location: Eight Mile and Taft in Northville
Details: 3rd Annual Community Bizarre Bazaar to benefit Village Banking at the church. A great opportunity for local entrepreneurs and artists to showcase their talents and products to hundreds of local customers. Booking now
Contact: For details and to reserve a place, e-mail to Pat Breslin at fumbazaar@gmail.com. Learn more about Village Banking at www.FINCA.org Riverside Park Church of God

Time/Date: Oct. 22-23
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Applications are being accepted for the annual fall craft show. Rental spaces are 8- by 5-feet and can be reserved for one day at a cost of \$20 or two days for \$30. Tables an additional \$5
Contact: (734) 464-0990; download an application at www.riverside-parkchurch.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: Oct. 9
Location: 555 South Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Looking for crafters and vendors to participate in a fall craft sale
Contact: (734) 721-5023

St. Thomas a'Becket
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton
Details: Accepting applications for handmade crafts only for 20th annual Christmas Craft Show
Contact: craftshow@abecket.org or (734) 844-1232

Fellowship dinner
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday and 7-9 p.m., fourth Tuesday
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers. Aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Angie at (248) 427-1020

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Prayer
Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday
Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Prayer, spiritual healing
Contact: (734) 427-3660

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

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia.
 Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael's Church of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens
Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food

Contact: (734) 464-0990

Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Song Circle
Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support
Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Riverside Park Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a specialty in dementia care
Contact: (734) 367-4220; www.riversideparkchurch.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning
Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.
Contact: (734) 421-8451.



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EVELYN ANN BIBB
 Age 67. Beloved wife for 38 years of Albert Bibb. Loving daughter of Zella Corbin of Waterloo, Ohio. Dear sister of David (Paula) Corbin of Pocatello, Idaho. Arrangements were held by Charles Step Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly, Redford.

RICHARD J. PESONEN
 Age 50, passed away, July 22, 2010. He was born on February 3, 1960 in Detroit, son of the late John & Edna (Hill) Pesonen. A private family service will be held in the future.
 Online guestbook at: www.Phillipsfuneral.com

JEFFERY J. STUKY
 54 of Roscommon died Sunday, July 25, 2010. Jeff was born on March 12, 1956 in Plymouth and graduated from high school in 1974. Jeff was a welder and enjoyed hunting and was a master angler and pro rifle marksman. Jeff will be sadly missed by his beloved wife of 31 years, Sherry, sons, Darrell, William (Amanda) and Douglas (Jenny) Stuky, grandson, Brian Stuky, mother, Esther Stuky, stepmother, Patricia K. Stuky, mother-in-law, Josie Neumann, sister, Susan (Thomas) Poulos, nephews, Michael and Joseph and other family members. Jeff is preceded in death by his father, Joseph C. Stuky. Cremation has taken place. Memorial Services will be announced at a later date. Please visit Jeff's webpage at www.lifestorynet.com and sign the guest book and share a message or memory. Memorial Contributions may be made to a charity of choice or to his wife, Sherry Stuky, c/o Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City.

SHIRLEY PAULINE MEECH
 Age 77, Farmington Hills, MI, passed away July 26, 2010. Arrangements by: THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington

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Thursday, July 29, 2010

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Sweeten up your family fun

Between family reunions, sports leagues and neighborhood block parties, there are many activities and annual traditions that families look forward to. This year you can make these events even more meaningful by transforming them into charitable bake sales to benefit a worthy cause.

This is a simple — and fun — way to enhance your favorite events, spend time together and teach kids the valuable lesson of giving back. Plus, there are many great charities that can benefit from your efforts, such as Cookies for Kids' Cancer, a non-profit committed to raising funds for pediatric cancer research through bake sales.

Baking and sharing homemade treats with friends and family, the fun of a bake sale and knowing that you're giving back with each cookie sold, will make your outings even more special.

Here are some tips and ideas to turn three classic activities into successful bake sales:

SPORTS LEAGUES

Your delicious baked treats can be used for more than just a snack at your children's next game. Choose a sports tournament or opening day at the neighborhood field as the perfect setting for a bake sale home run. Designate a baked good for each participating team, such as the Bengals Brownies or Crusaders Chocolate Chip Cookies, and see who can score the most points by selling the most treats for a good cause. Drive home winning donations with sports-themed cookies and treats like baseball bat cookies



Chocolate Chip Cherry Cookies

or cupcakes decorated like soccer balls.

FAMILY REUNIONS

Make the annual family gathering even more memorable and host a bake sale as part of the celebration. Have each family member come with a dozen of their favorite baked goods and sell them for donations to other families celebrating nearby. As a special gift, compile all of the recipes into a family bake sale book — a timeless treasure that will ensure your family's recipes are passed down for generations to come.

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

When the whole neighborhood is planning to gather

this year, propose turning the event into a mini bake sale. Encourage each family to create a custom cookie of their own. Everyone will love picking out their favorite ingredients and naming their one-of-a-kind treat; some might even stumble onto a lasting family recipe.

Visit www.GladtoGive.com to learn more tips to make your bake sales successful.

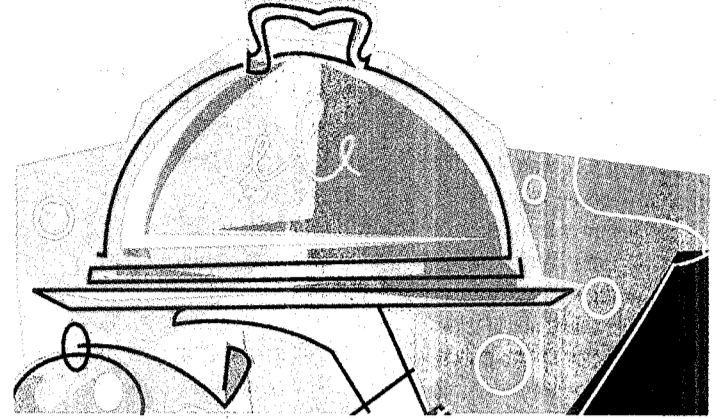
If you are looking for a cookie recipe, try the delicious Chocolate Chip Cherry Cookie — the official Glad to Give Cookie — developed as a tasty inspiration for those hosting bake sales to benefit Cookies for Kids' Cancer. This sweet and chocolatey cookie is guaranteed to be a favorite for many years to come.

CHOCOLATE CHIP CHERRY COOKIES

- Yield: 3 to 4 dozen cookies*
- 1 1/4 cups (2 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
 - 1/2 cup white sugar
 - 1 cup light brown sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
 - 1 cup quick-cooking or old fashioned oats
 - 2 cups all-purpose white flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 2 cups dried cherries, cranberries or raisins
 - 2 cups (12 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
 - 2 cups walnuts or pecans, lightly toasted and coarsely chopped (optional)
1. Preheat the oven to 325°F.
 2. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
 3. Place butter and sugars in bowl of a mixer fitted with paddle attachment and mix until smooth and creamy.
 4. Scrape down sides of bowl; add eggs, one at a time, and vanilla, mixing well between additions.
 5. Scrape down sides of bowl; add oats, flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and mix until everything is well incorporated.
 6. Scrape down sides of bowl; add cherries, chocolate chips and walnuts, if desired, and mix again.
 7. Deposit 2-ounce portions on cookie sheet.
 8. Bake at 325°F for 12 to 14 minutes. Spin sheet mid-bake for even results.
 9. Remove from sheet after baking and allow to cool.

— Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES



Visit six restaurants

Plymouth — The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents the 11th Annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, available from the Chamber of Commerce office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone by calling (734) 453-1540.

This year the Crawl features Amici Italian Bistro, Crawford's Kitchen, Hermann's Olde Towne Grille, Liberty Street Brewing Co., Plymouth Fish & Seafood and Station 885. Because last year's event was sold out, the Chamber encourages participants to buy their tickets now. (734) 453-1540

Burger time

Regional — Olga's Kitchen

has added three new half-pound Angus Steak Burgers to its menu.

The Classic Cheeseburger is topped with melted Cheddar cheese, crisp dill pickle slices, juicy tomatoes and tangy mayonnaise. The Boom Boom Burger is topped with jalapeño pepper jack cheese, spicy chopped relish and a chipotle chili spread. Crispy Onion Smokehouse Burger is loaded with Cheddar cheese, smoked peppered bacon, Sweet Baby Ray's Honey BBQ Sauce and warm crispy onion straws. Each half-pound Angus Burger is served with unlimited Sweet Potato Fries and maple yogurt dipping sauce for \$8.99.

Olga's Kitchen owns and operates 34 restaurants in Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois, including at 35000 W. Warren, Space B-1, Westland; and 37612 Six Mile, Livonia. All locations offer free WiFi. For the full menu, visit www.olgas.com.

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